



ABC New Canaan



A BETTER CHANCE  
OF NEW CANAAN  
EST. 1974

# Our Mission & Program

## EDUCATION EQUITY OPPORTUNITY

These are the guiding principles of  
A Better Chance (ABC) New Canaan.

Our mission is to provide transformative academic opportunities to talented young men of color, support them in becoming well-rounded and confident leaders, and prepare them for success in college and life.

**Our program welcomes scholars into the New Canaan community, where they**

- attend our nationally ranked high school and reach their fullest academic potential
- participate in the athletic, artistic, volunteer, and enrichment activities that New Canaan has to offer
- live together at the ABC house in town under the care of a supportive resident director
- become a part of a local host family, having a home away from home during their four years at ABC – and beyond.



# Our History

ABC New Canaan was founded in 1974. It is an affiliate of A Better Chance National, the preeminent resource for recruiting, preparing, and placing underrepresented students of color in the most prestigious independent day, boarding, and public schools in the United States. ABC New Canaan is one of just 20 Community Public School Programs within the ABC National umbrella, selected for its high-performing high school and robust community resources.



**90 scholars**

have graduated from our program

**100% of our scholars**

have received a life-changing education and gone to college

**100% of our scholars**

have had a special place to call home at ABC House

**100% of our support**

has come from the generosity of the New Canaan community

“ The ABC program opened doors that would have otherwise been closed to my son. It nurtured, supported, and prepared him for college and beyond.”

#FOREVERGRATEFUL

– *Eugenia Uwa-Omede*

# Our Scholars

Our scholars are a bright light in our town, bringing their commitment and enthusiasm to all they do. Their varied backgrounds and perspectives strengthen our classrooms and foster intercultural understanding. These exceptional young men add immeasurably to the diversity and quality of life in New Canaan and inspire others to reach for the stars.



**Dylan Amaswache, Senior**  
*Hometown:* Brockton, MA  
*Host Family:* Liz & Alex Tuff



**Javier Perez-Soto, Senior**  
*Hometown:* Lawrence, MA  
*Host Family:*  
Michele & Kevin Salmini



**John Baluyut, Sophomore**  
*Hometown:* Bronx, NY  
*Host Family:*  
Nancy & Mike Shullman



**Kian Ragaza, Freshman**  
*Hometown:* Bronx, NY  
*Host Family:*  
Kristen & Arthur Hall



**Yanfer Martinez, Freshman**  
*Hometown:* Bridgeport, CT  
*Host Family:*  
Nadine & Mike Finnerty

EDUCATION  
EQUITY  
OPPORTUNITY



“ ABC New Canaan paves the way for success for our scholars and everyone they encounter. My experience has greatly influenced my siblings, family, and community to continue chasing dreams and never settle for the norm.”

– Will Choi, ABC Scholar, 1998  
Lehigh University



## Our Alumni

ABC New Canaan graduates have attended some of the country's most prestigious colleges and universities and have been awarded numerous scholarships.



**Bard**

**COLGATE**

**DENISON**



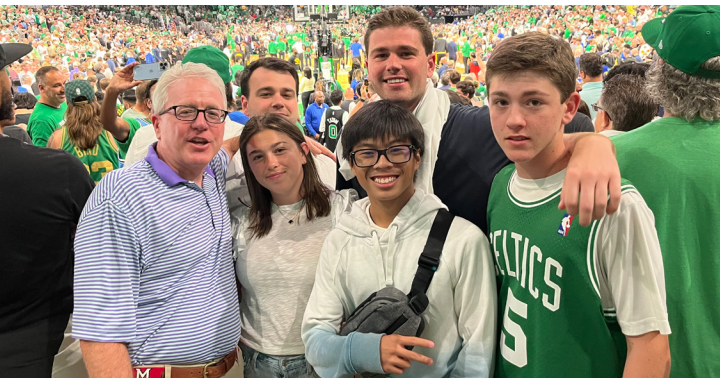
# Our Host Families

Our host families are a cornerstone of our program. They open their homes and hearts to our scholars, who spend Sundays and one weekend a month with them throughout their four years in New Canaan.



" Being an ABC host family for four years has been transformative for us. Dylan is not only a part of our family but a caring part of our community, participating in sports, RAM council, and SLOBS. He is constantly thanking us for embracing him, but really, we thank him every day for enriching our lives."

*– Liz & Alex Tuff*



# Our Community

Since 1974, the New Canaan community has embraced our mission and championed our work toward educational equity and closing the opportunity gap.

Our program is funded 100% by the generosity of local residents, volunteers, foundations, businesses, and New Canaan High School.

Thanks to this support, ABC New Canaan covers all costs for our scholars during their four years – from meals and music lessons to sports equipment, summer enrichment programs, college advising and visits, and so much more.

## Our Team

### Board Of Directors

Alicia C. Meyer  
*President*

Liz Tuff  
*Vice President*

Sarah Mattern  
*Treasurer*

Lisa Hill  
*Secretary*

Dina Connelly  
*Host Family Liaison*

Devaun Bovell  
Will Choi  
Megan Dowd  
Ellen Fitzpatrick  
Arthur Hall  
Peter Herbert  
Sean Killelea  
Ali Luddy  
Megan Morales  
Joyce Onyango  
Alan Rwambuya  
Julia Stewart



### ABC New Canaan Staff

Jamie Boris  
*Executive Director*

Khanisha Denise Moore  
*Resident Director*

Kendrick Constant  
*Resident Program Advisor*

Beth Jones  
*House Cook*

ABC New Canaan  
P.O. Box 355  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
[www.abchouseofnc.org](http://www.abchouseofnc.org)