

Alumnae praise Andover experience

This fall Andover A Better Chance celebrates 45 years of success at fulfilling its mission to increase the number of well-educated youth of color capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society.

Well-known local ABC alumni like surgeon Cernel Cooper, '73—chosen as *People Magazine's* Heroes Among Us for founding the first hospital-based Violence Intervention Program—and Gov. Deval Patrick, ABC/Milton Acad. '74, have made national headlines for giving back to their communities.

Meanwhile, since 1967 lesser-known of our 130 ABC graduates have been quietly focusing their talents, passion and ABC experience on critical social issues, such as the persistent gap in educational opportunity.

The ABC cycle of giving is summed up by current Resident Director Chris Caraviello: "It is the ideal of the promise of this country that we help each other."

Looking back, alumna **Gloria Rosario**, '99, said, "My time as an ABC scholar opened my eyes to the fact that public education is not the same everywhere. Realizing that I was able to receive a different educational experience than my peers who stayed in Washington Heights was the catalyst for a life-long focus on social justice and achieving equity in public education."

Today she is the principal of West Brooklyn Community High School, which serves dropouts who return to school.

Another ABC alumna dedicated to improving urban schools is Bronx resident **Elizabeth Blanco**, '98. She recently completed a master's in School Building Leadership and now works as the leadership resident for a public schools program in Bridgeport, CT, designed to narrow the achievement gap that leaves low-income youth behind.



Taide Byers Broadbelt (left), '94, and LaKisha Williams, '92, and other Andover ABC alumnae comment on how the program has affected their lives

"Being in ABC had a huge impact on my decision to go into education as a career," she said. "I specifically wanted to work with an organization that focuses on closing the achievement gap and getting our students on the right path to college in urban settings."

Taide Byers Broadbelt, '94, who lives in Brooklyn and owns her own clothing design business, said she received a great education from Andover High School and therefore a much better preparation for college than she would *(continued inside)*

45th Anniversary and Stronger Than Ever

President's message: Finding opportunity in Andover



Mary E. Pritchard

Dear Friends,

Anniversaries encourage an organization to look back even while it plans for the future. That's what we have been doing this fall at Andover A Better Chance.

One thread is a constant from our founding in 1967 to the present: The leadership of this organization has retained the same sustained passion that a group of citizens originally brought to the town of Andover. It was their vision that Andover High School, with its excellent teachers and top-notch curriculum, should be the ladder of opportunity that makes a difference in the lives of young people of color.

Access to a good education should not be determined by one's

lottery at birth. As Arne Duncan, secretary of education, argued, "What we have is an opportunity gap rather than an achievement gap." In other words, too many failed school systems across America are stifling potential and blocking pathways to success.

The A Better Chance program continues to play a valuable role in providing opportunity in Andover and across the nation for these promising young people of color.

In reviewing our rich history, I see the arc of Andover A Better Chance's story. Each successive group of leaders and volunteers has shaped a strong, steadfast program that hews closely to the founding principles of the program yet is nimble and flexible enough to adjust to the changing landscape of academic rigor and the college admissions process. *...(continued on the back page)*



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More news/photos at
AndoverABC.org

ABC House has five new supervisors

Andover A Better Chance welcomes a new team of five live-in supervisors and tutors to overseeing activities in the ABC House.

Dianne and Chris Caraviello, the resident directors, bring experience with young people and the arts.

Dianne is an administrator at Andover's Bancroft Elementary School, with emphasis on student development. The AHS class of 2011 chose her to receive its Humanitarian Award. She created and directs the local Family to Family Program, which serves at-risk youngsters.

Chris, who has taught and coached sports, owns and runs an art gallery. He also is a volunteer with the Family to Family Program. He and Dianne have two children.



This year's ABC scholars and their live-in supervisors are (from left) Resident Directors Dianne and Chris Caraviello, RA Cassandra Louis, RA Jessica Quinones, Fatouma Koné, Jazzare Mays, Deanna Starr, Felicia Reyes, Xonatia Lee, Ariel Leachman, Abigail Awodele and RA Kristina Martin

Joining them are resident assistants **Cassandra Louis** of New York City, with a BS in sociology (child and family studies); **Kristina Martin**, an AHS graduate (BS – marketing management); and **Jessica Quinones**, a family counselor at the YMCA Fina House in Lawrence, (BA, MA in clinical counseling and child psychology).

Alumnae praise: *continued from page 1*

have gotten in her home school system. But she began to question the basic educational disparities early on. "Why is it that I had to come out of my community to receive a better education?"

Rosario concurred. "I solidly believe that public education is the key for social change. As a student at AHS I recognized that I wanted to be a teacher. Once I became a teacher, I realized that my passion also included what happened outside of my classroom and led me to leadership. My experience at Andover High and later on in my undergraduate [Vanderbilt] and graduate [Bank Street College of Education, Fordham] education continues to shape my vision for equity in education".

Turalloy Jackson, '09, a senior at Villanova University with a major in political science and a minor in theater and Africana studies, also is setting her sights on education leadership. She is in the process of interviewing to be a Teach for America fellow.

Providence College sophomore **Henrica Bresil**, AHS '11, has quickly stepped into a leadership/mentor role as a resident assistant in a freshman dorm and one of the two students on the college's Diversity Implementation Committee.

LaKisha Williams, '92, Connections Coordinator at Goddard Riverside Community Center, a New York City nonprofit and leading human service organization, is an ordained minister. She recalls that her time at ABC was challenging and that sometimes she felt like a "social experiment" but she applauds the program because "Andover prepared me for my college experience."

Williams quotes rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer to describe the impetus behind so many ABC alumnae today: "I call it the 'morality of remembrance,' which says two things: we ought to never forget where we came from and always praise the bridges that carried us over."



New directors bring new skills

Four new board members are adding important expertise in college admissions, student health and accounting.

Kristin Esterberg, provost and academic affairs VP at Salem State University, offers our program valuable guidance from academia. She is the author of *Divided Conversations: Identities, Leadership, and Change in Public Higher Education*. Kristin, her partner Sue, and their two daughters are host family for Deanna Starr.

Lynn Hook, a registered nurse, has worked in all of Andover's public-school clinics in the past 13 years, most recently as AHS interim school nurse. She will assist the scholars and the board with school-related medical matters. She and her husband, Bruce, have two college-age children.

Nancy Kendrick and her husband, Peter Beatty, were hosts of Taide Argelia Byers Broadbelt in the 1990s, and she is now host-family coordinator. Currently HR director at Philips Healthcare in Andover, Nancy also is VP of Family Services for The Merrimack Valley. She and Peter have an adult son and daughter.

Noreen Marton, an accountant currently employed by a local company, has volunteered as Andover ABC's assistant treasurer for the past year. She also is financial manager of Groundwork Lawrence and has done similar volunteer work for Andover's schools, Phillips Academy and St. Roberts Country Day School.

They replace five departing board members: **Clark Benson**, long-time data manager; **Janis Hill**, summer-enrichment chair; **Louise Valleau**, board secretary; and **Aiko Onishi**. We thank them for their valuable services.

Former ABC scholar graduates from Wesleyan

Jessica Spates, AHS '08, graduated from Wesleyan University last spring and has won a grant to continue her studies in Germany. She is the daughter of Christine and Eugene Spates of New York City. Jessica's host family in Andover were Dave and Brenda Bryan and their children.



Summer program expanded

Andover ABC's seven scholars were busy last summer.

Three went on a 12-college tour while a fourth focused on basketball. Six also honed their skills in highly selective programs for promising youth.

Felicia Reyes, now a senior, attended the Career Explorations Summer Program in Business at Johnson & Wales University. Then she worked as an ABC Orientation Group Leader for the East Coast at Arcadia University.

Junior **Abigail Awodele** focused on pre-med studies at the University of Notre Dame's Summer Scholars Program, with full scholarship for tuition and airfare. In August Abigail participated in the National ABC College Bus Tour on the East Coast.

Jazzare Mays, also a junior, attended the Johns Hopkins Talented Youth Summer Program in July. She also took the ABC college tour.

Junior **Deanna Starr** had a paid job at a community-based program in her hometown through SYEP – State Youth Employment Program in NY. She, too, went on the ABC college tour.

Sophomore **Xonatia Lee** spent nine days at the Eleanor Roosevelt Center in Hyde Park, NY, for a girls leadership development program. She also tutored younger students in math at home in Brooklyn.

Sophomore **Ariel Leachman** participated in the Summer Reading Program at Fordham University, which helps students develop reading speed, strong comprehension and study skills.

Fatouma Koné, also a sophomore, attended two sessions of Hooptown Basketball Camp at Andover High School, with a full scholarship.

She also had an internship at the Booker T. Washington Beacon 54 School, Harlem (NYC) Children's Zone, working with younger students and learning about ethics, workplace life and money management.

Open House

Come help Andover A Better Chance celebrate its 45th anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 2.

ABC's scholars and volunteers will be at the ABC House at 134 Main St. from 1 to 3 p.m. to greet visitors and discuss the many benefits that have been available to both our resident scholars and the community since 1967.

Visitors may tour the house and refreshments will be served.

Alumni news

Elizabeth Roldan, AHS '00, volunteers as a mentor-coach for a New York City program that gives first-generation college students helpful support.

Roldan, an employee of The Standard financial services company, works with a college sophomore through the program NYNY, New York Needs You.

Vanessa Canas, '01, is in her second year at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

She recently spent seven weeks in India looking at the use of alternative medicine among cancer patients in a clinic. "It was both the greatest thing and the hardest thing I've ever done," she said.

Business supporters

Andover ABC and our scholars are grateful to the following businesses and organizations for contributing their services to our program this year.

- California Products
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- North Suburban Eye Associates
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- South Church of Andover

ABC Boosters: The Deacons



When Bill and Nancy Deacon, the first resident directors of Andover A Better Chance, look back 45 years on how far the program has come, they are delighted.

"It's been a pleasure for us – seeing the viability of the program over the years," Bill said recently of the organization that is the longest running ABC public-school program in the country.

In 1967 the Deacons were enlisted by a group of local residents that

believed Andover could help level the field for bright, motivated scholars spinning their wheels in poor school systems.

The original 10 ABC scholars of the Andover program were "great students in their schools" but lacked much basic schooling, Nancy recalled. One couldn't even do long division when he arrived.

Bill, an AHS chemistry teacher, and Nancy supervised the ABC House residents while Andover High helped them catch up academically and a growing group of volunteers launched the organization.

By year's end "we were tired" Bill said. "It was a lot of work." Working with the founders, they made improvements and eventually stayed on for three years. The proof of success is in the colleges that those early ABC scholars entered – Harvard, Dartmouth, Bowdoin, Tufts, among others.

The Deacons, now living in Florida, remain among its staunchest supporters.

President's message:

(Continued from page 1)

This fall, we have heard from numerous alumnae as well as our first resident directors. All have reached back into the program's past to let us know how profound the experience in Andover was for them.

Their reflections encourage us to do even better.

As a result, today our ABC scholars are engaged in both the community and the high school as never before.

In the summer, we now make sure that every student has an enriching opportunity so that they stay engaged and motivated by experiences that broaden their thinking and knowledge of the world.

Our host families and volunteers are more engaged in the program than ever.

We currently are in the midst of some of the most extensive renovation since the construction of our new wing last decade.

I am convinced that we are heading in the right direction when I hear Gloria Rosario, a 1999 ABC graduate who is now principal of a Brooklyn high school, describe her Andover experience as a "catalyst for [my] life-long focus on social justice and achieving equity in public education."

Mary E. Pritchard



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