



Our Leaders of Tomorrow

FROM PRESIDENT MARIE BERRY

The ABC national website opens with “A Better Chance stands for education, access, and opportunity. For 57 years, A Better Chance has been creating the leaders of color our world requires.” Today, in a time with so much change happening around us, ABC continues to work to make a difference in a society where the lives of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color are still negatively impacted by structural racism.

We are proud that Guilford ABC, our scholars, their families, and the Guilford community have united in support of *Black Lives Matter*. I feel confident that our scholars, as our future leaders, will continue to successfully navigate challenges, prove their resilience, and help lead the way to end racism, discrimination and social injustice. They give us hope that our future will be better *TOMORROW* because of what they have experienced *TODAY*.



Despite the many challenges of 2020, Guilford ABC has also had much success. We celebrated our 45th anniversary with a sold-out ABC-Mo Pleasure Benefit Concert, recruited three new scholars for the upcoming school year, began a major kitchen renovation for the ABC House, and celebrated the class of 2020 and the graduation of our two ABC seniors, Julia and T-Jauni. Congratulations to the entire Class of 2020! ▼

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES!

After spending some of her early years with family in Ghana, **Julia Antwi-Boasiako** moved back to New York at age 10 to continue her education. Julia joined Guilford ABC as a 10th grader, and chose to double up on math classes during her first year. A natural student with a strong work ethic, she earned high honors and the respect of her teachers and friends.



The summer following her sophomore year, Julia was chosen to participate in Girls Who Code, an intense summer computer programming class in Manhattan. Not surprisingly, she enrolled in AP Computer Science in 11th grade. The following summer, Julia attended a month-long Council on International Educational Exchange program in Paris. There she was able to practice her French and experience living with a French family. Throughout her three years in Guilford, Julia was supported by her host family, the Evelands, who played an integral role in her success.

At GHS, Julia was a member of the dance team, Feminism Club, and Interact Club. She continued with Girls Who Code and volunteered at Hole in The Wall thrift store.

Julia will attend New York University in the fall and plans to study neuroscience. Congratulations Julia!



T-Jauni Barham came to ABC from New York as a sophomore. She successfully navigated the many changes she experienced both in the ABC program and at Guilford High School. All of her teachers commented about how respectful T-Jauni was both in and out of class. During her three years at GHS, she participated in Dance Team, Unity Club, Cultural Competence Committee, the Feminism Club, and management of the basketball team. She also created a video about her experiences with the ABC program that was highly acclaimed by her teacher and our Board of Directors.

After her sophomore year, T-Jauni attended the Pace University Summer Scholars Program, where she studied psychology. Prior to her senior year, T-Jauni travelled to Valparaiso, Chile as part of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). She was able to deepen her Spanish language skills, live with a host family, and travel within the country.

During her time in Guilford, T-Jauni had the unconditional support of her host family, the McNamaras.

This accomplished senior will be attending Trinity College in Hartford, CT this Fall. Congratulations T-Jauni! ▼

Photos by Steady Photography



A BETTER CHANCE GUILFORD

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A Challenging Time

FROM RESIDENT DIRECTOR LYNN PRENDERGAST

The school year started off great. Our four returning scholars and Janelle, our freshmen, came into the house ready for fun, challenges, and working towards their dreams.

The fall was a very busy time for T-Jauni and Julia, our seniors — getting college

applications and essays completed, SAT and ACT tutoring and preparation, making the most of their senior year. Janelle, Arianna, and Lauren were occupied with challenging class loads and working with our fabulous tutors. The Yale tutor volunteers started to visit us weekly, bringing their varied backgrounds and skill sets to assist our scholars. These young ladies are wonderful role models for our scholars.

The year was sailing along smoothly, and before we knew it the family picnic and holiday party had passed. The fabulous Mo Pleasure concert and a few fun-filled trips to Six Flags were also part of the first half of the year. Then the uninvited guest, COVID-19, showed up.

At first, we thought the girls would be going home only for a few weeks, but we were obviously very wrong. All the girls were packed up and back in New York by March 14. The next step was to figure out how to tackle Distance Learning. They were lucky to have the continued support of the board, their tutors, and the GHS staff and administration. Distance

(continued on page 4)



ABC Happenings...



BENEFIT CONCERT

Our 45th anniversary was celebrated in early February with the **ABC-Mo Pleasure Benefit Concert!** The *sold-out performance* was held at Guilford High School led by GHS alum Mo Pleasure and friends. He performed musical sets with GHS Jazz Band, GHS vocalists, and the support of our many volunteers.



KITCHEN RENOVATION

The ABC Board approved a much needed **kitchen renovation** to the ABC House. In May, demo began with gutting a first floor bathroom, pantry and opening walls to make this the “heart of the house.” We look forward to welcoming our scholars in September to a new upgraded kitchen, twice the size!

ABC College Education Fund

Guilford ABC Is Now Helping Its Graduates with College Tuition

In the spring of 2019, Guilford ABC began soliciting gifts to establish a College Education Fund at the Guilford Foundation. Our goal is to provide modest tuition assistance to each of our graduating seniors *throughout her four year of college* as long as she maintains an overall B average and stays on track to graduate in four years.

Thanks to the generosity of GABC supporters who share our belief that education is a great equalizer, we were able to award our first scholarship in May 2019 to graduating senior Sumaiyah Lee, who was accepted by her first-choice school, Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Because of continued donor support, this fund is continuing to grow. This year we were able to award three annual \$2,500 scholarships to:

- Julia Antwi, for her freshman year at New York University, New York
- T-Jauni Barham, for her freshman year at Trinity College, Hartford, CT
- Sumaiyah Lee, for her sophomore year at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

We are tremendously grateful for the generosity of those who have made these gifts possible, and we welcome additional gifts to help ensure that every Guilford ABC graduate going forward will receive this financial help throughout her four years of college. ▼

Tax deductible contributions should be sent to the Guilford Foundation, PO Box 35, Guilford, earmarked for the Guilford ABC College Education Fund.



GRADUATION CELEBRATION

The Guilford community extended a wonderful **graduation celebration** in June for the graduating class of 2020. Our graduating seniors came from NYC with their families to celebrate with a social-distance luncheon, decorated cars, a procession through town, and a social-distance graduation ceremony at the Guilford Fairgrounds. Congratulations class of 2020!

What Does “Stay at Home” Look Like?

Susan Welsh, Student Life Chair, interviewed our ABC Scholars about the “stay at home” mandate this spring. Here are some highlights:

Tell me about some of the things you did with your family or friends.

T-Jauni enjoyed keeping up with friends and family on Snapchat and Instagram, while Julia watched Netflix and Anime! Lauren said her family liked eating and shopping online with some good music including Beyonce and 80s and 90s R & B! Arianna enjoyed traditional Hispanic meals with her family and some new shows and games. Janelle read every book in her house and then some!

How did school go? What went well and what did you find challenging?

All the girls agreed that they did lots of schoolwork, with new assignments every week. Most work was online and they said if they had to have more Zoom classes they wouldn't have been able to get through all the assignments. They missed the day-to-day face time with the teachers but knew teachers were available for any questions. Some of them felt schoolwork was typical of a normal school day while others felt like the workload was challenging.

What did you miss from the ABC house and being in Guilford?

Lauren said she missed her room and personal space, and Julia missed talking with friends and going out together for weekend dinners! Arianna missed friends and her routines in Guilford. All the girls concurred that the Guilford ABC house provides many opportunities to discuss school and gain the extra help of tutors and advisors.

When you look back on this, what will be most memorable about this time?

They all felt the social distancing was the most challenging part, not being able to engage with family and friends outside of their home. They think people will be much more aware of how to be careful not to spread any viruses not just Covid-19! T-Jauni commented that the lines for shopping, especially at Target, were crazy!

In closing, we wish all the girls and their families good health and look forward to seeing them soon.



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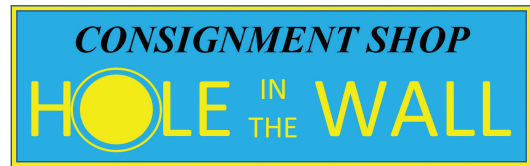
A Challenging Time, continued

Learning was new and challenging for everyone, and our young ladies gave it their best effort.

The cherry on the top this year was graduation. Marie and other board members worked endlessly to keep up with the ever-changing plans and to make it special for our two seniors, Julia and T-Jauni. The banners, parade past the house, decorating the cars, eating lunches (with social distancing) in the lovely backyard, and seeing our seniors so happy was something we will never forget. I am so excited about their bright futures at NYU and Trinity College. They are both talented and special young women who will be missed next year, but are always welcome to visit us. I do believe that being part of the ABC family doesn't end at graduation! ▼

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Reopening July 20

HOLE IN THE WALL PLANS SAFE OPENING FOR JULY 20

The beloved consignment and thrift shop Hole in the Wall is scheduled for a safe reopening on Monday, July 20. Customers should wear masks and may be asked to wait to enter until fewer shoppers are in the store. No consignment will be taken during the reopening. Hole in the Wall staff and volunteers have been working to ensure a safe shopping environment, with 6' distancing, one-way aisles, plexiglass screening at check out and lots of cleaning and hand sanitizers. Hours are 10 - 5 weekdays.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNIVERSARY GALA!

The Hole in the Wall 45th Anniversary Gala has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2021 at Woodwinds in Branford. Save the date and watch for details!