

ABetterChance

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



OPENING THE DOOR TO GREATER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SINCE 1963.





DEAR FELLOW NEW CANAAN RESIDENTS,

With so many tragedies happening all over the world in recent months, many find themselves questioning: *what can I do, how can I help, can I make a difference?*

The truth is since 1974 the New Canaan community has been making a difference in the lives of over eighty-five young men by helping them achieve their educational goals through A Better Chance of New Canaan! Our volunteer Board Members, Host Families, teachers, mentors, coaches, tutors and financial supporters, all give of themselves to help make an impact on the lives of our ABC scholars.

For forty-three years New Canaan has opened its high school to a select group of young men who seek a better chance at a top-notch high school. These scholars have had the opportunity to live at 64 Locust Avenue, attend New Canaan High School and participate in everything that the school offers from sports to theatre to clubs and community service opportunities. The scholars are paired with an incredible New Canaan host family during their four years who in turn nurture and support these young men while they are on their high school journey. They have developed relationships that have lasted a lifetime, not only with their host families but their house brothers, teammates and teachers and community at large.

All of this is only possible with the financial support of this generous community, as this program is 100% funded through donations. Please read about our awesome scholars and consider making a donation to support the ongoing dreams of an ABC scholar!! New Canaan is making a difference, and we thank you for forty-three years of your support!!

Sincerely,

SUSAN DONNELLY

President, ABC of New Canaan

THE ABC'S OF NEW CANAAN

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: SEVEN BOYS CURRENTLY LIVE AT THE RESIDENCE FROM NJ, 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 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, NYU, BOSTON COLLEGE, HOLY CROSS, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, ELON UNIVERSITY AND BENTLEY

OUR HISTORY: 43 YEARS IN NEW CANAAN, 85 YOUNG MEN HAVE GRADUATED

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

MEET OUR SCHOLARS

JOSIAH JONES 2018 | *Bronx, NY*

Hello, my name is Josiah Jones and I am a senior. I was born and raised in Bronx, New York and grew up in a family of four. After being a part of ABC of New Canaan for going on four years, I can say that it has been a blast! My time here has been filled with meeting interesting people and experiencing amazing moments. Two highlights include our yearly ABC trip and cooking for our ABC Thanksgiving feast. There are also small moments listening to music and playing basketball outside that make the house one of a kind. Outside of the ABC House, I wrestle and play volleyball for NCHS. I also participate in SLOBS, Rams Council and the new Black Student Union. Thanks to ABC, I am one step closer to achieving my dream of being a civil engineer. ABC and New Canaan have introduced me to a new culture, which in turn aided me in expanding my social skills and challenging me academically. Overall, ABC has been life changing and I am grateful to be a part of it.



KAI CLANCY 2018 | *Queens, NY*

My name is Kai Takizawa Clancy, and I live in Queens, New York. This year, instead of playing sports, I decided to work at Athletic Shoe Factory, right in town. Stop by! Luckily for me, work is about two minutes away. When I am not working, I like to read, play my guitar, listen to music, and play basketball in the backyard. Recently, I have been learning how to speak Italian! I have grown to love my teachers, friends at the high school and of course, my brothers at the ABC house. I hope my senior year will continue to be great!



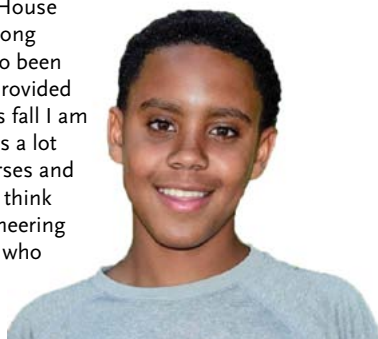
RYAN HERNANDEZ 2019 | Bronx, NY



Hi, my name is Ryan Hernandez and I am from Bronx, New York. I have a mother, father and 13- year-old brother. I am currently a junior at New Canaan High School. During my free time I play basketball, hang out with friends in town, and everything else that a teenage boy does. At the ABC house, we treat each other as family and welcome all newcomers. My “brothers” within the house and I have made our environment competitive, hardworking and fun. We look after each other, and as the only junior in the house it is my duty to set myself as an example. This fall I am participating in the Leadership Challenge with New Canaan CARES. In addition, I am doing extra skills training for shot put with my coach, Ms. Cohen. This is all in preparation for indoor and outdoor track. My goal is to reach states this year and possibly receive college letters. I can't wait to get through this year and go beyond my goals this year.

ADRIAN DAVIS 2020 | Philadelphia, PA

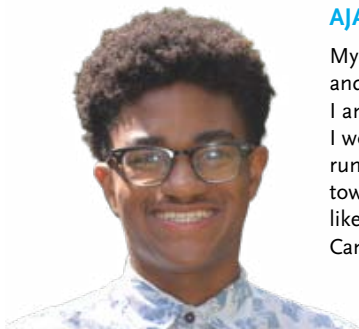
Hello, my name is Adrian Davis. I am a 15 year old sophomore from Philadelphia, PA . I live with my mother, father, and my older brother. Being in the ABC program has shaped my identity. People close to me say that since coming to New Canaan, I have matured as a young man and I am opening myself up to new things. Living in the ABC House with six other boys can be very hectic, but I have formed a lifelong partnership with these six individuals. The community has also been a key part in my success in New Canaan. My host family has provided me with a place of comfort and support on the weekends. This fall I am the Manager of the girls' varsity volleyball team, which requires a lot of thinking on your feet. I am enrolled in a couple honors courses and robotics, which allows me to work hands-on and allows me to think like an engineer. I plan to pursue a future in aeronautical engineering or become a pilot. I am forging new relationships with people who want to see me accomplish amazing things.



AXEL BOLY 2021 | New York, NY



My name is Axel Boly, I am a freshman at New Canaan High School. I was born and raised in Harlem, where I live with my mother in a small apartment. ABC has given me so many new options and possibilities, from having tutors to help me everyday with my homework, to going to SkyZone and having fun with everyone. I play on defense for the NCHS freshman soccer team and although training is tough, the payoff is worth it. I have recently joined the Debate Club and am excited to try it for the first time with Ivan, one of my “house brothers”. Coming to New Canaan has really been life changing and I don't regret it one bit.

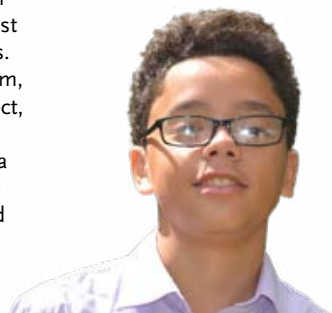


AJAMO CARRABY-JONES 2021 | Newark, NJ

My name is Ajamo Carraby Jones. I am from Newark, New Jersey and participate in cross-country, basketball and track. As of now, I am not exactly sure what career I will pursue, but if I had to pick, I would be an electrical engineer and a professional long distance runner. I like my new host family, the Truslows. I enjoy going into town or to the Y because, for the first time in my life, I actually feel like I have brothers. I plan to have a successful four years at New Canaan High School and hope for the best for the other ABC boys.

IVAN TAMAYO 2021 | Bronx, NY

My name is Ivan and I am a freshman at NCHS. As a friend, I support each and every one of the guys in the ABC House. I grew up in the South Bronx and was raised by a good man who wanted the best for me which included my education. So for him, I got good grades. For him, I got into no trouble in a dangerous neighborhood. For him, I would walk down the block to school with confidence, with intellect, with common sense. One day he told me not to do it for him, but to do it for myself. And so I held my head high, really high, and as a result, I was chosen for this program. So here I am. This is just the beginning and I am still getting settled in, but I am looking forward to next four years of my life here in New Canaan.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



JELANI ALLADIN (NCHS 2010) If you haven't already heard the exciting news, you probably will soon, as one of our own, will be starring on Broadway as the lead role in FROZEN.

Jelani Alladin is an Alumni of ABC of New Canaan. It was at New Canaan High School he discovered his zeal for acting and followed suit studying at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in the inaugural class of the New Studio on Broadway. Following graduation he quickly began working regionally in productions such as *Choir Boy* (Studio Theatre of D.C., Marin Theatre Company, winner of San Francisco Critics Circle Award for Best Leading Actor in a Play), the world premiere of *Josephine* (Asolo Rep) and *I and You* (Theatre Squared). He has worked Off Broadway at the York Theatre and Signature Theatre. This coming spring he will make his Broadway Debut as Kristoff in Disney's *Frozen* on Broadway! He is extremely grateful for everything the community of New Canaan has done to support his love and passion for the arts!

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*

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Jason Land, *Student Activities*
Heather Rechtermann, *College Advising*
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Susan Root, *Student Selection, Co-Chair*
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
Jessica Stargardter &
Hannah Liu
Resident Tutors
Beth Jones, *Cook*
Judy Gilroy,
Administrative

SCHOLARS

Josiah Jones, 2018
Kai Clancy, 2018
Ryan Hernandez, 2019
Adrian Davis, 2020
Ajamo Carraby-Jones, 2021
Axel Boly, 2021
Ivan Tamayo, 2021

HOST FAMILIES

Mary & Peter Freiberg
Jennifer & Richard Essigs
Claire & Dick O'Hare
Jen & Tom Richardson
Mary & Ned Treslow
Steffi & Mark Loomis
Margaret & Keith Roscoe



A BETTER CHANCE

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