Charlie Price and Carl Boerner – Named Citizens of the Year

Mike Regentz reporting — At its annual meeting, the Winchester Chamber of Commerce and a standing room only crowd honored Charlie Price and Carl Boerner both as the “Winchester Citizens of the Year.” The guest speaker at the event was Josh Wall, recently named by Governor Patrick as the Commonwealth's Chairman of the Parole Board.

According to WCC, it is unusual to name two people to be Citizen of the Year. The Citizen of the Year is picked by the Chamber based upon letters received throughout the year from Winchester citizens who nominate their choices. The write-ins for both Charlie and Carl were “so numerous” that it just had to be two this year. Of course, both Charlie’s and Carl’s service to Winchester ABC was cited during the WCC presentation.

Charlie currently manages the Facilities Committee for Winchester ABC. For many years, Charlie has kept the infrastructure systems running in the ABC House which is nearing 100 years old – not Charlie, the House. Among many other service areas to ABC, Carl helped manage the very successful ABC Bottle Drives for many years.

As you may recall, our own Dot Butler is also a past recipient of this Winchester Citizen of the Year honor as well. You will note that Dot’s service to this community is untiring.

The accolades for Charlie and Carl were tremendous. Please join with the ABC House and community in congratulating and thanking both Charlie and Carl for their faithful service to our fine community.
A Word from the President

Welcome Spring – time of new growth, hope and ambition! I am writing to you from the perspective of two years as president of Winchester ABC and I can tell you we’ve come a long way! First of all, our new committee structure is in place and working very well. Per the recommendations from the non-profit consultants we asked to help us back in 2008, we now have committees in place to manage Student Life, Personnel, Student Selection, College Admissions, Summer Programs, Finance and Fundraising. This structure allows us to have continuity, structure and assurance that we can meet future challenges.

Our three seniors, Josh Rodriguez, Greg Thompson and Brandon Farquharson are leaving us. All three scholars are moving on to excellent higher education Opportunities, which you will read about further on. Our juniors and our underclassmen, Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Cameron Horsey, Tristan Hardy, Rayvoughn Millings and Hazees Abdul are busily working with our Summer Programs Committee to identify and obtain funding for some exciting academic and sports programs that offer new experiences for each of them. Our Student Selection Committee is working tirelessly, reading résumés, arranging interviews and extending invitations to three freshmen scholars who we hope will be joining us next year.

Resident Directors Jamoul and Alisa Celey are doing a terrific job of running the house, mentoring the scholars and providing a warm and loving family environment. I am very happy to tell you that they will continue with us next year.

Isaac Matthews, an MIT graduate student pursuing a PhD in engineering, is the new Resident Academic Coordinator. He has jumped into the job with “both feet” and has quickly gained the respect and friendship of the scholars, Jamoul, Alisa, and the ABC board. We are very fortunate to have him join the ABC team.

I want to take a moment here to acknowledge all the work that is done “behind the scenes” – those people who donate their time and skills to keep the ABC House in working condition; John Edward Airey, who comes by the house week after week to pick up our trash, Jay Bradley, who comes running when we have any kind of plumbing issues, Charlie Price who won’t give up until the telephone wiring is untangled and working once again, Margo Sprague who lends her decorating and Feng Shui expertise, Ellen LeMay who cooks for a houseful of very hungry and busy people, and Suzanne Morris who works her magic to keep everyone apprised of an ever-changing schedule filled with tutoring, athletics, doctors appointments, enrichment activities and community service projects. You are all indispensible and much appreciated!

All is well at Winchester ABC and we appreciate your continuing support in our effort “to increase substantially the number of well-educated young people of color who are capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society” (www.abetterchance.org).

Sincerely,
Jennifer Regentz
ABC Opportunity to Serve

Robin Ellis reporting -- The ABC Board should really be called the “ABC Board of Workers”! We are always looking for volunteers to help with the many tasks associated with running a house with eight scholars - mentoring them in their academic goals, helping them with the college process, providing social outlets, and dealing with the many administrative duties of ABC.

You ask, “What can I do to serve?” You will find that there is an opening on the board that fits your experience or interests. Or perhaps, you may find a position that would help you “stretch” your experiences.

Imagine how it feels to help a scholar enter a college program that he and his family have always dreamed about. That’s just what the College Admissions Team does. Many of our scholars do so well at Winchester High School that they earn full scholarships to a select college or university. The scholars do not do it alone. It takes an entire village in Winchester to help the scholars achieve their goals. Please consider joining in on the fun and camaraderie of a fine volunteer team that for 39 years has produced some of the finest young scholars in the US.

For your action: Please send your email address to: “Robin Ellis” - ellis420@comcast.net to serve on the fine ABC Board.

ABC National Bi-Annual Meeting – Hosted by Winchester

Jennifer Regentz reporting -- ABC’s Community Schools Program (CSP) National Conference will be held in Boston this year on **June 24-25, 2011**. This once-every-two-year meeting will be held at Tufts University and will include more than 60 attendees from the Community School Programs. The event is separated into two components: a dinner to be hosted by Winchester ABC on Friday, June 24, 2011 at the First Congregational Church in Winchester and a full-day conference at Tufts University on Saturday, June 25, 2011. The full-day conference includes lectures, panel discussions, and networking opportunities.

By asking us to host the evening prior to the conference, National ABC is honoring us as one of the longest-serving CSP programs. This dinner will afford us the opportunity to network with many of our counterparts from around the country and continue our work refining our operations per best practices.
A Word from our Resident Directors

In retrospect, Alisa and I can’t help but relate our recent personal experiences to this synopsis of our first year as Resident Directors of Winchester ABC. With the loss for us of a Great Grandmother and Father respectively, we have been reminded of the finite nature of us as individuals and the infinite possibilities of family. As we ponder the physical absence of our families’ respective patriarch and matriarch and their impact on our lives, we are even more encouraged by our opportunity to be positive influences in the lives of the Scholars. We absolutely know that it is not the person in these positions of influence that are impactful but the principles and the ideals that the person represents and passes on to younger generations.

We have both really enjoyed this year and the development of the in-house dynamics through our two very different approaches. While one approach is of quiet dignity, stealthy intelligence and nurturing logic applied through the simplest efficiency, the other is a bit schizophrenic: barber, coach, sergeant, big brother, little brother, philosopher, militant, mentor, comedian and psychoanalyst. (We will let you all decide who is who!) No two days have ever been the same this year and we have found something to laugh at each and every day.

Past all the fun the real treasure is what we have been taught by our experience this year. The scholars have imparted so much wisdom to us by allowing us to watch them grow as young men while handling the tremendous challenges of achieving excellence as an ABC Scholar. We both feel younger and have been energized as parents through the inspiration that we are receiving from the contributions of each Scholar. They are incredible individuals who are all destined for greatness. For this we are very thankful.

The Winchester Community, Winchester ABC President Jennifer Regentz, the Executive Board, the host families, Ellen (house cook), Isaac and Emeka (Resident Academic Tutors), the different committees, consultants and volunteers: all have been so supportive. Through this support we have felt free to be ourselves while attempting to be good RDs in our first term. We only hope that in turn the Scholars and all the Winchester ABC constituents have also felt a sense of stability and comfort through our contribution.

Thank you all very much,
Jamoul, Alisa and Jaali
College Admissions Update

Doe Coover reporting -- Winchester ABC is proud to announce that we have three seniors who are graduating on June 5, 2011-- Brandon Farquharson, Greg Thompson, and Joshua Rodriguez. The seniors have been accepted to their “top choice” schools.

Greg Thompson was accepted to Deerfield Academy, Phillips Exeter (both with full scholarships), and a number of colleges. After much thought, Greg has decided to attend Phillips Exeter Academy to do a "post graduate year".

Joshua Rodriguez has been accepted to the Torch Program at Northeastern University. Josh was one of hundreds of applicants who were subjected to a strict selection routine. The field of applicants was narrowed to 400, then 40, and ten were accepted. The 40 finalists were required to write essays, participate in interviews, and submit background checks. Here is an excerpt from NU’s website:

“The Torch Scholars Program is a testament to the perseverance of young people who want to improve their lives through education, tenacity and hard work. Each scholar reinforce Northeastern's longstanding tradition of opening the doors of opportunity to students with determination and potential.” — President Joseph Aoun

Brandon Farquharson was accepted to Fairfield University and Seton Hall. He has also applied to Deerfield Academy and is awaiting an acceptance. As of now, Brandon is yet undecided as to what his next academic step will be.

Job Well Done, Seniors!
A Word from the Resident Academic Coordinator

Isaac Matthews is the newest member of the Winchester ABC family as the Resident Academic Coordinator. Prior to his appointment, Isaac completed a dual Masters Degree program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Nuclear Science and Engineering and Technology and Policy as an MIT Presidential Fellow. His research focused on global terrestrial Uranium resources. Before attending MIT, Isaac received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2007, graduating magna cum laude as a Meyerhoff Scholar. He is currently working as a Teaching Assistant in MIT’s Mechanical Engineering Department, assisting with the instruction of a graduate course in Controls of Manufacturing Processes, as well as an undergraduate course in D-Lab Design. Isaac looks to continue his academic work in pursuit of a PhD, focusing on controls, robotics and human factors engineering.

An enthusiastic mentor, tutor, and instructor, Isaac firmly believes that “of those to whom much is given, much is required,” as he places great emphasis on giving back to the community. Isaac has been involved with many mentoring and tutoring programs in the DC and Baltimore areas, where he was raised. Currently, he mentors in a program called Real Men Read, which focuses on literacy of young scholars at Roxbury Prep Charter School in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Additionally, Isaac has served as a Program Assistant to MIT’s Summer Research Program (MSRP), facilitating positive STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) research experiences of underrepresented groups at MIT.

Welcome to the Winchester ABC Community, Isaac!

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 [fall/spring], shoveling snow [winter], 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.
Bamboozled! – a conversation about the U.S. role in the Libyan rebellion against Muammar Qaddafi, about information, and about how we form opinions.
April 6, 2011. ABC House dinner table. Cast: Jamoul (resident director), Hazees, Rayvoughn, Greg, Brandon, Tristan, Ahmad, Cameron, latecomers Isaac (RAC) and Gerard (tutor).

By Beth LaDow
Beth is a historian and writer with a Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brandeis University. She has taught American History at Brandeis and Writing at Harvard University, served on the Winchester School Committee, is a speechwriter, and author of The Medicine Line: Life and Death on a North American Borderland, a book about cultures and environment on the U.S.-Canadian frontier. More importantly to us, she has served as the Humanities Tutor for the ABC House for many years, and has worked tirelessly on many occasions to ensure that English papers are well thought out and well written.

Beth: Will our involvement in Libya help or hurt Obama’s chances for reelection?
Hazees: Some people might see Obama’s caring for the Libyan people as a good thing.
Cameron: Some might view our involvement in these foreign affairs as a bad thing when we have important issues here at home like health care.
Ahmad: As a leader Obama has to honor the human rights of Libyans; domestically it teaches us to respect the rights of others.
Rayvoughn: Obama said he won’t stand by and watch innocent people get murdered, and instead of putting in ground troops and endangering American lives we sent in Tomahawk missiles with the help of Britain and France. Our role in Libya is to provide jammers, airplanes, a no fly zone -- what we’re doing is leveling the playing field for the rebels against Qaddafi, not going in like we did in Iraq slaughtering people.
Cameron: But saying we’ve given the power to NATO when we’re the largest NATO contributor is a rhetorical device to make it sound like we’re sitting on the sidelines when we’re not. We fired 132 tomahawks, the British fired 2.

Jamoul: Why are Libyans rebelling against their government? Do we know Qaddafi’s side of the story? Should the U.S. be there?
Tristan: People aren’t happy with Qaddafi’s leadership, with unemployment, bad living conditions.
Ahmad: On one side, it looks like we’re genuinely trying to help the Libyan people, but on the other, what is America gaining?
The Groups Generally: Oil! Like in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan. There is a stake in oil.
Jamoul: We asked Mubarak to step down in Egypt. Do we see a pattern here?
Cameron: It’s neo-imperialist movement -- basically the same thing as when we wanted to build the Panama Canal and ‘liberate’ Panama from the Columbians. We wanted access to the Philippines, to sugar and resources, to support imperialist ideals.
Ahmad: It’s a recurring pattern in U.S. history
Brandon: To maintain control, like Cointelpro in the ‘70s – when the FBI infiltrated and sabotaged the school system in minority areas.

Jamoul: There are a million humanitarian causes around the world that the U.S. could serve. If you were president, which would you choose to help, Libya’s rebellion or Japan after the earthquake? 
All except Rayvoughn choose Libya, for U.S. economic interests.
Rayvoughn: I would focus on Japan. Radiation leaking directly into the Pacific Ocean will affect everybody. Water is our source of life, not oil.
Tristan: The radioactivity is not that extreme yet. But our economy needs to improve. Obama came to office with the U.S. in a deep hole and was supposed to be our savior. But it’s not realistic to expect change overnight.

Rayvoughn: FDR took three terms to get us out of the Depression. Obama is in FDR’s position. You can’t do it in 4 yrs., even in 8. He needs three terms like Mayor Bloomberg.

Cameron: World War II got us out of the Depression.

Isaac: If the U.S. is so interested in resolving civil conflicts in different countries, why did our military take no action in Egypt?

Cameron: We shouldn’t be over there.

Isaac: Are there any flaws with our current system? If you could subscribe to any combination of governments, what would you choose? What comes out of combining capitalism and democracy?

Jamoul: Think about it from the perspective of young men who have been in the ‘hood…what would you prescribe to any government?

Ahmad: For us to call ourselves a democracy is almost a stretch. The voices of lower class citizens are not being heard. We see that in our communities back home. Opportunities are not equal. Our combination of capitalism and democracy put the people who formed it in a good position, but those who didn’t have any part in creating it, they’re left out – monetarily, educationally, in all facets of humanity and life.

Greg: The poor are always in debt, always trying to find work. Their money goes into the system.

Ahmad: Outwardly things have gotten better. The struggle definitely improved things, but the black man has not progressed enough.

Greg: Before the Civil Rights movement, we were forced to bond together.

Isaac: To be self-sufficient, have our own shops, have our own newspapers…

Jamoul: To have our own voice. If you put one drop of coffee into a jug of milk, what do you get?

Hazes: Through assimilation you can lose your identity.

Greg: You might not actually get the equality you expected.

Isaac: You can miss out on what diversity brings to culture, on strength through diversity.

Greg: Once you assimilate, it’s hard to bring up a new idea. You get sucked in. You have to try to remember the reason you assimilated.

Cameron: You can assert who you are in a lot of different forms.

Brandon: The parts of your personality that are unique – you have to make them known.

Ahmad: Cultivate your mind with historical references from your culture. Not necessarily from history books that people who are not like you have written, but your own stories, the traditions that you keep alive.

Jamoul: How do we relate events in the Middle East to possibilities here at home? It takes only 30% dissatisfaction to bring about 100% change.

Isaac: Only 5% according to Margaret Meade. “A small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.”

Cameron: During the American Revolution, they tried to keep talk of rebellion down, to keep word from spreading.

Rayvoughn: Then the French Revolution was sparked by our revolution. “If they can do it, so can we.” Then the Haitians were inspired by the French to fight the French who enslaved them.

Gerard: And then the U.S. stopped Caribbeans of African descent from coming to America, afraid they would spread rebellion among slaves here.

Jamoul: So how do you feel about what you know or don’t know about what’s going on in Libya?

Tristan: Bamboozled!

[laughter]

Rayvoughn: Beth, put that in!

Jamoul: The moral is: Be careful how you form your opinions.
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-Conrons
- The Hollands
- The Sprys
- The Davis-Heikkinens
- The McIntyres

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Poem By Cameron Horsey, *ABC Scholar*

Oh Moses, Mr. Horsey*
You walked the ground that I do
Except your memory is of a barren land
Not crowded by automobiles
or darkened in the umbrage of tall buildings
you walked, unshackled by your time’s binds

so that I could walk unshackled by mine
you offered your life, for men you didn’t know
and gave it proudly in your dusty navy coat
you rode, you fought, you died
a volunteer.

* Cameron’s Great-Uncle many times over, a freedman who fought for the Union in the Civil War

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.winchesterabc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Upcoming ABC Bottle Drive
Saturday, May 7th, 2011