



ABC Feels Hope as We Look Forward to Summer

FROM PRESIDENT MARIE BERRY



As the 2020-21 academic year came to an end, we felt *HOPE* again as the pandemic reached the one-year mark; scholars and staff were vaccinated, patio dining returned, and the anticipation of summer activities brought excitement to everyone.

Guilford ABC scholars enjoyed dinners with host families, a multicultural pool party, high school concerts, junior and senior proms, Guilford High School graduation, and were busy planning their ABC scholar summer programs. We also participated in a wonderful Diversity Workshop led by Dr. Eden-Renee Hayes from Williams College and an ABC alum.

There is no doubt that the 2020 Pandemic made us stronger but not without its challenges. A sense of humor and careful diligence to COVID rules became the norm, along with the ability to “pivot” with the ever-changing rules. I am so proud of our ABC scholars, our Staff tutors, and our Resident Director. They all stayed flexible throughout remote learning, changing schedules, quarantines, cooking meals, playing games, watching movies, and mask-wearing.

Thank you to our ABC volunteers and staff, the Hole in the Wall, and the Guilford community who supported us throughout this year. Congratulations to our ABC Senior, Lauren Cyrus! It was an amazing year to be part of ABC! ▼



MJ Petretto Golf Event Supports GABC

Once again, MJ Petretto Annual golf event was held this June at The Farms Country Club in Wallingford. We had a great showing of Guilford ABC volunteers along with several others who enjoyed a day of golf, food and raffles. This golf event supports ABC and other local non-profits. ABC foursomes were represented by ABC board members, Jeff Zeitlen, Kristen Eveland, Connie Dickinson, and our HIW manager, Patty Sullivan. Special thanks to MJ Petretto and staff for organizing such a wonderful event! ▼



A BETTER CHANCE GUILFORD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie Berry
PRESIDENT

Nancy Abramson
SECRETARY

Judy Wright
VICE-PRESIDENT

Sue Renner
TREASURER

Laura Berkowitz Gilbert
Charlene Blake
Julia Chaffe
Georgia Cosgrove
Melissa Dayton
Regina Demitrack
Connie Dickinson
Christine Dokko
Larry Dowler
Kristen Eveland
Kyma Ganzer
Mary Lane
Kathleen MacElhiney

Tobie Meisel
Elisa Milano
Cathy O'Keefe
Nancy Patton
Lori Pleasure
Lisa Rogers
Linda Sanacora
Winnie Seibert
Ann Street
Melonie Swan
Susan Welsh
Corinne Wilson
Jeff Zeitlin

ADVISORY BOARD

Cindy Banks
Cheryl Barbour
Claudia Buzzi
Helen Carlson
Peter Dickinson
Lou Federici
Gwen Gunn
Kaaren Janssen

Marie Landry
Mark Mackowiak
Renee McIntyre
Marcia Myhre
Pamela Petersen-Crair
Jennifer Wilcox
Carol Wright

ABC SCHOLARS

Lauren Cyrus
Jasmine Laryea
Arianna Alvarez Pena

Kilee Simon
Taylor Wiles
Janelle Wilkinson

ABC STAFF

Lynn Prendergast
RESIDENT DIRECTOR

Sharon Risse
TUTOR/ASSISTANT

Cori Ouellette
TUTOR/ASSISTANT

Amanda Sweeney
MATH TUTOR

Sherri Pranzo
TUTOR

Patty Sullivan
HOLE IN THE WALL MANAGER

HOST FAMILIES

Doug & Brenda Fannon
Andrea Perez & Dennis Garcia
Dani & Rob Howard
Nicole & Phil Kikosicki
Corinne & Matt Wilson
Susan & Damian Doria

P.O. Box 140 • Guilford, CT 06437
www.guilfordabc.org



Bittersweet Year End

FROM RESIDENT DIRECTOR LYNN PRENDERGAST

The year ended with a wonderful graduation celebration with Lauren's family, teachers, and friends. Graduations are always bitter-sweet. Witnessing the transformation of our scholars into mature young women ready to make their mark in the world is immensely rewarding. As the resident director, I am very lucky to have the unique perspective of seeing their struggles, triumphs, accomplishments, and journey to success.

This summer the house has been very quiet. The House and Grounds committee will be sprucing up and cleaning the house to get it ready for our returning scholars. The girls are busy with their summer programs and enjoying time with their families. I am looking forward to another successful school year and the return of the girls. ▼



Our senior, Lauren Cyrus, completed her four years at Guilford High School with International Baccalaureate certificates in History and English. She was the recipient of the Superintendent's, Rotary, and Guilford 350th Scholarships, as well as the Principal's Award, and a four-year, \$2,500/year Guilford ABC college scholarship. She was recognized for being a positive change leader, helping to establish the Cultural Competency Committee. She is the first Guilford ABC graduate to matriculate to an HBCU (Historical Black Colleges and Universities), attending Hampton University this fall!

Guilford A Better Chance Annual Celebration

In May, we hosted our Annual A Better Chance Celebration, hosted at the home of one of our board members, Elisa Milano. The evening recognizes and celebrates our GABC graduating seniors and our alumnae as they share their experiences and uplifting stories! This year our guest speakers included Naralys Sinanis, ABC Alum & GHS class of 2002 and our GHS Principal, Julia Chaffe. It's an opportunity for our board members, host families, donors and community supporters to join us in celebrating the many accomplishments of our program. It was our first in-person gathering for both our board and scholars in over a year. A reason alone to celebrate, post-pandemic. ▼



CLOCKWISE:

Senior Lauren Cyrus speaks at the celebration.

Lisa Rogers, Naralys Sinanis (ABC Alum), Lauren Cyrus, Sherri Pranzo, Marie Berry, Cori Quolette

Elisa Milano, Lauren, and Kristen Eveland

ABC guests enjoyed the early summer evening.

Lauren and GHS Principal Julia Chaffe

GABC Hosts an End of Year Beach Picnic

In June, the Guilford ABC scholars hosted a beach picnic with other CT ABC Houses from Darien, Westport, Madison and Simsbury. They planned a food truck offering various tacos, quesadillas and churros. Over 40 scholars and house resident staff attended and each house contributed beverages and desserts. They enjoyed a day at Chittendon Park where they had a fun afternoon of food, games, swimming and music! ▼

ABC scholars from Guilford, Madison, Darien, Westport and Simsbury enjoying time together at Chittendon Park.



Summer Plans for Our Scholars

Rising senior **Arianna Alvarez** is traveling to Barcelona, Spain through CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) for four weeks of language and cultural immersion, living with a local host family.

Rising junior **Janelle Wilkinson** will spend two weeks at Colby College in Maine with EXPLO, accompanying doctors and nurses on their rounds, exploring a variety of medical specialties.

Rising junior **Kilee Simon** will attend At the Well Conference, focusing on leadership and college preparation. She will also attend the Writopia Lab essay writing program in New York City.

Rising sophomore **Jasmine Laryea** is attending an online program at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, Pre-Medical Professions and the Health Sciences. She also plans to work at her mother's restaurant and volunteer at a local food bank. ▼

GABC College Scholarship Fund

FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GROWING!

At our annual year-end celebration in May, GABC awarded four \$2500 college tuition scholarships to three of our alums currently in college, and to our graduating senior, Lauren Cyrus. Scholarships went to Sumi-ah Lee, who will be a junior at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles; T-Jauni Barnam, an incoming sophomore at Trinity College in Hartford; Julia Anti-Boasiako, an incoming sophomore at New York University; and Lauren Cyrus, an incoming freshman at Hampton University in Virginia.

These scholarships, which are granted yearly to each ABC graduate to help defray tuition expenses, are managed by the Guilford Foundation. Donations to this fund should be sent to the Foundation, with a note designating the gift to the GABC Scholarship Fund. ▼

Hole in the Wall Back in Full Swing

After the challenging months during COVID that forced prolonged closure of the Hole in the Wall and many protocol changes after the re-opening, things have finally gotten back into full swing. Recent sales proceeds have exceeded pre-pandemic levels and the volume of consignments and donations has kept managers and volunteers very busy. We are extremely grateful for Manager Patty Sullivan and her crackerjack team of volunteers and assistant managers — Christina Babecki, Katie Cooney, Amy Mickelson, and Joan Simonetti. Revenue from the store is GABC's primary funding source and is critical to the fiscal health of the program. Thank you to the staff, volunteers, donors, consigners and customers who help keep the business thriving!

How can you help? Donate or consign clothing, toys and household goods; come in and shop; spread the word to your friends and family; VOLUNTEER! There are many shifts available, but there is currently critical need for whatever hours you can spare weekly between 10-5 on Tuesdays, 10-4 on Saturdays, or 12-4 on Sundays. Minimal training required for most jobs and plenty of smiles and laughs to go around. You never know what treasures will come through the door — and go back out again with delighted shoppers!

Please call (203) 453-2088 for more information or to make a consignment appointment. Donations can be dropped off or volunteer applications picked up whenever the store is open. ▼



SAVE THE DATE!
45th Anniversary Gala • May 5, 2022
Woodwinds, Branford

INFORMATION, TICKETS, SPONSORSHIPS
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4408582

We are still in need of silent and live auction items, particularly experience items such as theater and concert tickets, vacation rentals, or tasting events. Contact Patty Sullivan: hiwabc@gmail.com, (203) 453-2088.



A BETTER CHANCE GUILFORD

**P.O. Box 140
Guilford, CT 06437**

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #96
Guilford, CT

Guilford ABC is enormously grateful for its Community Sponsors, many of whom provide pro-bono or reduced rate services to help us with our mission as well as our house, grounds, and Hole in the Wall.

CORPORATE SPONSOR

The Guilford Savings Bank

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Guilford Civic Women's Club
Guilford Community Fund
Guilford Newcomers' Club
Lenny and Joe's Fish Tales
Estate of Milton S. Marcus
Charitable Gift Fund
MJ Petretto's Foundation
The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven
The Guilford Foundation

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS/ IN-KIND DONATIONS

American Carting Company,
Richard Morrow
Bishop's Market
College Matters, Madison
Baldwin & Baldwin
Contractors
Kerry Schutz Photography
Milano Secure Storage
Carl Johnson, The Wood
Rack, Branford



Leave a Gift to Guilford ABC

Leaving a gift to Guilford A Better Chance in your will or trust is a worry-free way to help sustain this program and memorialize the values that are important to you.

A bequest can have a profound impact on a small nonprofit like ours. Last year, thanks to one bequest, we were able to undertake a much-needed major kitchen renovation at the ABC house. This gift created a welcoming place for the scholars to gather and made meal preparation considerably easier and more efficient.

Please consider a gift to GABC when it is time to update your will or trust. Your legacy gift can make a lifetime of difference to our scholars. For more information, please contact Christine Dokko (cdokko@gmail.com) or Connie Dickinson (cdickinson240@gmail.com). ▼

*Congratulations Lauren
and all of our 2020-2021
ABC Scholars!*