



Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center

*Making a difference in the
lives of our inner city
children and families!*

AfterSchool Connections

A free 10 month homework and academic enrichment center for 65 children in grades K-6. The program is open Monday through Friday from 2:45 until 5:30. Staff members and trained volunteers supervise the children, provide homework assistance, academic enrichment and conflict resolution skills. Our multimodality approach incorporates the academic needs of the children and provides them with a variety of learning experiences that makes their learning more meaningful and relates to their everyday life experiences.



Our mission is to bring about a lasting improvement in the educational and social lives of our inner city children. We seek to demonstrate that early intervention is effective in raising academic achievement levels.

Our **goals** are to:

1. Provide a safe, warm, and caring Environment.
2. Enhance children's academic achievement
3. Encourage and support good citizenship
4. Facilitate positive relationships between school, families and community

Tubman Summer AllStars

A free 8 week summer reading and math enrichment program for children going into grades 1 – 6. Our program benefits all children by:

1. offering an extended learning opportunity to prevent summer learning loss
2. providing a safe summer learning environment
3. enhancing academic skills
4. improving social skills
5. making new friends



Cornell Cooperative Extension Green Teen Community Gardening Program comes and provides educational programs and hands on gardening experience in our terrace garden.



Importance of Afterschool

Afterschool is important because:

- Millions of children are left unsupervised after school
- Peak hours for juvenile crime is from 3 – 6 PM
- Unsupervised children are at greater risk for participating in high risk- taking behaviors, smoking and drugs.
- Majority of teachers polled say children left on their own after school is the primary cause of school failure.

Studies show that Afterschool programs:

- Keep children safe and in a supervised environment where they develop supportive relationships with caring adults.
- Provide creative learning opportunities and academic enrichment
- Improve homework completion
- Achieve higher grades and test scores
- Develop better work habits
- Have improved school attendance
- Develop assets such as self-esteem and conflict resolution

Importance of Summer Programs

Growing evidence suggests that low income elementary school students lose significant academic ground in reading and math over the summer months. The evidence further suggests that this loss can be up to 25% or 2 ½ months of the previous years education. Many believe that the reason for this summer learning loss is because low income families lack financial help and access to summer learning opportunities.

About the Harriet Tubman Housing Complex

The **Harriet Tubman Housing Complex** is a not-for-profit housing project jointly owned by Smith Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church and Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, and supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The **Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center** first started out as a story hour for the inner city children living at the Harriet Tubman low income Housing Complex. From that a growing need was seen to start a tutoring program. In September 1997, the Tubman Terrace Tutoring Program was founded in Poughkeepsie, New York. Since its inception, the program has gone through several name changes until our current name.

Current and past funding sources include the following foundations & organizations

NYS OCFS and Dutchess County Youth Bureau
Dyson Foundation, Entergy Foundation
Calder Foundation, Gannett Foundation
Stewarts Holiday Helping Hands
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Banknorth
JC Penney 4H Afterschool Funds
City of Poughkeepsie Youth Initiative
Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church
New York State Child and Adult Food Care Program

AfterHour Connections

Free ongoing evening adult and family programming. Currently we offer two classes:

1. GED Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00PM to 9:00PM.
2. Computer classes Days and times to be determined.

Future class offerings will be done through the Dutchess County Department of Mental Health. Classes will include such topics as How to talk with your Child and Parenting,

How You Can Help

Volunteer: Giving two hours of your time a week can make a big difference in the lives of our inner city youth. You can help them with their homework or just listen to them.

Make a Donation: “Tubman’s Great Kids” need your support to make them safe. Private donors and corporations are urged to make a tax deductible donation.

Provide equipment and materials: A wish list is available upon request.

Spread the Word: Tell all your friends and colleagues about the work we are doing for our inner city children in providing them with a safe, warm, caring and enriching environment.

For more information please contact:

Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center

Phone: 845-473-0141

Fax: 845-471-3548