

ENTHUSIASM powers ABC's board

A Better Chance of Westport exists because dozens of volunteers provide overall program direction and the day-to-day legwork needed to educate our scholars at Staples and link them to the wider community. Our board of directors is uniquely hands-on...each of its members has a specific role: recruiting the scholars, managing the facilities at Glendarcy House, coordinating host families, fundraising, to name just a few.

Board members are working professionals, retirees, parents, even the occasional Staples student, and each brings a particular enthusiasm and expertise to the organization.



Alumni Liaison Steve Daniels, Facilities Chair Cheryl Scott-Daniels, and Co-President Lee Bollert at a Dream Event.

Want to share your enthusiasm for A Better Chance by joining our board?

Contact us at
info@abetterchanceofwestport.org

SUSIE MILLER - Health Service Liaison

I am a new board member this year and love it! I feel fortunate to see many of the scholars on a regular basis, as I am also a nurse at Staples. It makes my day when one of the boys drops by to grab a cough drop and simply say "Hello!" I've enjoyed getting to know these talented young men and working with such a great team of volunteers. It has been impressive to see just how much they truly care about the complete well being of each scholar.

LILLIAN DAVIS - Recording Secretary

I joined ABC's board two years ago—it's a commitment which I absolutely love and find so rewarding. These young men have not only impacted my life and my spouse's in such a positive way, but also the lives of my three children who are part of the Westport school system. I know the scholars consider themselves fortunate to be a part of this great program, and I consider myself fortunate to be a part of their lives.

EILEEN OGINTZ - Co-VP Scholar Services/Special Events

My role is to help introduce the boys to new experiences and it is a lot of fun to see their reactions—snowboarding has been a big success. We've also arranged a Broadway trip to see *In the Heights* with another ABC house and a "talk back" afterward with cast members. It is really cool to see their genuine enthusiasm for new things.

JONATHAN ZINS - Co-chair Scholar Selection Committee

The board welcomes a new member as a source of new ideas, not just as a body to do the work. What we all have in common is a vision of the value of ABC not only for the scholars but also for the community. This has been a lot of fun for me so far, a way of reconnecting with the school now that my own kids have graduated from Staples.



Fundraising Chair Nadene Beck and Personnel Chair Laurie Gendell staff the holiday gift wrap table at Barnes & Noble.



Chukwuma, Emerson, and Staples junior Jason Davis were on hand for the gift wrap fundraising event.

Dream Event 2010

A BETTER CHANCE:

Where Dreams Become Reality

Saturday, March 27

6:30 – 10:30 PM

Unitarian Church in Westport

Please join us as we celebrate with our scholars their year at A Better Chance of Westport. Guests will have the chance to bid on live and silent auction items. These donated opportunities run the gamut from fashion, sports and business to entertainment, travel and lifestyle.



Again This Year! Bid online beginning Thursday, March 11th.

Go to www.abetterchanceofwestport.org/auction and then click the online bidding link. (Online bidding closes at 11:59 pm on Friday, March 26th.) For more information contact Lori Sochol (203-256-5707) at lori.sochol@gmail.com or Amy Mandelbaum (203-246-8431) at amymandelbaum@hotmail.com.

SOME DREAM EVENT OPPORTUNITIES...

Rocky Mountain High Spend a week in a spectacular home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado! What an amazing vacation for family or friends! Located 1 1/2 miles from the base of Steamboat Springs Ski Area—groomed cross-country ski trails in the winter, mountain biking/hiking in the summer, right out the back door.

NBC Entertainment Package

- 2 VIP tickets for a tour of 30 Rockefeller Studio
- 2 VIP tickets to *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* (show tapes at 30 Rock)
- *Jimmy Fallon* t-shirt
- *Today Show* tote bag
- *30 Rock* seasons 2 and 3 on DVD
- *Milk* and *Frost/Nixon* DVDs

Experience the Thrill of the Hunt as Guests of Pietro Scotti, Owner and Chef of DaPietro's.

Share the excitement of pheasant hunting in the Connecticut countryside when you and your guest join Pietro and his Italian-bred English Pointer hunting dogs at a private farm in Oxford. After a morning of hunting, Pietro will then prepare a private gourmet lunch for you at the farm.

Breaking Away

A high performance bike from TARGETRAINING can be yours for the right bid. TARGETRAINING is also including a month of classes with this opportunity.

Secret Harbour

A one-week stay in a luxury three-bedroom condominium located in the small and intimate Secret Harbour Resort on the Caribbean Sea in St. Thomas.

The condo is steps away from the beach, swimming pool and tennis courts.





KERRY LONG

Jahari spun and soared in Staples Players' production of *Guys and Dolls*, especially as featured dancer in the climactic "Luck Be a Lady" Crapshooters' Ballet.

Distinguished Performers on Stage and in the Community



Marquell and fellow cast member Sofia Ribolla portrayed a young man unjustly imprisoned and the woman who tries to help him in William Saroyan's *Hello Out There* during Staples' 10th Annual One-Act Play Festival.

Together the talented team of Jahari and Marquell crafted and performed an interactive reading of Maya Angelou's poem "Million Man March" for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration presented by the Interfaith Council of Westport and Weston at the United Methodist Church.

Thanks, John Danner!



One of ABC's earliest friends, Rev. John H. Danner of Saugatuck Congregational Church, is relocating to Florida. Advisory board member Dave Driscoll recalls "John was enthusiastic as soon as he arrived in Westport and we were in the process of getting organized. He was always a wise counselor who added perspective to our decisions." Board member Barbara Butler agrees, "John has continued to be a loyal supporter of ABC, both on our advisory board and as the senior minister at one of Westport's vibrant faith communities. We will miss him in all his many roles."

Driven to Distraction? No More!

With scholars' families far away, ABC volunteers provide the transportation traditionally supplied by parents and neighbors. Taking our scholars to after-school jobs, lessons and community commitments requires a LOT of coordination.

ABC now uses an online scheduling system at VolunteerSpot.com. The ABC coordinator creates a calendar of needs online and then invites volunteers to sign up—just click a link and choose the shifts that fit your schedule! VolunteerSpot sends automated confirmation and reminders. Couldn't be easier!

Contact Joyce Orkand, 203-246-8414, jorkand@tiwestport.org to join ABC's VolunteerSpot invitation list.



Beth Bass loads up the car for a trip to the Westport Y with Chukwuma, Emerson and Rhyse. Thanks to Beth and our other recent drivers: Cathy Badeski, Karol Brumit, Paul D'Andrea, Meg Freeman, Peggy Kamins, Eric Seidman, Leslie Singer, and Dina Upton.

RESIDENT DIRECTORS SOUGHT

ABC of Westport is searching for Resident Directors to start the next school year. The job description is posted on our website: www.abetterchanceofwestport.org.

Please contact Laurie Gendell if you are interested in learning more: info@abetterchanceofwestport.org.

A Better Chance of Westport is deeply grateful to our supporters:

- **Kerry Long Photography** for providing Staples Players production photos
- **Scott Rochlin General Contractors** for snowplowing service at Glendarcy House
- **Sterling Information Systems** for background checking
- **Westport Garden Club** for creating and donating a holiday door wreath to Glendarcy House
- **The Chill Foundation** and **Bolton Valley** ski area for providing a snowboarding weekend to ABC's scholars



To send an email to ABC, please use this address: info@abetterchanceofwestport.org
DONATIONS to ABC of Westport may be sent to: P.O. Box 2153, Westport, CT 06880

NEWSLETTER Editor Pat Ewing • Designer Ann Pawlick

RUN for A Better Chance of Westport Running in the Westport Young Woman's League Minute Man 5K/10K Race this year?

Invite your friends and family to sponsor you—all funds you raise will go directly to ABC. Kids can raise money too by participating in the Kids' Fun Run or running/walking in the 5K Race. When you register online, choose to "Become a Fundraiser" and designate ABC of Westport as your charity.



ABC scholars took to the slopes at Bolton Valley in sub-zero weather for a snowboarding weekend sponsored by the **Chill Foundation**. Chill provides positive experiences to under-served youth through snowboarding.

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