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For Immediate Release

MARLBORO FAMILIES WELCOME STUDENTS FROM WUJIANG, CHINA

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (August 20, 2012) –Through a program organized by the Marlboro Youth Exchange Committee, 17 students and 3 chaperones will be arriving in Marlboro today to meet their host families.

“Exposure to different cultures and places is one of the most effective ways to learn about the world”, said Deputy Mayor Huimin Shen. “We always find that these visits open up lines of communication and really get our visitors and hosts talking and sharing experiences.”

During the visit, youth between the ages of 12 to 14 years of age will join in the activities planned by the Committee co-chaired by Amy Bauer and Lori Belasco. The children and host families will visit the beach, the Marlboro Swim Club, enjoy a backyard BBQ and a trip to New York for a private tour of National Museum of the American Indian followed by a visit to the 9/11 Memorial.

“We wanted our visitors to experience summer in New Jersey,” said Co-Chair Lori Belasco. “What is more typical than a day at the beach followed by a backyard barbeque?”

This international youth program started in 1991 with Johana, Japan (which has since changed its name to Nanto City.) A Sister-City agreement was signed with Wujiang City, China by Mayor Jonathan Hornik in April, 2009.

“The Japanese exchange program was started by my father, Saul Hornik, when he was Mayor”, said Mayor Hornik. “It gives me great pleasure to continue his vision with the addition of another sister-city. It was his belief, as it is mine, that this youth exchange furthers cultural understanding between our countries. This year, my family is hosting one of the chaperones from China and I am looking forward to the experience.”

Marlboro Deputy Mayor Huimin Shen was instrumental in the formation of the Wujiang program. She took an adult delegation to China in 2009 and it is anticipated that she will lead a group of Marlboro students to China next year.

The members of the exchange group from Wujiang will be hosted by 13 volunteer families in Marlboro, and will be visiting through August 25th.

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