

The Scholar

A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 21

NO 1

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ABC IN DARIEN!

HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR TICKETS YET?



This event is sponsored by Rucci Law Group, Fox Hill Builders and Maplewood of Darien.

On Saturday, September 26th we're holding what will surely be the event of the year — our **College Tailgate Gala** at Wee Burn Country Club.

You'll enjoy dinner and dancing, an open bar, live Rock 'n Roll from The Short Bus Band, tailgate games, and a live and silent auction with amazing prizes! Special guests include our emcee Dana Tyler, auction hosts Scott and Jane Pelley, and several of our past graduates.

Show how much you support ABC in Darien, and join us on Saturday, September 26th at 7:00pm, dressed in festive attire — college colors encouraged.

Tickets and tables can be purchased at:
www.501auctions.com/abcdariencollegetailgate

IT TAKES TWO... TO MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE

ABC IN DARIEN WELCOMES TWO TALENTED ACADEMIC SCHOLARS!

ANYERGUI JIMENEZ

Anyergui, an incoming freshman, comes from the New School for Leadership in the Bronx. "Angie" enjoys reading, writing and community service. She is looking forward to the ABC in Darien program and hopes to get involved in athletics and clubs. With three older brothers, Angie is excited to have "sisters" in ABC! We welcome Angie to ABC in Darien!



E'SACHI SMALLS

E'Sachi joins the ABC House from Bronx, New York. She previously attended Thessalonia Academy and is looking forward to joining the incoming freshman class at DHS. E'Sachi is passionate about reading, playing sports and acting. She envisions a future working with children as a teacher or a guidance counselor. We look forward to having E'Sachi join our ABC family!



How do we select our scholars?

Scholars are selected as eighth graders and invited to attend Darien High School on a four year scholarship. All A Better Chance scholars undergo a rigorous admissions process to become a part of the program. First, teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, ABC alumni, and other volunteers nationwide identify promising students and recommend that they look into the ABC Program. These students demonstrate both academic talent and strong motivation to succeed. Each candidate completes the application requirements of A Better Chance National, including multiple questionnaires, essays and the SSAT or ISEE. ABC in Darien then selects the students who best match and might benefit from the educational, cultural, and social opportunities our local program has to offer. The top candidates are invited to come to Darien for a couple of days to interact with current ABC students, our resident staff, and the ABC in Darien Selection Committee. In addition, they also visit Darien High School and attend classes. The Selection Committee then makes the final decisions on which students are invited to participate in the ABC in Darien program.

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STUDENTS

Anyergui Jimenez (2019)

E'Sachi Smalls (2019)

Ayesha Abdul-Fattaah (2018)

Jenelsy Lopez (2018)

Mahoghany Dolberry (2016)

Niamani Williams-Coles (2016)



DARIEN

A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1981.

Post Office Box 3204
Darien, CT 06820



Our 2015/16 ABC House includes seniors Mahoghany Dolberry and Niamani Williams-Coles, sophomores Ayesha Abdul-Fattaah and Jenelsy Lopez and incoming freshmen Anyergui Jimenez and E'Sachi Smalls.

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OUR 2015 GRADUATES MAKE US PROUD!!



◀ **Merlyn Tejada** (left) was honored with the YMCA Young Woman of Distinction Award on May 7th. She was also awarded the Superintendent's Citizenship Award and the Ralph M. Gibbs Award for "high level of extracurricular achievement, academics, integrity, character and leadership" at the Darien High School Awards Ceremony on May 21st. Merlyn is studying at Columbia University this fall.

◀ **Danielle McIntosh** (right) was awarded the Judith Berry Griffin Award at the 2015 ABC National Award Ceremony held in NYC on June 12th. This prestigious award honored Danielle for her exceptional and steadfast determination to succeed. She is pictured here with CNBC reporter Bertha Coombs, A Better Chance alumna. Danielle is attending George Washington University this fall.



Graduates Merlyn and Danielle

Our 2015/2016 Co-Presidents
Yvette Eenkema van Dijk and
Jane Yezzi

◀ 2015 ABC graduate Danielle
and host brother Florian
jumping for joy!



ABC IN DARIEN FACTS

MISSION: To provide scholarships to academically talented girls of color from underserved areas allowing them to realize their academic and social potential while living in Darien and attending DHS.

ENROLLMENT: Six girls currently from New York, New Jersey and Georgia.

HISTORY: Thirty-five years in Darien; 45 girls have graduated from the program.

WHERE DO THEY GO? Graduates have entered colleges such as Columbia, Cornell, George Washington, Syracuse and MIT.

STAFF: Two Resident Directors, Executive Director & Tutors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Twenty-two local residents.

HOST FAMILIES: Six families host the girls one weekend and one Sunday each month.

RESIDENCE: 103 Tokeneke Road in Darien.

THE BUDGET: \$155,000 per year, covering staff, food, utilities, house maintenance, enrichment expenses & supplies.

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to contribute to ABC in Darien, send donations to P.O. Box 3204, Darien, CT 06820 or donate online at www.abcdarien.org

www.abcdarien.org

◀ ABC Carwash – October 4th

Mark your calendars... The ABC carwash will be held on Sunday, October 4th at Darien High School from 10am-2pm. All proceeds go directly to the girls' college funds!