



DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

Set upon the hill, 64 Locust Avenue represents the aspirations of young men hungry for a better future. It is the home of the A Better Chance Program of New Canaan. Since 1974, this house has been called “home” by over 75 young minority men who have had the privilege and opportunity to attend New Canaan High School. Many of our young scholars come from New York City, New Haven, Boston and Philadelphia, but all come from academically underserved communities, and are seeking a high school program that prepares them for college and leadership roles in their futures.

The results of the program are measureable. Since it’s inception, all 75 young men have received their high school diploma, attended college and some have gone on to graduate school. ABC Alumni have gone on to have professional careers in law, business, technology, communications, education and non-profit programs. Our scholars gain not only a great education, but also the incredible experiences of living with host families and becoming apart of this community, developing relationships that last a lifetime. They enrich our lives with their unique perspectives, varied life experiences and wonderful charm.

The investment that we make to sponsor our scholars covers expenses similar to those you have in your home including food, heating, insurance and general maintenance of a 100 year old home! The ABC program is 100% dependent on private donations from New Canaan citizens, town organizations and churches. Our annual operating budget of \$220,000 is entirely funded by local friends and supporters like you. We receive neither government funding nor any financial support from our national organization.

A Better Chance is one of the many reasons we call New Canaan “The Next Station To Heaven”. Our community cares and understands the importance of a great education and the difference it can make in someone’s life. I hope you will consider making a donation to our Annual Appeal so we can continue to offer this life changing opportunity to these deserving and hard-working young men.

Thank you on behalf of our scholars and Board of Directors.

SUSAN DONNELLY  
President, ABC of New Canaan

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to offer our students a range of opportunities, including many that may not be available in their own community

- to learn in an excellent educational program that will affirm and nurture their academic talent;
- to participate in the arts, community service, athletic and other extra-curricular activities;
- and to develop confidence and independence as they prepare not only for college, but also for a future as active, effective contributors to society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Susan Donnelly, *President*  
Tracy duPont, *Vice-President*  
Janet Kilbane, *Treasurer*  
Margaret Pastel, *Secretary*  
Mary Freiberg, *Host Family Coordinator*

BOARD MEMBERS

- Scott Beyer, *Grants*  
Brian Klapper, *Student Activities*  
Heather Rechtermann, *College Advising*  
Laura Wilson, *Student Selection, Co-Chair*  
Susan Root, *Student Selection, Co-Chair*  
Julie Brand, *Public Relations*  
M.E. O'Connor, *Publicity*  
Jeff Brand, *House Maintenance*  
Arri Weeks, *NCHS Liaison*  
Sean Killelea, *NCHS Liaison*

TEAM / SCHOLARS / HOST FAMILIES

TEAM

- John & Laura Walsh  
*Resident Directors*  
Grace Mills  
& Elle Carroll,  
*Resident Tutors*  
Beth Jones, *Cook*  
Judy Gilroy,  
*Administrative*

SCHOLARS

- Rajon Mitchell, 2017  
Josiah Jones, 2018  
Kai Clancy, 2018  
Ryan Hernandez, 2019  
Adrian Davis, 2020

HOST FAMILIES

- Courtney & Mike Grigsby  
Mary & Peter Freiberg  
Jennifer & Richard Essigs  
Claire & Dick O'Hare  
Jen & Tom Richardson



A BETTER CHANCE

ABC House of New Canaan / 64 Locust Ave / New Canaan, CT 06840  
www.abchouseofnc.org

ABetter  
Chance



...to learn ...to participate ...to develop ...to succeed



OPENING THE DOOR TO GREATER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SINCE 1963.

# THE ABC'S OF NEW CANAAN

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: FIVE BOYS CURRENTLY LIVE AT THE RESIDENCE FROM NY AND PA

THE RESIDENCE: AN HISTORIC VICTORIAN HOME LOCATED AT 64 LOCUST AVENUE, NEW CANAAN, CT

POST GRADUATION: GRADUATES HAVE ATTENDED COLLEGES SUCH AS NYU, QUINNIPIAC, AND BOSTON COLLEGE, HOLY CROSS, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, ELON UNIVERSITY AND BENTLEY

OUR HISTORY: 43 YEARS IN NEW CANAAN, 75 YOUNG MEN HAVE GRADUATED

THE BUDGET: \$220,000 ANNUALLY COVERING, INSURANCE, UTILITIES, HOUSE MAINTENANCE, FOOD, STAFF AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

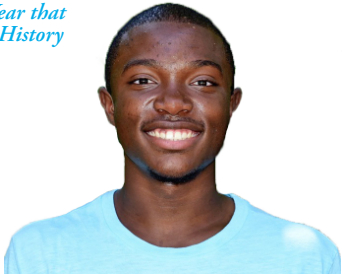
## MEET OUR SCHOLARS

### FAVORITES

*Food: Jerk Chicken with rice and steamed vegetables*

*Activity: Reading books and watching documentaries about major events in history*

*Book: 1944: FDR and the Year that Changed History*



### RAJON MITCHELL 2017 | Bronx, NY

My name is Rajon Mitchell, and I am a senior. I live in the Bronx with my parents and my younger brothers Lee (5) and Mason (2). For thirteen years, I was an only child, and with younger siblings now, I want to establish a legacy of higher education for them and future generations. Before high school, I had never participated on a sports team. This year I am finishing my final season of wrestling as a captain and look forward to my final season of track and field this spring. I will be concluding my senior year with an internship in New Canaan Planning and Zoning which is perfect because in college, I will major in Urban Studies.

FUN FACT: I AM A HUGE FAN OF CEREAL!

### JOSIAH JONES 2018 | Bronx, NY

Hello, I'm Josiah Jones and I am a junior. I was raised in a family with a mother, father and younger brother. Growing up in an urban setting, it was quite a transition to the New Canaan lifestyle. I am a three-sport athlete, competing in cross-country, wrestling and volleyball. Outside of sports, I participate in various clubs and activities such as Service League of Boys and Rams Council. The ABC program has exposed me to outstanding academic opportunities but has also helped me with social skills, time management, leadership, and public speaking that will greatly benefit me in the future. I wish to pursue a career in engineering due to my strength in math.

FUN FACT: I EARNED A SCHOLARSHIP TO MOROCCO THIS SUMMER! THE PROGRAM IS CALLED "MOROCCO: MULTICULTURALISM IN THE ARAB WORLD"



### FAVORITES

*Sports: Knicks/Yankees/Giants*

*Movie: Creed*

*Dream Job: Civil Engineer*

### KAI CLANCY 2018 | Queens, NY

Hello, I'm Kai Takizawa Clancy and I am a junior. I live in Queens, with my mother, father and 14-year-old sister. My sister, Kiri attends the ABC program at Wilton High School. During my time here, I have experienced life in a completely different economic and social environment. The guys that I live with are now my brothers and best friends. We bond during every moment of the day, whether it is during our morning routines, dinner dishes, or even study hall. Without this program, I probably would not have been exposed to sports, volunteer work or summer programs. This program has really opened up opportunities for me to expand my choices for college. I would like to be a doctor one day.

FUN FACT: I AM 1/2 JAPANESE, 1/4 IRISH, 1/4 SCOTTISH.



### FAVORITES

*Book: The Catcher in the Rye*

*About NC: My friends*

*Food: Japanese*

### FAVORITES

*Dream Job: Sports Marketing or Engineering*

*Activity: Shotput*

*Sports Team: NY Giants*



### RYAN HERNANDEZ 2019 | Bronx, NY

Hi, I'm Ryan Hernandez and I am a sophomore. I have a mother, father and a thirteen-year-old brother. My "brothers" within the ABC House have offered a safe and welcoming environment for me to develop and feel at home. ABC has helped me become more independent, organized and more comfortable talking to adults. I currently participate in indoor and outdoor track as a shot-putter. I made F.C.I.A.C., but in the future I want to make states and receive a varsity letter. After college, I hope to pursue a career in sports marketing or engineering. Coming to New Canaan has been a life changing experience and has to be the best choice I have made in my life so far!

FUN FACT: I MADE THE FCIAAC FOR SHOTPUT AND WAS 4 INCHES AWAY FROM MAKING STATES!

### ADRIAN DAVIS 2020 | Philadelphia, PA

Hello, my name is Adrian Davis and I am a freshman. I live in Philadelphia with my mother, father and 19-year-old brother. Living in the ABC House I have formed a new brotherhood with the other four boys and they have helped me with the transition to the New Canaan community. I played soccer in the fall, wrestling in the winter, and plan on playing volleyball in the spring. Before I leave NCHS, I want to create a non-academic club where people can come to hang out and let out some stress. I would like to pursue a career in aeronautical engineering. I think that the ABC program will allow me to bond with others and form connections that will help me to be successful at later stages of life.

FUN FACT: I LIKE TO HUNT AND FISH WITH MY DAD.



### FAVORITES

*Movie: Brotherly Love*

*Food: Cheesesteak*

*Restaurant: New Canaan Diner*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



DAVID COX (NCHS 2005) completed his undergraduate studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he majored in Film and Television Production. David worked for Apple Inc. for five years and is currently working as a Writer/Producer for Nickelodeon. He is married and lives in New York City with his wife Raebekah.



DEVAUN BOVELL (NCHS 2013) is a senior at Boston College. He will be graduating in May 2017, receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Management, with a concentration in Marketing. While at BC, Devaun has been a four-year member of the track and field team competing in the 60 meter and 110 meter hurdles. He is the President of BC's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and is an Atlantic Coast Conference SAAC representative. Last summer he interned in the athletic development office at BC. He is pursuing a career in collegiate athletic administration after he graduates.



ELIJAH WESTBROOK (NCHS 2011) graduated from Quinnipiac University in 2015 successfully earning his bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism. This made him the first in his family to graduate from college. While studying at Quinnipiac, he interned for the show "48 Hours" at CBS News and ended up becoming a News Associate right out of college. The same year he moved up to become a Broadcast Associate for "CBS This Morning". Currently, he is a reporter for WROC-TV in Rochester, NY. His interest in TV news all started from taking an elective at the high school in TV broadcasting.

*As my tenure in this program comes to an end, I look with optimism, intrigue and excitement for what is in store for me in the next stage of life: College!"*

— RAJON MITCHELL, senior