



New Beginnings

FROM CO-PRESIDENT JUDY WRIGHT

The transition from summer to school mode couldn't have gone better this year. Our six GABC students moved into the house on Labor Day and began school the next day. We welcomed our newest scholars, Kyra and Tamojah, both 9th graders. Returning for their senior year are Janelle and Kilee and rounding out the six are Andrea and Jasmine in 11th grade. The older girls are so helpful with the new students that it's as if they have four older sisters!

The summer was filled with some exciting programs for our girls. Janelle traveled to London and Kilee to Ghana. Jasmine attended an AI and Machine Learning program at Wellesley College and Andrea participated in an online medical program at Georgetown University.

Janelle and Kilee are busy working on their college applications and living the life of a high school senior – very busy and somewhat stressful. But they still find the time to participate in all the household activities with smiles on their faces. Andrea and Jasmine attended a college fair a few weeks ago and take the PSATs this month. They are fully immersed in their challenging junior year classes as well as many extracurricular activities. Our 9th graders, Kyra and Tamojah, have adjusted quickly and fit in with the group as if they've been here for longer than a month.

In August, we were fortunate to find our new cook, Tracey Asti. She brings so much positive energy to her position and is willing to try out new recipes that the girls will like. And the girls love her food! Tracy is a former employee of Hole in the Wall, so she was already familiar with our program.

On the afternoon of October 2, a cold and windy day, we gathered at Jacobs Beach for our annual welcome picnic. But it was so cold — as you can see from the photos — we moved it to the ABC house. It was a wonderful afternoon with families, volunteers, and the students. Thanks to Lynn for making the house available for everyone to use.

This academic year, the Guilford ABC Education Fund is helping five alumnae attend school: Sumaiyah Lee at Loyola

Marymount University; T-Jauni Barham at Trinity College; Julia Antwi-Boasiaku at New York University; Lauren Cyrus at Hampton University; Arianna Alvarez Pena at Tufts University. We are so proud of these students and what they are accomplishing in their lives.

We are very appreciative of our many GABC and Hole in the Wall volunteers and staff, our donors and sponsors and all community members and Guilford High School personnel that support our mission. It takes a village, and we are stronger for it. ▼



ABC Scholars Andrea Kaluma, Jasmine Laryea, Kyra Amani, Kilee Simon, Tamojah Tomlinson & Janelle Wilkinson. Photos by Kerry Schutz Photography.

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Welcome Scholars!



Kyra

Hi! I'm Kyra Amani and I am a freshman with Guilford ABC. I am from Andover, Massachusetts, though I was born in Kenya and moved to the U.S when I was 3 years old. Andover is a pretty average-sized tight-knit town and a lot like Guilford. It's a great place to live, with most food and attractions being a short drive away, nicely rated schools, an active community and town spirit, and thankfully it's near a lot of my family. I live with my mom Leah, my little sister Nala (who turns 1 on October 14th!), and my stepdad Michael. I'm interested in many random topics, but my top three are music, forensics, and psychology. I really hope in the future to pursue a career that surrounds at least one of those areas.

I chose Guilford because I wanted to experience life as a teenager almost completely independently. I felt it would be able to set me up for college so that I don't have to struggle as much. I also found a big

appeal in living with other black female teens because I thought it would be a fun experience as well as a way to figure out who I am as a black woman in America.



Tamojah

I'm Tamojah Tomlinson, a freshman at Guilford ABC from Bridgeport, CT. I chose Guilford because of the support they give to their scholars. While being here I've done things I would never have thought about doing before I arrived. School is going well, and I've already made many supportive connections with program staff and advisors that have helped with the transition. I've also found that living at the ABC house is a lot easier than I thought it would be! Everyone got close to each other faster than I expected.





Andrea

Hi! I'm Andrea Kaluma, a junior at GHS. This summer, I did an online medical internship at Georgetown dedicated to high school students who are interested in going down the pre-med path. Initially, I was more inclined towards law and politics but after chatting with a couple of medical professionals and the exposure ABC gave me last year, I decided to give this course a try. I loved it! The program was run by a professor named Dr. Malika Danner. We each had a mentor who guided us throughout the duration of the program. These mentors were med students who took the time to help us and give us insight on what we had difficulty with. I still keep in contact with mine from time to time!

We learned about Evidence-based Medicine and how it is utilized to help medical professionals assess the best treatments for their patients. Through this, we delved into clinical research and trials, discussing the ethics and integrity of evidence-based medicine. After learning more, we got to do a mini capstone project on a type of carcinoma/cancer. I chose Breast Cancer and researched how

a certain chemo drug affects middle aged women with breast cancer. This one hit especially close to home because people in my own family have suffered from the disease. It taught me the importance of how putting people on the right medication/therapy by doing the proper research can make a difference in the patients' lives.



Jasmine

Hello, I'm Jasmine Laryea and I'm currently a junior at GHS. This summer I attended a two-week program at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. There I was able to study and learn more about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Technology. It was so interesting to explore the ethics and advancements in AI. I learned many new things and was able to show my understanding through presentations and debates. I also went on many fun and educational trips to Harvard, MIT, Six Flags, and White-Water Rafting.

This year my extracurriculars include Dance Club, Pep Rally Committee, Anime Club, Theater, and Interact. These clubs paired with my rigorous International Baccalaureate and honors courses will make for an exciting school year!



Kilee

This summer I was given the humbling opportunity to take part in an intensive summer program across the world in Accra, Ghana. From drinking out of glass Coca-Cola bottles at the Erata Hotel to recess with the six-, seven-, and eight-year-olds, my experience was incomparable. I, as a high school senior confronting college applications and SATs, was given the chance to feel like a kid again when being introduced to their games such as Lion, Colors, Cinderella, Cinderella, and so much more.

My second week there, after meeting the kids, walking the grounds of Young Leaders school, and catching sight of an area I could lend a helping hand, I emailed my principal, Ms. Julia Chaffe, and asked if she knew of any grant opportunities that would allow the class of 2023 and I to purchase school supplies for the students at Young Leaders. She enthusiastically replied, and a plan has already been set for us to begin the works on bringing this to fruition. By the end of the

trip, the idea of meaningful service truly affixed itself within, and I aspire to encourage those around me to always be willing to do charitable work.



Janelle

Hi, my name is Janelle Wilkinson and I am a senior. Over the summer I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad for two weeks in London for theater and behind the scenes. We saw many plays such as *Julius Caesar at the Globe*, *Who Killed my Father?*, *Favour*, and *The White Card*. We also took improv classes and got to perform our own short play at the end of the program.

I plan to spend this year being a lab assistant during my study halls and putting in more time outside of school studying. In addition, I will be doing props in theater and will be a frequent member of Interact and Anime Club. ▼





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GABC will mark its 50th anniversary in 2024. To honor this milestone, please consider providing for the next 50 years by adding a legacy gift to GABC to your estate plans. If you have questions about this please contact Georgia Cosgrove at gabcmain@gmail.com.

HOLY SMOKES! Hole in the Wall is on Fire!

Let's face it, there aren't many businesses in Guilford today that were around when the Hole in the Wall (HITW) was founded in 1974 to Support Guilford ABC. Think Bishop's, Page Hardware, Frank's Package Store, Guilford Savings Bank, the Coin Exchange, and J.J. Sullivan. There aren't many more survivors of the fickle whims of local commerce in the downtown area.

And not only has HITW survived, but it has also expanded and thrived, first moving to the current Boston Street location from the Water Street shops, and then expanding into additional space that became available in 2018. Despite fears that the four-month shutdown during COVID would curtail the momentum, business has been better than ever, and the revenue has continued as a vital component of the Guilford ABC operating budget. All those months we spent at home yielded a bonanza of donations and consignments that translated into strong sales, and word spread through Best of the Shoreline accolades, word of mouth, and social media that in this new era in which "thrifting" has lost its stigma, HITW is one of the best destinations around for selection and value. We not only provide quality merchandise at affordable prices in a time of many economic challenges, but we are loved by our loyal customers—and we are cool!

But there is a caveat. This level of success is labor intensive. Since the beginning, the HITW business plan has relied heavily on volunteers. Patty Sullivan and her team of managers are amazing, but they can't do it all. Sadly, but not surprisingly, we lost a number of volunteers during the pandemic. So, as all survivors do, we pivot. We were fortunate to hire Tarren Bailey as our newest manager.



Tarren comes to the job with a multifaceted skill set that includes professional photography, marketing, and work with volunteers. She will be assuming the role of Volunteer Coordinator to help rebuild and nurture our pool of volunteers to support our paid staff. She will also be in charge of our social media presence. You can contact her at hiwabc@gmail.com if you want to sign up for a volunteer shift or have a contact with a civic or church group that you would like to share.

Welcome Tarren and kudos to Patty, Christina, Joanie, Bette, Katie, Amy, and Ella for jobs well done! ▼