



A BETTER CHANCE

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A BETTER CHANCE OF NEW CANAAN ■ 64 LOCUST AVE., NEW CANAAN, CT ■ WWW.ABHOUSEOFNC.ORG

Rising Together

We are very proud that on June 23rd, our three ABC seniors will be graduating from New Canaan High School and moving on to college and the next phase of their lives. We will miss them, as we will miss the wonderful host families who have taken the ABC students into their homes and their lives over the last four years — the Bamatters, the Grandins and the Slatterys.

The three ABC seniors each had an important role in the annual Reverend Martin Luther King ceremony held January 18th at the Methodist Church in New Canaan, an event that brings parishioners together from all over to celebrate the life of the civil rights activist. Darryl Cummings spoke, Shamiel Gonzales contributed a reading and Jelani Alladin sang a solo to commemorate the event.

As we say goodbye to our departing



Graduating seniors Darryl Cummings, Shamiel Gonzales and Jelani Alladin at the Martin Luther King ceremony.

seniors, who have set such great examples for the other boys in the house this year, we look forward to welcoming three new incoming freshmen this fall to attend our program.

ABC provides educational opportunities to economically disadvantaged youths, who, upon joining the program, attend New Canaan High School, spend quality weekend time with their "host families" in town and live at the ABC House on Locust Avenue with Resident Directors Nora McCarthy and Stuart Weiner and their son, Eli.

Save the Date for this year's Fall Fundraiser! We will be celebrating 37 years in New Canaan on Saturday, September 25th. If you would like to join the Committee for the 2010 ABC Fundraiser or donate an auction item, please contact suzanne.einstein@gmail.com or wilsonlaurac@yahoo.com.

Chief Justice Takes Time for ABC Students

The Honorable Chase T. Rogers, a New Canaan resident and Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, met with A Better Chance students over dinner at the ABC House on Locust Avenue on Tuesday, January 12th. During the visit, Justice Rogers shared experiences with the boys and gave an overview about her current job responsibilities as Chief Justice overseeing the operations of the Judicial branch and hearing cases that have been appealed to the Supreme Court.



The Honorable Chase Rogers is joined by (left to right) Elijah Westbrook, Darryl Cummings, Jelani Alladin, Devaun Bovell, Shamiel Gonzales and Joveto DeCarvalho.



Byron Pitts with ABC Junior Joveto DeCarvalho

CBS News Correspondent Visits the Boys

Byron Pitts, 60 Minutes contributor and Chief National Correspondent for CBS Evening News, visited the ABC students for dinner on February 23rd. The Emmy Award winning journalist recently wrote a book, *Step Out on Nothing*, in which he tells of overcoming some of his own life struggles as a youth.

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President's Corner

It's been a busy time at the ABC house. Resident Directors Stuart and Nora maintain an unwavering focus on encouraging the boys to take responsibility for their actions and environment. That theme was applied to renovating the attic recreation area this past winter. The boys voted on options, designed the layout, priced and purchased equipment and software, and lugged a gently used big-screen TV and couch up three flights of stairs. With the help of donations from the David Wright Foundation and the Schulte and LaPolice families, the boys created a new recreation area that they and their friends enjoy. The project was tackled with great gusto and the boys learned a lasting lesson in self-determination, budgeting and group dynamics. From taking an active role in house bonding and fundraising activities to working as a team to coordinate chores, Nora and Stuart are inspiring the boys to think and behave as responsible young men and develop lifelong skills and habits that will serve them well long after they graduate.

The seniors had some terrific college options and after carefully weighing their financial aid packages,



have made their choices. Jelani Alladin will attend the Tisch School at NYU, Darryl Cummings looks forward to becoming a Husky at UConn's Storrs campus, and Shamiel Gonzalez is excited to matriculate at St. Lawrence University. During their four years in New Canaan, all three students participated in the Congregational Church Youth Group and in the good works and fun of the Youth Group mission trip each winter. They worked on Clean Your Mile for Earth Day, the NCHS Scholarship drive, the Kiwanis Club's Pancake Breakfast and many other events around town. Jelani's contributions to every theatrical event at NCHS since his sophomore year as the Cat in the Hat in *Seussical* are the stuff of legend. Darryl and Shamiel played active roles in the St. Aloysius Emmaus events, and the boys' participation in our football and track teams culminated in the great honor of a winter track team captain's position for Darryl and Shamiel. These are some their tangible contributions but those of us who have had the privilege of knowing these young men are well aware that their greatest gift to us has been their character and friendship. We will miss this special trio at the house and in our community.

Thank you all,

Melani Berman



ABC Student Wins First Place in Carriage Barn Art Show

Junior Joveto DeCarvalho took first place in the student category of the 30th Annual Photography Exhibition at the Carriage Barn Arts Center at Waveny Park in March, winning \$100 for his photo, "Great Uncle." Joveto is joined in the photo above by one of his NCHS photography teachers, Jeanne McDonagh.



Local Support

Brent Haney (pictured here with Darryl, Jelani and Shamiel) and Dick Whitcomb of Whitcomb Haney College Placement helped the boys navigate the college process along with Board Member Maarten Terry and guidance counselors at NCHS.

Sprucing Up the House

ABC continues to reap the rewards of our generous community as Elise Landscapes & Nursery designed a stunning new walkway and terrace at the ABC house, and Weed & Duryea added a new patio set.

ABC Alums Set to Graduate from College

Congratulations are in order for our NCHS class of 2006 ABC alumni Carl Brown, who will receive a diploma in Engineering from Lehigh University in May and Marc Pierre who will receive his degree in economics from Denison University this summer.

Please consider making a donation to ABC today.

Check donations should be sent to:

A Better Chance, Inc. of New Canaan
P.O. Box 355, New Canaan, CT 06840

You can also make a donation online via our secure payments system using your credit card.

— Go to www.abchouseofnc.org.

— Click the Paypal Donate button on our home page.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Friends of ABC The ABC House of New Canaan thanks the many Friends of ABC who lend their services and support to the program. Special thanks go to Lauren Baker, Christine Bonarrigo, Susan Boston, Scott Budd, Sally Campbell, Rick Crolla, MD, Amy Freyre, Carol McDermott, Anne Tropeano and Laura Walbert. Additional thanks go to The Bank of New Canaan, the Congregational Church of New Canaan, Austin W. Feeney, DDS, Robert Fessler, DDS, New Canaan High School, Tony Pavia, Richard Westfal, MD and Whitcomb-Haney College Placement Plus and many other local organizations that contribute ongoing generosity and support.

Operating Budget 2009-2010

Food & Cook	\$40,400
Boy's Expenses and Allowance	24,000
Educational Expenses	5,300
Medical & Insurance	9,300
Resident Director	13,800
Transportation	2,500
Insurance	19,100
Fuel & Utilities	33,800
House Maintenance	45,100
Printing & Mailing	12,300
Auditing	7,000
Administration & Miscellaneous Expenses	37,100
Summer & Other Programs	23,500
Total	\$273,200



2009-10 ABC Students: Front row, l to r: Elijah Westbrook, Darryl Cummings, Kevin Suggs; back row, l to r: Jelani Alladin, Shamiel Gonzales, Tyler Green, Devaun Bovell, Joveto DeCarvalho