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ABC Fall Fundraiser a Resounding Success!

On Saturday, October 1st at The Country Club of New Canaan, many people in the community gathered in support of the ABC program, as it celebrated its 38th year in New Canaan. During that time, more than 50 host families have helped graduate 70 talented young men from disadvantaged backgrounds, and these young men have gone on to successful college, post graduate and professional careers. The annual fall fundraiser is an opportunity to let the community get to know more about the organization, as well as give them a chance to interact with our extraordinary young men who work so hard to meet the high standards set up by the national organization. In addition, they were able to meet the staff, host families, the multitude of volunteers and even the new principal at New Canaan High School, Dr. Bryan Luizzi.

This year's event was organized by fundraising chairs Laura Wilson and Suzanne Einstein, plus a committee of volunteers. The evening had a number of highlights including hearing from all the ABC boys, who all thanked the community.



Left to right: Susan Braden, committee member, Laura Wilson, co-chair, Harry B. French, owner of Henry C. Reid and Suzanne Einstein, co-chair.

Nicholas Howard, the evening's auctioneer, managed to create a great deal of excitement, generating generous bids from many of the attendees. Many local establishments and friends were very generous in their support! Harry French, owner of Henry C. Reid, was on hand to award the diamond earrings that the store donated for the raffle. Local design firm Creative Insights donated their work for the invitations and programs, and New Canaan Wine Merchants, Karl Chevrolet, Erin Hedley of La Damme du Fromage and Kitchens by Deanne all contributed items for the event.

A NOTE FROM DEVAUN BOVELL

Goal setting is an important part of my life. Goals are what keep me on a steady path to get to where I want to be. Since middle school, my goal has been to maintain a 90 average. At times when my work has been hard and I've felt like slacking off, remembering my goal has kept me focused on putting in my full effort.



Last year I set a goal of running track in

college. This led me to a hard decision: to quit football. I liked playing football but felt that running cross-country would help me get better at my track events. To achieve my dream of running college track, where there is high competition, I knew I needed to dedicate myself to training year round.

To reach a goal small or big, you have to create a plan of action and you have to put in as much effort as possible. This dedication to the things that matter in my life has taken me to places I could never imagine, and I know that my hard work now will be rewarded later in life.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Jim Slattery
- Treasurer: Jay Braden
- Secretary: Laura Budd
- Susan Boston
- Patty Bratches
- Joe Buongiorno
- Sally Campbell
- Susan Carroll
- Michael Curran
- Susan Donnelly
- Suzanne Einstein
- Amy Freyre
- Patti Geanakos
- Tom Gerardi
- Marianne Grandin
- Polly Perkins Johnson
- Jim Kucharczyk
- Joel Miller
- Kelly Newton
- Bitsy Richardson
- Jeanie Shaw
- Charlie Taben
- Laura Wilson

HOST FAMILIES

- Candace & Michael Curran
- Michael & Julie Bossidy
- Susan & Michael Donnelly
- Tracey & Steve Karl
- Thea & Robert Ross

HOST FAMILY COORDINATOR

- Susan Donnelly

STAFF

- Nora McCarthy – Resident Director
- Stuart Weiner – Resident Director
- Gerrald Evans – Tutor
- Chad Southerland – Tutor
- Beth Jones – Cook



President's Corner

It was a very auspicious beginning to the school year, between the damage Hurricane Irene caused to the ABC House and the delayed start of the school. We were able to adjust and a special thanks goes out to the town of New Canaan for its quick response to our tree and electrical problems. Their assistance helped eliminate unsafe conditions at the house.



With each new school year, changes occur in our program. We graduated our two seniors, Elijah Westbrook and Joveto DeCarvalho who both went on to study at Quinnipiac and Holy Cross respectively. We welcomed two new freshman, Osaze Wilson and Kwaku Gyasi and their host families, Julie and Michael Bossidy and Thea and Rob Ross. Our host families play a vital role in the success of the program, thus providing a comfortable environment for the boys while they are away from their own homes. Having been a host family, we look back at our time spent with Darryl Cummings who is now pursuing an engineering degree at UConn and consider his stay, some of the most special times in our lives.

We were sad regarding the departure of Tony Pavia (one of our biggest supporters), but look

forward to working with the new principal, Dr. Bryan Luizzi. We are grateful for his support and delighted he took the time to attend our most recent fundraiser.

One of the biggest changes to ABC of New Canaan was Melanie Berman leaving the Board. Melanie was president for two years, served on the board three years and was a host family parent to Eddie Padilla. Under her leadership, the program grew tremendously. Her dedication and the endless hours that she put into the program are greatly appreciated and she will be sadly missed.

Change also took place on our board of directors and friends of the board, where one third was replaced due to the end of their three-year terms. With the new composition of our board and friends of the board, we look forward to the future as we embark on two new multi-year initiatives, social networking and making our ABC house "greener". We also hope to obtain sponsorship in an effort to reduce our operating costs.

In closing, I would like to thank the community for their support and the endless stream of volunteers, who all help us to continue to strive to achieve our number one goal—Academic success.

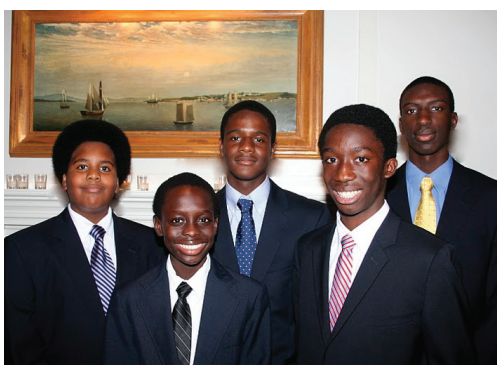
ABC of New Canaan part of Lamp Post Initiative launched by The Chamber of Commerce

The New Canaan Chamber of Commerce launched Phase III of the Village Lamp Post Program in order to revitalize New Canaan with beautiful new lampposts throughout town. With 75 already installed on Elm and Forest Streets the third phase of the project was to complete Main Street. An anonymous donor purchased one in honor of the ABC Program. The lamp is adorned with a permanent brass plaque recognizing the ABC Program.



Pictured left to right: Chris Andrews, Myles Henderson, Kwaku Gyasi, Osaze Wilson, Devaun Bovell.

Operating Budget	2012	2011
Food and Cook	\$32,200	\$31,800
Medical & Insurance	10,200	10,200
Boy's Expenses and Allowance	24,000	34,100
College Visits/Travel Expenses	—	2,500
Summer and Other Programs	6,100	6,100
Resident Director Expenses	16,000	14,500
House Maintenance	26,000	26,000
Fuel & Utilities Cost	33,700	33,100
Other Insurance Expenses	17,900	17,300
Printing and Mailing	7,600	12,000
Audit Expenses	8,300	8,300
Administration Expenses	6,700	8,600
Depreciation Expense	33,000	33,000
Fundraising Expenses	50,600	49,500
Total	\$272,300	\$287,000



2011-12 ABC Students: Left to right: Myles Henderson, Kwaku Gyasi, Chris Andrews, Osaze Wilson and Devaun Bovell.

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!