



A BETTER CHANCE  
ANDOVER



## Welcome First-Year Scholars



### Picture of success: Gabrielle Erawoc '23

Gabby Erawoc, from Atlanta, Georgia, is a serious shutterbug who dreams of becoming a photojournalist. She is enjoying her honors classes at Andover High and has made good friends in the Photo Club and Show Choir.

As the second of four girls in her family, Gabby

quickly adjusted to living in the ABC dorm with six other female scholars. "They're like my sisters here," she said. "I feel like I'm at home." Gabby enjoys a special bond with roommate Kijari Boyd '22, who attended the same middle school in Atlanta and encouraged Gabby to apply to ABC. "This program really stood out," she said. And now Gabby stands out as the picture of success.



### Lust for life: Kiarra Lucas '23

Kiarra Lucas, from Washington, D.C., has a lust for life reflected in her many interests and talents. She's a huge fan of professional women's basketball and enjoys shooting hoops herself.

As a member of AHS Dance Club, Kiarra is constantly choreographing new hip-hop routines. She sings alto in Show Choir and is a member of

Debate Club. English is Kiarra's favorite honors class. For the last two years, she has been writing her own young adult novel, set in DC. Kiarra dreams of becoming a published writer and maybe a choreographer on Broadway. Debate Club also makes her think about being a judge or lawyer. "I aspire to so many things when I get older," she said.

## Welcome Resident Director



New Resident Director Cynthia Faulkner has an extensive background directing adult learning centers. As Executive Director at the Notre Dame Adult Education Center in Lawrence, Cynthia oversees programming for adult English Language Learners. Cynthia has also taught ESOL abroad as well as Spanish at the local community college. She is a proud Wellesley College alumna.

Cynthia moved to ABC from North Andover this summer and welcomed several scholars before school start for a week of AHS Show Choir camp. She is enjoying getting to know the girls and helping them navigate academic and residence life challenges.

We are thrilled to welcome Cynthia to our ABC family!

## President's Message: Season of Gratitude

While there is no single solution to the complex problem of inequality in educational opportunity, our town's bold launch of its ABC chapter 52 years ago has proven that opening doors for a handful of students each year has rippling effects in transforming lives and strengthening bonds of humanity. For our 144 alumni, many now leaders in their communities and across a spectrum of professions, Andover was a crucial stop in their journey, a community that embraced their dreams and invested in them with generosity and deep compassion.

Our town, high school, program volunteers, host families and board members have sustained this program as a model to be emulated. Scholars

embark on a structured program of scholarship, leadership and service with impressive results - all ABC scholars enroll in selective colleges, even as the nation's education and wealth gaps widen at alarming rates.

In our mission to promote future leaders from historically underrepresented backgrounds, ABC of Andover exemplifies the American creed of equal opportunity for all.

On behalf of Andover's ABC scholars, thank you for your generous support in enabling great futures to soar from Andover.

Gratefully, *Gaby*



Gabrielle  
Hager Nossiff



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*Eric & Luiza Pellerin*

*Jacqueline & Brian Pitts*

*Lauren Kosky-Stamm*

*& Chris Stamm*

*Delia Vallejo & Jason Welch*

More news and photos at  
[AndoverABC.org](http://AndoverABC.org)

## A Better Chance of Andover Scholars 2019-20



(from left) Mafoudia Keita '20, Leannette Garcia '20, Larissa Cardine '22, Kiarra Lucas '23, Gabrielle Erawoc '23, Kijari Boyd '22, Abigail Shugert '21

ABC of Andover scholars hail from cities across the nation—from Los Angeles to Chicago, Atlanta, Washington D.C. and New York. For over 52 years, ABC scholars have attended Andover High School to access challenging classes and extracurricular and leadership activities.

Scholars volunteer throughout the community and work part time jobs. A highly motivated group, ABC scholars stand out in the classroom and in our town as leaders and role models.

After graduation from Andover High School, ABC scholars enroll in selective colleges to prepare for futures as successful professionals and community changers.

### Academic Highlights

- All scholars taking Honors level classes. Juniors and Seniors enrolled in AP classes
- 2 scholars enrolled in Andover High School's Global Engagement program
- 3 scholars studying Chinese language
- Seniors on track with early applications for college admission and financial aid
- Several scholars hold leadership positions in Student Government
- Seniors are co-Presidents of AHS Diversity Club
- Junior is Vocal Captain and Sophomores are Dance and Spirit Captains in Show Choir
- Junior received scholarship for spring foreign travel program
- All scholars striving to meet or exceed program's community service requirements

## Sophomore Scholar Kijari Makes AHS Girls' Swim & Dive Team!



Emme & Kijari

To excel at diving, it helps to have a lot of patience, a background in gymnastics, and a good mentor. Fortunately, ABC of Andover scholar Kijari Boyd '22 has all three. Since September, she has been making a splash on the AHS girls' swim and dive team.

"Kijari is doing great as a first-year participant on the team," said Coach Becky Pierce. "She is at practice every day working hard on improving the dives she has learned. Flipping seems to come easily for her." It does. That's because Kijari competed for years in gymnastics. Back flips and twists don't faze her.

"Not a lot of people like back dives better than forward dives -- but I do. They're a lot of fun," she said. But challenging. "If I don't jump back far enough, I'm going to scrape my arms or feet on the board."

Luckily, her mentor is AHS junior Emme Pitts, an experienced diver and Kijari's ABC host sister. (Brian and Jackie Pitts are host parents to Kijari). Emme introduced Kijari to the sport, taught her basic dives over the summer and encouraged her to try out for the team.

"Kijari and I had become really close the first year she was with ABC," said Emme. "There's a lot of positive energy on the team, and I wanted her to experience that with me. We had both been gymnasts, and I thought this would be a good way for her to continue doing something in that area while also trying something new."

The close-knit team has helped Kijari feel comfortable at AHS as she's gotten to know swimmers and all of the divers. "It's eight girls in a hot tub waiting for their turn to dive." The team meets six days a week. Kijari was soaking up every minute of it, studying the other divers as she strived to improve her own form.

"One of the most difficult parts for any new diver is learning how to use the diving board the proper way," said Coach Pierce. "This takes time and practice. Kijari has been patient and is always open to coaching, and she continues to improve."

Outside the pool, Kijari is excelling in school with all A's since her first year. She also sings in Show Choir. "I don't know how I'm balancing it all," she said, laughing. "I've been stressed but it's good stress."

—Susan Greco



## AHS Spotlight: Jayne Jones



For six years, Guidance Counselor Jayne Jones (center) has served as a dedicated resource for ABC scholars. She draws on her extensive background in college counseling to their college admission and scholarship applications. Her commitment and perseverance in promoting ABC scholars has helped produce a stellar record of selective admissions with fulsome scholarships.

Jayne remarks, "I sincerely love working with the scholars as I am inspired by their courage and their hard-work ethic. I am incredibly

impressed by their ability to leave their families, and enroll in a new high school all the while remaining focused and dedicated. The scholars make contributions academically and socially through their many activities both at AHS and in the wider Andover community, making a positive difference with grace, commitment, and compassion. I also enjoy working with the many fabulous ABC volunteers who support my role as the scholar's guidance counselor. Their help has been invaluable!"

Thank you, Jayne Jones, for your dedication in helping ABC of Andover scholars achieve their dreams!

## Lasting Bonds and Friendships



### Five scholars in Show Choir

They are thrilled to compete on a national level with this amazing organization. The scholars bonded during their well-attended opening performance on the Andover Day outdoor stage.



### Orientation outing to Chinatown

ABC scholars live with residence staff in the dormitory on Main Street in downtown Andover. Sit-down dinners and weeknight "study hours" create a collaborative spirit that exudes inspiration and hope.



### Alumni Reunion Summer 2019

New York area classmates got together to share stories of old times and new adventures. (from left) Taide Argelia Broadbelt '94, Andrea Hall '07, Justene Salomon '10, Lydia Bailey '07.

## Thank you new volunteers

### Host Families

Hijoo Son & Max Kuo  
Lauren Kosky-Stamm & Chris Stamm  
Amy & Mika Latva-Kokko

### Academic Advisors

Mona Goldthwaite  
Sarah Murphy Travis

### Board Members

Carla Byers  
Katarina Curtin  
Allison Reilly

*Thank you for the many ways that the Andover community reaches out to support our scholars!*

## Volunteers needed

We're an all-volunteer run organization.

Do you have time for a volunteer project? If you are willing to help, e-mail us at: [volunteer@AndoverABC.org](mailto:volunteer@AndoverABC.org)

- Light maintenance and landscape projects for dormitory
- Tutoring in Math and Science
- Cooking theme dinner or Sunday brunch for scholars
- Drive locally on weekdays or to the airport for school break



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December 8<sup>th</sup> 134 Main St  
Annual Meeting 12-1pm  
Holiday Open House 1-3pm

### Donate Today!

Visit [AndoverABC.org/donate](http://AndoverABC.org/donate)

## Volunteer Spotlight: Eagle Scout enhances landscape



Last summer, Ethan Gassé approached House Manager Susan Connolly about project opportunities at ABC of Andover that would help him attain his Eagle Scout rank.

Having already attained Life Scout rank with Andover Troop 79, the year would give him enough time to plan and execute an ambitious project to be completed by his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Knowing Ethan as one of the ABC scholars' classmates and Show Choir teammates, we were sure his enthusiasm would carry the day!

Susan and Ethan discussed a host of possibilities, taking note that two sheds on the property were also built by Eagle Scouts. Both focused on a stone wall on the east boundary of the dormitory property, where the original stone wall had degraded over the years. Susan had been collecting local field stones over the years, so this jumpstarted Ethan's ambitious 86-foot-long double-face masonry wall. All other materials, equipment, tool rental, and refreshments were funded by 36 donors who gave over \$2,000 to Ethan's fundraiser.

Adult and youth volunteers from the Troop 79 family provided their time and expertise, enjoying pizza suppers after their Sunday work sessions.

Ethan remarked, "This is the biggest project I have planned, and the rank of Eagle is something that I have been reaching to attain for almost 7 years." Come take a look at the special design in the fieldstone wall!



## What We Do

**Mission:** Closing the education gap for students of color in American society. Since 1967, we've opened the door to greater educational opportunities for under-represented students from under-performing school systems. We bring motivated students to live in Andover, where they attend Andover High School to better prepare for college. Thanks to your generosity, we provide these scholars with a house on Main Street and a complete network of support and love.

**Enrollment:** 7 scholars currently from New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

**Results:** All 144 graduates over our 52 years have entered high-level colleges and universities.



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