



A BETTER CHANCE

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FALL 2014

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

From ABC Scholar to The Governor's Mansion



The Honorable Deval Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, served as guest preacher at The First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan on November 16, 2014.

Those closest to the Governor Patrick understand him as a man of unshakeable faith and a scholar who rose above extraordinary circumstances to the State House in Beacon Hill. What most people do not know is that Governor Patrick was an ABC scholar and alumni who stood on the shoulders of an entire community along his climb to prominence. By one degree of separation, Governor Patrick is connected to New Canaan, through Will Spears, son of T. Guthrie Spears, former founding pastor of First Presbyterian. The combination of ABC support and a quasi-host family connection to the Spears opened up a world

to Governor Patrick where he might thrive and advance the values that elevated him in life.

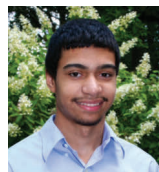
Governor Patrick's life moved along a dangerous path from the violent South Side of Chicago, to Massachusetts at age 14, to A Better Chance, The Milton Academy, Harvard, Harvard Business School, Texaco, Coca-Cola and eventually as a Clinton appointee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the nation's top civil rights post. Governor Patrick credits many people, schools, and institutions for affording him a chance to realize his potential, and he sees his service as Governor as payback for the opportunities every organization has given him. He is a living example of principles in practice and how a small dedicated program like ABC can change the lives of millions by giving an exceptional individual a chance to fulfill their God-given potential.

Profiles of ABC Scholars – Living Life as A Junior



Chris Roman

As the school year approached in August, I knew that a tough journey was ahead of me. Junior year is an important year for any high school student. This is the year that colleges pay the most attention to in terms of academics. As an upperclassman in the ABC program, I am striving to be a better role model for the sophomores and incoming freshman this year while also maintaining my academic goals. This is a priority for me because it is important to see the underclassmen grow to be the future leaders of the house. Beyond academics, I plan to focus on the indoor and outdoor track seasons in order to have better chances of getting a scholarship for colleges. I am currently working two internships as well as track while achieving high honors for the first quarter.



Brian McCalla

This past summer the ABC program enabled me to partake in two incredible experiences. The first was the "Explo" program at Yale University that taught me things about myself and what the world has to offer. The program was 3 weeks long and involved 750 students from all over the world. They taught me the customs and traditions of their own respective countries. The second adventure was through the national ABC program; a college tour with fellow housemates Kwaku and Rajon. Along with about 80 other scholars from ABC National, we traveled to 14 different schools in 5 days. The most memorable part of the trip was the visit in Atlanta, Georgia. Along with seeing Morehouse College, we were able to see the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, which was astonishing and informational.

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2014 Gala – New Canaan ABC Meets Past, Present & Future

On Saturday, October 4th, over 160 people turned out for the ABC fundraising Gala at the Country Club of New Canaan. Our program is among only ten percent of those ABC agencies nationwide that provide private housing for our scholars. The Gala is ABC's major fundraising event and provides almost half of our operating funds – dollars that pay for housing, feeding, and supporting eight great scholars at the ABC House.

The boys get to experience living away from home and managing their academic, personal, and social lives on a semi-independent basis which creates a much easier transition to college life. New Canaan also gets to build a relationship with the boys through their interaction and involvement in the high school, in sports and clubs and theater, and in the community through our Host Family program and personal community service projects. A 'better chance' has been leveraged into entrance at competitive universities and graduate schools, internship and permanent job opportunities, and lifelong relationships with their ABC family.

This year's Gala's keynote speakers included Gabriel (Gabe) Aguilar of the Class of 1985. Gabe went on to attend Stanford as an undergraduate and then earned advanced degrees from UC San Diego (Masters) and Harvard (Masters and Ph.D.). Gabe is currently a professor at the Air War College in



Standing (L to R) Brian MacCalla, Rajon Mitchell, Josiah Jones, Kai Clancy, Markiz Harmon, Chris Roman
Seated: Kwaku Gyasi, Osaze Wilson

Alabama where he specializes in national security issues and Latin America. Gabe was joined by Jillian Joseph, an ABC grad from the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Massachusetts. After earning her degree from Colgate, Jillian graduated from the University of Pennsylvania law school. She is currently the General Counsel for GE Real Estate and sits on the National Board of Directors of ABC and chairs its National Advisory Council.

A notable highlight of the evening was the video created by our seniors – Kwaku Gyasi and Osaze Wilson. Each shared his views about the program and moved the audience to realize that the program really lives up to its name – A Better Chance.



President's Message May 2014

By Mike Curran



Recently, we celebrated the 41st year of ABC in New Canaan with our annual fundraising Gala at the Country Club. On behalf of the boys and the program I thank you for your support. What does your support help us achieve? The result of a recent survey of ABC graduates reveals that:

- Over 90% of the 14,000+ ABC National graduates have achieved a Bachelor's degree and
- About 50% achieve an advanced degree including 5% who have earned a Ph.D.

These results are in stark contrast to the academic achievements of their parents – only 50% of whom achieved a HS diploma or higher. It is clear that ABC does provide 'a better chance' academically for these students.

The survey also reported on the economic success

of ABC graduates, but the more important statistics to me relate to their ongoing efforts to 'give back' to their communities with 92% of the respondents actively involved in one or more service organization.

New Canaan ABC students achieve their share of success as well. Many of you will have attended recent Galas and heard David Cox (NCHS 2006) or this year's speaker Gabe Aguilar (NCHS 1985) talk about how ABC helped prepare them for college and life. David is at the beginning of his career in media in NYC and Gabe is a well-established professor at the Air War College in Alabama. Other graduates who attended the October Gala are working in religious ministries, academia, business, and the arts. One of our relatively recent graduates - Jelani Alladin (NCHS 2009) - appeared in Kenneth Branagh's production of Hamlet at the Armory in NYC this past summer. His first (and only) line was "Yes, sir" However, I guarantee that you will be hearing a lot more from Jelani!

Best wishes to you and your family at this holiday season from the ABC family.



Light a Candle at ABC and Donate This Holiday Season

New Canaan is a generous community blessed with a surfeit of talents and resources that can inspire and literally change lives. Eleanor Roosevelt once remarked that each of us has a choice to "light a candle or curse the dark."

ABC of New Canaan Program Operating Expenses

Food and Cook	\$42,900
Medical & Insurance	\$9,500
Boys' Expenses and Allowance	\$28,300
Transportation Expenses	\$5,500
Summer & Other Programs	\$10,500
Resident Director Expenses	\$18,500
House Maintenance	\$20,200
Fuel & Utilities Cost	\$32,400
Other Insurance Expenses	\$19,600
Printing and Mailing	\$8,000
Audit Expenses	\$9,000
Administration Expenses	\$8,600
Depreciation Expense	\$41,000

Program Operating Expenses

Annual operating budget for the program and maintenance of the ABC House at 64 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, CT. is reflected above.