



empowered humans impacting the planet

Global service-learning provides students with an opportunity to learn while working on a meaningful volunteer project that addresses an authentic community need in a foreign country. By immersing ourselves in another culture to volunteer for positive social change, we will be better prepared to look critically at our city of Newburgh and work to make it a better place. Through Global to Local, the 2017 cohort of Excelsior Academy students will apply to volunteer for ten days of service learning in Quito, Ecuador to learn from people who run a grassroots organization for community betterment; the following fall, we will act as project leaders for local, Newburgh-based service-learning projects undertaken by all students in our high school cohort. In doing so, we will be positioned to enact meaningful change in Newburgh.

We will volunteer at Casa Victoria, a grassroots community betterment program located in a struggling section of Quito, Ecuador. Because one of the central goals of our trip is for us see an example of what a few dedicated individuals can do to make the world a better place, Casa Victoria seems the perfect setting. We will work with the sixty children who attend their after-school program, where they are fed a hot meal and provided with homework help and a safe place to spend their afternoons. This opportunity will provide us with the chance to design a service project that aligns with their interests, and the needs of the program, such as improving the classroom library, teaching computer skills, or fundraising to donate a robot and teach basic robotics. As we gain a better recognition of the importance of traveling to grow our understanding of the world and humanity, we believe we will gain knowledge, skills and dispositions that will serve us well in their future endeavors and as we act as project leaders for impact projects in Newburgh.



It is our hope that our Impact Projects in Newburgh will support the mission and vision of community members and business owners in Newburgh while modeling for other students how to rethink citizenship, rethink equity and fairness, and rethink the way we work together to build our future.

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