Dear Friends,

On October 23, more than 260 guests enjoyed local balladeers Chip & Dale, Blue Ribbon BBQ, and mechanical bull-rides at the Sons of Italy hall, all to raise much-needed support at the Hoedown for Winchester’s very own chapter of A Better Chance Inc. (ABC).

The Fall Fundraiser is always a dynamic gathering. New families in town who have just learned about ABC mingle with the ABC Scholars themselves, host families, board members, and founders like Suzanne and Jack Reno. Surprise guests often include ABC alumnae who travel great distances to return “home” to Winchester for the event. This year, we delighted in welcoming Allen Malave, ABC Class of 1974, who came up from Virginia, and Bobby Gates, ABC Class of 1973, who came from Maryland.

WHS Sophomore Rayvoughn Millings, who hails from Brooklyn, NY, spoke eloquently what ABC has meant to his life, as did Queens native Senior Greg Thompson, who was fresh off the football field after leading (along with teammate and ABC Scholar Josh Rodriquez) an amazing victory over Melrose. As has become the tradition at the Fall Fundraiser, the youngest Scholar took his turn. Hazees Abdul, a Freshman, spoke about his Nigerian background, and his hopes to one day practice medicine.

(Continued on page 5)
A Word from the President

Howdy! (Just returned from the very successful ABC Hoe Down, our annual Fall Event). What fun! Thanks to all who organized the night, contributed auction items and rode that bull! It’s another action-packed year at ABC – our 39th year in fact!! The house is buzzing with the kind of activity only 8 active teenagers can generate – school, sports, volunteering, studying, going to the Y, and eating are all part of the daily routine.

Jamoul and Alisa Celey have signed on as our new ABC Resident Directors. They bring a wealth of experience working with young men AND one of the cutest toddlers we’ve ever seen, Jaali Celey. If you saw him dressed in his overalls and cowboy hat at the recent ABC Fall Hoe Down, you’ll know what I mean!

Emeka Nwabuzor, a graduate of Tufts in Philosophy, has become our newest Resident Academic Coordinator. He is fully committed to mentoring the scholars and helping them excel academically. Our three graduating seniors, Greg Thompson, Joshua Rodriguez and Brandon Farquharson, are working with our talented College Application Committee, selecting schools, writing essays and taking SAT IIs. The juniors – Tristan Hardy, Ahmad Greene-Hayes and Cameron Horsey – are studying hard because they know this is an important year for them. And not to be lost in a crowd, Rayvoughn Millings (sophomore) and Hazees Abdul (freshman) are exploring the many opportunities at WHS.

We are already planning for next year by announcing that we will need three new host families. As a former host parent, I can state unequivocally that this was one of the best experiences for my family. It’s a four-year commitment that grows into a life-long relationship. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us through our website (www.winchesterabc.org).

The ABC Events Committee is planning an ABC Tennis Tournament to be held in the late spring next year. So stay tuned for updates! And you should be receiving the ABC annual appeal letter soon. I hope you will see the value in contributing to Winchester ABC.

My best,
Jennifer Regentz

Scholars and Resident Director Jamoul Celey (far left) playing a game of croquet at President Jennifer Regentz’s house in September
On September 25 and 26, ABC hosted a family weekend for our ABC students. It began with an open house where board members, host families and scholars families shared conversation and pizza before heading off to the football game to watch our seniors Greg Thompson and Josh Rodriguez play against Reading. On Saturday, our College Applications Committee presented a session on the ins and outs of getting into college, covering topics including entrance exams, applications, essays and financial assistance.

On Saturday evening, ABC hosted a very special dinner for the scholars, their parents and the host families to give them an opportunity to learn more about each other as they support their respective scholars. Brian Ovalles, an ABC alumnus brought in the Khris Miller Band from Cambridge, who created a classy ambience as the scholars’ families mingled with Winchester ABC board members and host families over speeches, food and other activities. The evening closed with complimentary salsa lessons in which many of the families participated! This combination added something special to an already great annual tradition for the ABC program, which is now in its 39th year.
A Word from our Resident Directors

We are so excited to be the newest members of the Winchester ABC Community! Our first few months in the house have truly been a reminder of what it feels like to be teenagers all over again, while being introduced to the task of “parenting” teenagers. Of all the things that our job entails, the Scholars make it the most fulfilling. Getting to learn the myriad of personalities, while trying to guide them to academic success has been a rewarding challenge and always a work in progress. We strive to create a family environment at the ABC house by focusing on establishing traditions, like biting the cake (yes, biting!) on one’s birthday, showing responsibility when it comes to chores and homework assignments and supporting one another by attending games and extra-curricular activities.

We would like to thank Jennifer Regentz for providing us with so much guidance and support, the Scholars and their families, and the entire Winchester community for welcoming us. This year promises to be enlightening, productive, and most of all fun for us and the Scholars!

Warmest Regards,
Jamoul and Alisa Celey

In addition, the following businesses donated generously: An Elegant Affair, Atlas Liquors, Menotomy Beer & Wine, Blue Ribbon Barbeques, BookEnds, D’Agostinos Deli, Giles Liquors, Jerel @ 119, Keane Fitness, Kidstock & The NextdoorTheater, Litho-Craft, LTI Worldwide Limousines, Mahoney’s Garden Center, Pairings Wine & Food, Parson’s Table, Prana Power Yoga, Peterson’s Party Center, Recess Boutique, Tavilla Produce, The Boston Beer Company, Inc., The Sons of Italy Lodge, and Vineyard Vines.

Look out for the ABC Spring Tennis Tournament and a special, to-be-announced founders commemorative event, when we honor ABC’s 40 year anniversary year.

With gratitude,
The ABC Fall Event Committee
A Word from the Resident Academic Coordinator

With the school year well under way, academic initiatives at the Winchester A Better Chance (ABC) House have undergone their fair share of challenges and revolutions. Broadly speaking, the purpose of the academic initiatives in the house are to create a structured and supportive environment in order to instill in the ABC scholars self-discipline, good study habits and academic excellence. In addition to study halls on weekday evenings, study halls have been added to weekday afternoons, and Saturday and Sunday mornings.

In order to support students in academic subjects outside of the classroom and in relation to teachers, in-house tutors provide assistance four nights a week (Monday-Thursday) in a range of subjects covering the Natural and Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences. These tutors serve as an extra resource through which ABC scholars are able to achieve high performance in their studies.

In addition to academic initiatives directly related to excellence in the classroom, I have sought to deepen the intellectual breadth and curiosity of the ABC scholars by engaging with material outside the confines of the educational institution.

During the first RAC Weekend, in October, I screened three films – *In This World* (Winterbottom), *The Battle of Algiers* (Pontecorvo) and *Waiting for Happiness* (Sissako). The films engaged important themes relevant to contemporary international affairs, and probed deeply questions surrounding migration, identity, dislocation, nationalism, and historical memory. During the second RAC Weekend in November, I organized and led a trip to the Institute of Contemporary Art in South Boston, and the Hurst Gallery in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Hurst Gallery featured an exhibition entitled, “‘Gods, Festivals & Kings: Art of the Yoruba Peoples,’” which displayed a small collection of Yoruba artwork dating, primarily, from the 19th and 20th centuries. The Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic groups in Africa located primarily in now-southwestern Nigeria, but also along the West African coast in Benin, Togo and Ghana. Through significant human and cultural shifts that took place during the transatlantic slave trade, Yoruba cultural traditions had a deep impact on religious practice in the Americas (most notably Santeria in Cuba and candomble in Brazil). Hazees, Greg and myself are of direct Yoruba descent; many African-Americans also have Yoruba ancestry.

In addition to admiring the artwork in itself, I stressed the importance of self-directed study, especially (though not exclusively) of topics, histories and discourses that, by and large, do not receive adequate scholarly attention in the American educational system. As the academic year continues to progress, I continue to impart to the ABC scholars the importance of achieving a good balance between academics and extracurricular activities, maintaining open lines of communication with teachers and administrators at the high school, and the very utmost importance of taking charge of one’s own progress.

Emeka Nwabuzor,
Resident Academic Coordinator

**NEED ASSISTANCE on YOUR OUTDOOR/INDOOR HOME PROJECTS?**
The ABC Scholars Can Help Out.

To help fund their academic summer programs, the ABC scholars are available (at a reasonable hourly rate) to help you on small outdoor or indoor projects. Examples include: raking leaves (!), shoveling snow, helping you paint a garage, helping you move (not-very-huge) furniture from one room to the next, organizing your files, and much more.

Please email scholarjobs@winchesterabc.org to describe what assistance you need, approximate time needed (1-3 hours), whether this work will require 1 or 2 scholars, and possible dates you want the work done. **Also provide your telephone number**. We will get back to you within a day or so with an estimated cost and availability.

Thank you for helping the ABC scholars fund their summer programs!
WINCHESTER ABC SCHOLARS 2010-2011

SENIOR
Greg Thompson

SENIOR
Josh Rodriguez

SENIOR
Brandon Farquharson

JUNIOR
Cameron Horsey

JUNIOR
Ahmad Greene-Hayes

JUNIOR
Tristan Hardy

SOPHOMORE
Rayvoughn Millings

FRESHMAN
Hazees Abdul
ATTENTION: ABC HOST FAMILIES WANTED!

Becoming an ABC Host Family is a rewarding experience. Your ABC host son will come to your home every Sunday afternoon and one weekend a month for the four years that he is attending Winchester High School. It is a wonderful opportunity for your family. If you would like more information about the Host Family commitment, please contact Sue Leathers at 781.721.0483 / susanleathers@verizon.net or Meg Morrissey at 781.721.0502 / mmorrissey@verizon.net.

Current Host Families are:

Scholars
Greg Thompson
Joshua Rodriguez
Brandon Farquharson
Cameron Horsey
Tristan Hardy
Ahmad Greene-Hayes
Rayvoughn Millings
Hazees Abdul

Host Families
The Clearys
The Hales
The Simpsons
The McGeown-Conrans
The Hollands
The Sprys
The Davis-Heikkinens
The McIntyres

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.winchesterabc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Upcoming ABC Bottle Drive
Saturday, January 8th, 2011