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STUDENTS

Angelica Cortez (2013)
Bettina Arkhurst (2014)
Jocelyn Mendez (2014)
Danielle McIntosh (2015)
Merlyn Tejada (2015)
Mahoghany Dolberry (2016)
Niamani Williams-Coles (2016)

NOW WE ARE SEVEN!

Although the Selection Committee went into the spring season with the goal of finding one special young lady to join our house, we were so impressed by two of the applicants we took them both! The positive responses of Francis and Julie, our Resident Directors, and the girls in the house, made the decision an easy one. So, we're proud to introduce the ABC Class of 2016, Mahoghany Dolberry and Niamani Williams-Coles.

MAHOGHANY DOLBERRY

Mahoghany Dolberry comes to us from L. W. Beecher Museum Magnet School in New Haven. She lists her academic strengths as writing, reading, math and world languages. She is a member of the Math Counts program, a highly competitive New Haven organization. In 6th grade she began learning Spanish and now speaks fluently. As a participant in the Hopkins Breakthrough Program, she also was introduced to Chinese. Mahoghany's School Counselor states, "If I had to choose one student that embodies an ideal student, without hesitation, it would be Mahoghany."



In her free time, Mahoghany loves to dance, act and sing. She is a Girl Scout, runs track and for two years served as President of her school's student government. Mahoghany has also participated in the Fieldstone Enrichment Program.

Looking to the future, Mahoghany states that she plans to be a pediatrician and has already narrowed down her college choices to five!

NIAMANI WILLIAMS-COLES

Niamani Williams-Coles comes to us from the Bronx, having just completed 8th grade at Kappa Middle School 215. An honor roll student, she states her academic strengths to be Language Arts and Math. In 2011, Niamani was awarded the 2nd place prize in the Edison Bronx School Math Tournament. As a top scholar she has traveled with her school to Arizona, Boston, Chicago and Niagara Falls. Niamani's Principal at Kappa Middle School reports, "she is an ambitious and resourceful scholar who always strives for excellence."



Niamani's interests outside of school are dance (ballet, African and tap), keyboard and karate. She also loves animals and states that she would like to attend a good college so she can become a veterinarian.

We're pleased to welcome Mahoghany and Niamani to the ABC House and Darien High School. We know they'll be assets to our community.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND ROAD TRIP

Nicknamed 'The *You-People* Tour' after Francis' often used friendly reference to the six Darien ABC scholars, it was a first for our program. Planned and lead by our veteran Resident Directors over Memorial Day weekend, the adventure covered 3 states and visits to each scholar's home for a meal and/or overnight stay. Highlights included a Yankee's game and the sharing of a small part of the scholars' lives outside of Darien. It was a truly memorable experience for all.



Each of the six home stops on the tri-state tour incorporated a sampling of home cooking including foods from Kenya, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. Here, The *You People* Tour-mates pose with family members of 2012 DHS Community Council President and DHS/ABC Graduate, Niya Wright.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Having just observed ABC's 30th anniversary, the ABC Board of Directors is looking ahead to the next 30 years. To ensure a solid future for the program and the girls, we have created a Vision Committee to explore the possibility of building a new ABC house that can accommodate 8 girls and better meet the needs of a large family! We are in the process of talking to the Board of Education, The First Congregational Church, Planning and Zoning and all interested parties to assess the possibility of undertaking such an endeavor. We are very excited about a new home in the future for ABC in Darien and will keep you posted!



A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1981.



The 2012-13 ABC in Darien Scholars

Post Office Box 3204
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Left to right: Niamani Williams-Coles, Mahoghany Dolberry, Jocelyn Mendez, Angelica Cortez, Bettina Arkhurst, Merlyn Tejada & Danielle McIntosh



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GREAT EXPERIENCES...

Resident Director Julie Parham explains the next event at the recent ABC Field Day. Part of the orientation program, and particularly important for freshmen, each year the area girls' ABC Programs, from Wilton, Guilford and Ridgefield, are hosted for an afternoon of games, food and good times. ▶



◀ DHS sophomore Danielle McIntosh (left) waits patiently to catch the raw egg in the 'Egg Toss Competition'.



(From left to right) Nadine Wright, Niya's mother, CNBC Reporter and A Better Chance Alumna Bertha Coombs, Niya Wright, the 2012 ABC National Judith Berry Griffin Award winner; and Sandra Timmons, President ABC National.



The team is ready to experience Six Flags and some of the fastest, tallest, widest, gut-wrenchingest rides in the country!

ABC IN DARIEN 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: Seven girls currently from Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

HISTORY: Thirty-one years in Darien; 40 girls have graduated from the program.

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

STAFF: Two Resident Directors, Program Director and Tutors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Twenty-four local residents.

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

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

THE BUDGET: \$142,000 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 or donate online at www.abcdarien.org

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