

The Scholar

A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR SENIORS!

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- Sherry and Brian Ramsay
- Justine and Rob Stewart

HASSANA

An avid volleyball and basketball player at Darien High School (DHS), Hassana describes her time at ABC as unforgettable and life changing. She fondly recalls "prancing and jumping up and down the sidewalk" to encourage participation in the annual ABC car wash. She will miss spending time with the girls, her supportive host family (the Stewarts), and Resident Directors Beth and Peter Horan, as well as the kind community volunteers who drove when she needed a ride.

Despite enjoying time at home this spring because of the pandemic, she wishes she could have concluded her high school experience in Darien.

Hassana will attend the historically black college, Howard University, where she plans to major in Criminology.

From Beth and Peter: "Hassana's big heart and vivacious spirit will be missed!"



ALEXUS

Alexus' favorite memory is the whitewater rafting trip during her freshman year. "The best part was having a water fight with the people around us!" She will dearly miss the "sisterhood" with the other girls in the house, as well as Beth and Peter.

Alexus says her host family, the Johnstons, played a major role in her experience in Darien, including her in all family activities. "I am excited to visit them and share new memories."

Alexus misses her normal life this spring. "Online classes have been an adjustment, but

the teachers have been understanding and helpful."

Alexus plans to major in Biochemistry with a minor in entrepreneurship. She is very excited to attend Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

From Beth and Peter: "Alexus' kindness, big smile and leadership will be surely missed!"

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our ABC scholars had the opportunity to attend the NatWest Markets "Celebrating Black History Month" event in February. ABC Board Member Nadene McKenzie-Reid facilitated a "fireside chat" about authenticity, diversity and inclusion with Sibongile Magubane, Commissioner to the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles.





DARIEN

A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1981.

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Darien, CT 06820



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A CALL FOR 2 NEW HOST FAMILIES!

We are seeking two new host families for our incoming freshmen in the fall.

What makes being a host family so great?

- ▶ Forming a special bond with an ABC scholar for the 4 years she attends DHS by taking her into your home one weekend a month during the school year.
- ▶ Providing a home away from home and integrating your host daughter into the Darien community.
- ▶ Supporting a better chance of success when your scholar goes out into world on her own.



Interested?

Please contact Yvette Eenkema van Dijk at 203-253-9640 or yeenkema@gmail.com

ABOUT ABC IN DARIEN

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

- ▶ **40 YEARS** in Darien
- ▶ **8 GIRLS** from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts
- ▶ **8 LOCAL HOST FAMILIES** who care for the girls one weekend each month
- ▶ **2 RESIDENT DIRECTORS**, who raised their four children in Darien
- ▶ **52 GRADUATES** who have all attended four-year colleges

Donate online at
ABCdarien.org

Mail donations to:
P.O. Box 3204
Darien, CT 06820



YOUR SUPPORT

opens doors to help young women of color grow, thrive and become leaders