

A Better Chance In Darien



A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN
11 BROOKSIDE ROAD

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A Better Chance ... A National Program To Give Talented Minority Students Expanded Educational Opportunities

1982 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of ABC,

In the beginning, we thought the end of the year would never come. Our only hope was to make time go faster so that we would be able to go home and reunite with our families. This desire was part of adjustment. Of course, now we have learned that it is very difficult to view a different culture and adapt to the shock and discrimination in a short period of time. In other words, things take time. The homesickness was one of the worst things about coming here in September, but now we have learned to adjust and find ourselves in this new environment. Above all, this experience is worth the troubles of being away at such an early age.

At first, we didn't have time for extracurricular activities. Only a few of us were involved in things other than schoolwork. For example, Orgyln was in "Grease" last fall and Kathy and Liz were flag girls. But now we all seem to make the effort to become involved in activities that best interest us. We are occupied after school with sports such as softball (Liz), track (La Rose and Rosa), and tennis (Toni). Others of us spend our time performing in drama productions; for example, Orgyln and Kathy will be performing in the production of "Showbiz". Even with other activities, we have managed to keep our grades up. We have all made honor roll at least once this year.

We have also had our first fundraiser for this year. The car wash was very successful. Our help consisted of many high school kids and a few adults for supervision and organization. The purpose of the car wash was to raise money for extra school expenses that seem to constantly extend our budget.

School is a lot better now. We can't exactly say that the work is easier, but by now we know what to expect from our teachers and advisors.

Those of us who are sophomores won't be looking at very many colleges until next year but La Rose, the junior, has been viewing such colleges as Wesleyan, Smith, Trinity and others. She will continue to do so during the summer in order to apply to the colleges of her choice in the fall of '82.

Pat Santelle
Richard Sarr
Judy Silvia
Sally Sprague
Samuel Stevenson
Pat Stewart
The Rev. Walter Taylor
Leila Toledo

To sum things up we would like to say that the year has been a good one even with the many conflict of moving into the house, and the adjustments. Both of our open houses were successful. Our goal was to welcome the people of Darien to see the finished product which had been worked on for so long. Many people enjoyed seeing the house after hearing so much about it.

HOUSE RESIDENTS:

Roz and Bill McCarthy
Leonard Krill

Now that we have adjusted to Darien, and Darien has adjusted to us, we look forward to coming back in the fall to start off the next year in a pleasant way. Thank you very much for your support.

The ABC Girls

Every now and then comes a time for real rejoicing--and now is such a time for all of us who have worked to establish ABC in Darien, Inc.

Our first full year of operation is drawing to a successful close. The house has proved comfortable and worthy of all the craftsmanship that Gil Lefferts and Olson & Wood put into it. The girls have had a remarkable year, with full appreciation of the richness of a good education and bringing to their classmates more understanding of the world outside Darien. They have all achieved the high scholastic average required of the program.

The resident director and his wife, Bill and Roz McCarthy, have done an outstanding job of loving leadership in handling the problems of the pioneer year of such a project. They bring an enthusiasm to it that is invaluable. It is a pleasure to report that they have agreed to lead the program for another year.

Most of the readers of this report will be donors to the program, donors in one way or another--money, or personal service, and more often both. All of us can feel good about our common effort. It looks like a sound project well launched.

5/20/82

Herb West, President of ABC