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SPRING 2012

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Juggling Seven Busy Schedules, Always A Challenge

Julie and Michael Bossidy thought it was tough juggling six schedules, imagine adding a seventh to the mix. They did just that when they became host family to Freshman, Osaze Wilson, who recently became an integral part of their family. When they saw an article in the paper looking for host families for the ABC Program, they talked it over with their four kids and immediately applied. They had always considered doing so, because they've been a part of the New Canaan community for so long and so has ABC. They felt it was a perfect time. The entire family agrees that Osaze is smart, outgoing and fun to be around. His interests are Astronomy and Politics. As a family, they spend time together by going to movies, high school



Left to right: Julie Bossidy, Osaze Wilson, Josie, Ted, Michael, Maddie, and Mike Bossidy

sporting events, dinners and their goal is to go to an Major League Baseball game this spring. They feel truly blessed to have met Osaze and they look forward to lifetime of memories with him.

ABC House of New Canaan: Broadening My Horizons

By Chris Andrews

I expected the ABC program to be a gateway to new opportunities for me in terms of college and future jobs but I didn't expect many of the benefits I've experienced.



One surprise has been the adults that have been available to converse with me, including members of the ABC board.

I believe that the program has equipped me with the communication skills to walk into interviews and secure the spot that I'm applying for.

Another big opportunity for me is that I'll attend a week-long summer program at Brown University in July. Prior to joining ABC, I had no idea that I could take classes at a college in the summer. I'm excited to attend Brown and experience a taste of college life.

I have always been a positive person, and I try to bring my flexibility and positive energy to ABC of New Canaan, too, whether I'm in the ABC house, with my host family, at school, or back home. I believe that my helpful advice and my humor have influenced those around me not to focus on the down side of things.

I can visualize many things in store for me. At New Canaan High School, I continue to challenge myself, pushing myself to work my absolute hardest. My trick is to consistently ask myself after every task: Did you do your best? When it comes time to apply to college, I will not have to worry that aspects of my application will hold me back. My attitude is: Persevere no matter what, and reap every reward possible from what you start.

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President's Corner

By Jim Slattery

As our year draws to a close, I would like to update you on some of our activities and achievements during this school year.



In September, we welcomed two new freshmen as well as their host families... Kwaku Gyasi and the Ross Family and Ozase Wilson and the Bossidy Family. Both boys made the transition with ease and their adjustment to New Canaan from Brooklyn and Manhattan was seamless. They also fit right in with Devaun, Chris and Myles our upper classmen in the program.

Academically, all of the boys were very impressive, staying focused and maintaining the goals of the program. Athletically, the boys participated in major

sports throughout the year including, track, football, basketball, lacrosse and squash. In addition, they participated in some of the high school club programs. Socially, they kept busy with everything from pumpkin carving, ice hockey games, bowling, go-cart racing, to recently participating in a trip to Boston for a college visit and taking in the historical sights.

Since the ABC Program is an academic program designed to develop confidence and independence while preparing for college and an active effective contributor to society, we are quite pleased with their progress. Naturally they could not achieve this success without the assistance of our Directors, Friends of the Board and Resident Directors. We are truly grateful for everyone's help and generosity.

We wish the boys luck in their summer endeavors and look forward to welcoming two new freshmen in the fall.



Summer Plans

Our ABC Scholars have been very busy this past semester doing research and working with our advisor, NCHS English teacher Chris Bonarrigo on activities for the summer months. With the goal of strengthening a weakness, or enhancing a skill, they've been looking into academic and athletic summer programs.

Many great selections have been made and the guys are going to have a good summer as a result. Our rising senior Devaun and rising junior Chris, will be going off to Brown University to join a one week summer academic program for high school students. Additionally, Devaun will be improving his track skills at Bowdoin College. Chris is a rising junior and he is going to the BC Football camp. Myles, also a rising Junior, has a curiosity for investigating science and will be



attending the University of New Haven delving into its program geared toward forensic science. He also loves playing squash and will continue to do so as he did last summer. Kwaku will be playing basketball at a program at the Chelsea Piers program in NYC, as well as doing some volunteer work at the Summer Youth Program in the city. And, last but not least, Osaze will be attending the high school football camp at Boston College with many of the NCHS football players and learning French while attending a program at The French Institute—Alliance Francaise.

Request For New Host Family

The New Canaan ABC Organization is looking for a special family who interested in taking a journey with a talented, smart and eager young man from outside New Canaan, who will be attending New Canaan High School as an incoming freshman this September. ABC students live together in a house on Locust Street, but are partnered with a Host Family who becomes their home away from home. It gives the students a place where they can go, relax and become part of a family and feel closer to the New Canaan community. Each Sunday, and one weekend a month Host Families spend time with their ABC son.

Becoming a Host Family is a tremendous experience for a family who has a heart for kids, time to give and a compassion to share.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact Susan Donnelly, ABC Host Parent and ABC Board Member at Susan.donnelly@snet.net.

Save the Date
Fall Fundraiser
September 29, 2012

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!



Paying Respect to Martin Luther King Jr.

Back row: Nora, Maxine, Myles Henderson, Chris Andrews, Devaun Bovell and Eli Stuart
Front Row: Osaze Wilson and Kwaku Gyasi