



**A BETTER CHANCE
IN DARIEN**

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educational opportunities since 1963

The Scholar

A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN NEWSLETTER

VOL 13

NO 1

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ADVISORS/VOLUNTEERS

Victoria Crane
(Program Director)
Francis Janosco/Julie Parham
(Resident Directors)
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HOST FAMILIES

Lisa & Michael Alfieri
Julia & Dan Anderson
Wendy & Ned Brokaw
Susan & Ted Collins
Cokey & Jim Concannon
Yvette & Pieter Eenkema Van Dijk
Minina & Bob Johnston
Janet & Mark Kindy
Dale & John O'Brien
Callie & Tighe Sullivan
Susan & John Wilson
Nancy & Doug Wells

STUDENTS

Melinda Siew, 2009
Chidinma Amakari, 2010
Tasha Valentin, 2010
Caurice Wynter, 2010
Olaide Ajomagberin, 2011
Anthia Diaz, 2011

A new beginning and a growing family at the ABC house... Front row: Chidinma Amakiri, Caurice Wynter, Resident Director Julie Parham holding Nikolai. Second row, Olaide Ajomagberin, Melinda Siew, Resident Director Francis Janosco, Tasha Valentin and Anthia Diaz



ANTHIA DIAZ: CLASS OF 2011

Underneath Anthia's quiet nature lies a determined and hardworking young woman. She is very observant, takes great pride in helping others, and often has a twinkle in her eyes. Anthia graduated from the KIPP:STAR College Prep Charter School in New York City (Knowledge Is Power Program: Success through Teamwork, Achievement, and Responsibility). Her favorite subjects are math and biology; she



also likes to draw, read, sleep, and be with friends. Anthia and her younger sister were born and raised in Harlem; her family is originally from the Dominican Republic. Anthia's Host Families in Darien are Minina and Bob Johnston and Callie and Tighe Sullivan.

OLAIDE AJOMAGBERIN: CLASS OF 2011

This academically accomplished athlete of Nigerian descent was born and raised in the Bronx. She has three older sisters and a younger brother. In addition to track, Olaide likes English and loves to read. "I cannot go anywhere without a book in my hand," she admits. In her short time here, she has become a valued member of the Blue Wave cross country team. She hopes to continue with indoor track this winter, and is confident that this year "will turn out the way I imagined it...fun and exciting." Olaide's Host Families are Lisa and Michael Alfieri and Julia and Dan Anderson.





▶ A soap suds kiss from Tasha to her host family brother Jared Kindy during the Car Wash. The students raised \$3,500 for their college funds.

Tasha, Caurice, Taylor Wells and Olaide urging passersby to join the fun.



In September, the girls went to see "Wicked" under the spirited and resourceful leadership of Board member Jennienne Burke. The Enrichment Committee has planned more exciting cultural activities for the year ahead.



"Diana gave us the gift of "A Better Chance." She gave us the ability to expand our horizons; she gave us the opportunity to look at our worlds through different lenses. She enabled us to experience the rewards that can be reaped through hard work and dedication to her studies. And she made our families better families simply by being a part of them. We know the incredible impact she had on us, because now that she is away, we miss her so."

Karen HUGHAN and Cindy Heck, ABC Host Families



The girls volunteered at the Darien Nature Center's Hoot and Howl festivities. Here, Anthia helps Emmett Heissan get ready for Halloween.

ABC FACTS

MISSION: To provide scholarships to academically talented minority girls 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, and New Jersey.

HISTORY: Twenty-six years in Darien; 36 girls have graduated from the program.

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

STAFF: Two resident directors, cook, tutors, and part-time Program Director as needed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Twenty-eight local residents.

HOST FAMILIES: Twelve families host the girls two weekends each month.

RESIDENCE: 11 Brookside Road—provided by the First Congregational Church, maintained by ABC Darien.

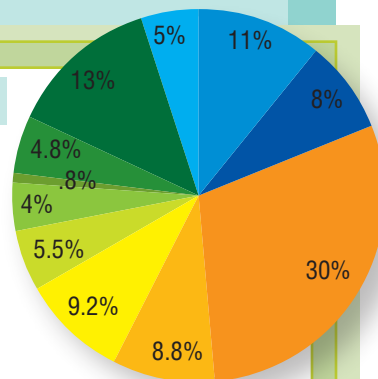
THE BUDGET: \$135,000 per year, covering staff, food, utilities, house maintenance, enrichment expenses and supplies.

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to contribute to ABC in Darien, send donations to P.O. Box 3204, Darien, CT 06820

2007 Operating Budget: \$135,000

Food:	\$15,000	[11%]
Educational Programs:	\$11,000	[8%]
Payroll:	\$40,000	[30%] *
Utilities:	\$12,000	[8.8%]
Printing and Mailing:	\$12,500	[9.2%]
Tutors:	\$7,500	[5.5%]
Students Allowances:	\$5,600	[4%]
Medical and Insurance:	\$1,200	[.8%]
Other Insurance:	\$6,500	[4.8%]
House Improvements and Maintenance:	\$17,000	[13%]
Miscellaneous Expenses:	\$7,100	[5%]

* Payroll for resident director, cook and program director



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www.abcdarien.com