



A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN, INC.
P.O. BOX 3204
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT 06820

A Better Chance In Darien

INVITATION

open house for friends of
ABC

sunday november 4th

12-3pm

11 brookside road

FALL NEWSLETTER 1984

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Resident Dir. - Del & Jean Shortliffe
Resident Tutor - Eliza McFeely

Dear Friends,

The fourth year of ABC has begun and the house at 11 Brookside Road is once again buzzing with activity and life. While the scene is much the same as before, some of the characters are different. Five new girls, as well as a new resident tutor have moved in. Together with resident directors Del and Jean Shortliffe, their twin sons Mark and Tom, cook Liz Deas and, of course, our sole returning student, Zoe Davis, the ABC family is complete.



KHISHA PRATT (KIKI) Junior. Khisha is from the Bronx, New York and is number four in a family of six - three boys and three girls. She became acquainted with ABC through her older brother, who was with the program in Pennsylvania. David and Rosemary Mace are Khisha's host family.



JACQUELINE CANCELL (JACKIE) Sophomore. Jacqueline is the older of two girls in her family and comes from Brooklyn, New York. She became interested in ABC through a guidance counsellor at her school there. Walter and Sally Raleigh are Jackie's host family.



DENISE RICHARDS (DEE) Sophmore. Denise has an older brother and is from the Bronx, New York. She first learned about ABC from a guidance counsellor who encouraged her to apply. Paul and Britt Tiller are Denise's host family.

SHELLEY DUGAS Sophmore. Shelley is from Manhattan, New York. She has two sisters, one older and one younger. A good friend of hers told her about ABC and suggested she apply. Geoffrey and Barbara Magrath are Shelley's host family.



ZOE DAVIS Junior. This is Zoe's second year with ABC in Darien. She has two sisters, both younger and is from Cleveland, Ohio. She first heard about ABC from a friend in the program and was so interested she pursued it further with her guidance counsellor at school. George and Judy Wales are Zoe's host family.



MARCELLE IMELDA WILSON (MARCIE) Sophmore. Marcelle is the youngest of ten children - four boys and six girls - and comes from Brooklyn, New York. Many of Marcie's friends are in ABC programs around the country and it was through them that she learned about the program. Mike and Anne Armstrong are Marcie's host family.



ELIZA McFEELY Resident Tutor. A 1977 graduate of Kirkland College, Eliza then went on to do her Masters at Brown. She is presently teaching in the Social Studies department at Fox Lane High School, Bedford, New York. Eliza went into teaching to do something like ABC. She is also involved in teaching 'writing across the curriculum' in a district-wide "Bedford Writes" program.

(Photo's of ABC staff will be featured in our Winter Update.)

HOW IT'S GOING

Del and Jean Shortliffe are pleased with the way in which the girls have coped with the various adjustments they've had to make since their arrival. Adjustments to new people at home and at school, homesickness and a heightened awareness of the challenge before them, are just some of the aspects these young girls face. But they're doing fine. Their attitudes are positive, they're working steadily and are already involved in such extra-curricular activities as tennis, cheerleading, cross-country and the upcoming school play 'Carousel'.

The High School organization AMICA proved most helpful in showing the girls around the school before it opened. The tortuous layout is still a bit confusing to them and getting lost occasionally just a minor inconvenience in the greater scheme of their school experience.

The girls spend Sundays and one weekend a month with their host families. This weekly change of pace and scene is an important aspect of the program and one the girls enjoy. The Shortliffes report enthusiastic story-swapping by the girls when they return to base on Sunday nights. To have the support and interest of a family adds something special to the life of our ABC student and, we would be remiss, if we did not acknowledge the role our host families play.

We will keep you posted on the progress of our ABC students, both past and present, in the upcoming Winter newsletter. By then our graduates will have settled down in College and will have more to tell us. Our current students, too.

HOUSE NEWS

Barbara Magrath did a wonderful job on the house this summer. With the help of board and non-board members, she painted the living room, the hall and front stairway, the Shortliffe's quarters, the kitchen ceiling, the two girls bedrooms, the tutor's room and the basement hall and stairs.

A professional wall-paper hanger, Barb lent her talents to papering the front hall, the study area, the small kitchen, the back stairway, the large bathroom and the tutor's bathroom.

The girls now have cubbies in the attic for storage and a shelving system for books in the basement hallway.

A vote of thanks for this extraordinary effort is due Barb and all her workers. Non-board members: Molly Hamilton, Sally Schlachtenhaufen, Margie Ambrose, Barbara Caswell, Ruth Kipp and Sally Lydecker. Board members: Kerry Mayers, Rosemary Peppet, Rosemary Mace, Dottie Sarr, Bill Silvia, Barbara Dordelman, Sally Sprague, Judy Stevenson, Sue Geery, Nancy Tapley and Leonard Krill. House members: Del and Jean Shortliffe and Eliza McFeely.

Thank you all for a great result.

NEEDED

Dehumidifier
14' x 14' rug
Math/Science Tutor
(Salary negotiable)

WOULD LOVE

Color Television
Computer/Word Processor

DON'T FORGET!! Janet Fiske is now in charge of student enrichment. Any tickets to concerts, theater, ball-games etc. you can't use, please remember our ABC students. Call Janet and she will arrange.
Janet Fiske - 655-4660

ITEM OF COINCIDENTAL INTEREST

abecedarian	
(ā' bē sē dâr' ē ən) 1. n. a beginner in a field of learning	
2. adj. rudimentary	
He entered medical school with only an <i>abecedarian</i> knowledge of the sciences.	
Friday	14
September	
1984	

OPEN HOUSE

The board is hosting an Open House for all Friends of ABC to meet our girls and see the newly redone house.

It is indeed thanks to you for the support you have given that this program is a working success, as well as a credit to the town of Darien.

We hope you will come. The girls will be there to greet you and show you around.

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DARIEN, CT 06830
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from the desk of Pinky Haydock!

Sandra Filmer, Editor