



A BETTER CHANCE
120 West Wayne Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087
radnorabc.org

Be sure to check out our new site: radnorabc.org

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Southeastern, PA
Permit No. 291

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1972

2019–20 Radnor ABC Program



Photography courtesy of Jennifer Imperato

Radnor ABC ALUMNI PANEL DISCUSSIONS

On February 9, five Radnor ABC alumni participated in two panels - one with our board and one with our scholars. **We value the perspective of our alumni in helping us improve our program and in guiding our current scholars.** The participating alumni included:

- BERT Venner, RHS 1981**
Lafayette University, Mechanical Engineering
Poly Processing, Regional Sales Manager
- VICTORIA David, RHS 2011**
Cornell University, Communications
Diageo, Associate Brand Manager
- DALISBETH Galvez, RHS 2010**
Lehigh University, Journalism
HUNTER, Account Executive
- JOSEPH Rodriguez, RHS 2011**
Ithaca College, Computer Science
Intersection, Software Engineering
- LAURA Okwueze, RHS 2012**
Hofstra University, Health Sciences
University of Americas, Medical Student



If you are a Radnor ABC alumnus and interested in visiting with us, volunteering or donating, please reach out to alumni@radnorabc.org

The Radnor ABC Alumni Panel Discussions are part of the Alumni Speakers Series, a forum to connect alumni and current scholars. It also provides an opportunity for alumni to answer questions from current scholars and to share their experiences at Radnor High School, in college and life beyond.



A BETTER CHANCE
RADNOR ABC PROGRAM NEWSLETTER
radnorabc.org

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1972 Spring / Summer 2020

CONGRATULATIONS! to our graduating Scholars...

- Radnor A Better Chance Board of Directors**
- Executive Committee**
Candyce Wilson – President
Heather Sheehan – Vice President
Laura Janson – Secretary
Vincent Boyd – Treasurer
- Committee Chairs**
Eric Janson – Building & Grounds
Chris Kingsbery – Academics
Dave Pelton – Capital Campaign
Jennifer Saionz – Student Life
Birgitta Sama – Marketing & Communications
Leslie Selbach – Fundraising

- Members**
Jeffrey Moore
Patti Rish
Edward Ruby
Bruce Trachtenberg

- 2019 – 2020 HOST FAMILIES**
Karen & Zach Conen
Kathy & John Dougherty
Elizabeth & Bill Marino
Julie & Mike Morris
Rachel & Roy Rosin
Karen & David Solomon
Caroline & Ted Stueck
Rachel & Marc Sule
Maura & Doug Wheeler

RESIDENT DIRECTOR
Isabel Clark

- 2019-20 ACADEMIC MENTORS**
Alicia Alfonso, Stacy Biscardi,
Jeanette Bergman, Dan DiLella,
Ann Herron, Debbie Lofton,
Helen McGrane, Betsy McIlwain,
Sue Metzger, Lisa Packer, Robert Saionz, Lucia Samblas

- 2019-20 SCHOLARS**
Desyne Clarke (2020)
Jeremy Glover (2020)
Marcus Omwanza (2020)
Caleb Jaramillo (2021)
Zaiya Ngubeni (2021)
Hannah Baumgardner (2022)
Keyara Crawley (2022)
Justin Holley (2022)
Stefanie Ferreyra (2023)
Elani Dwyer (2023)

DESYNE Clarke
Hometown: Bronx, NY
Activities: Color Guard, RADtv, Art Club, Asian Culture Club
College: NYU; Video Production

“As a graduating senior of 2020, I believe it is important to be aware of the experiences and support I received that shaped my growth during my time at Radnor High School. ... Although I was sometimes hesitant, I knew there were always teachers willing to lend me a hand when necessary. Outside of this school setting, I am extremely grateful to all those involved with helping the Radnor ABC program prosper. ... I feel nothing but excitement for the start of my freshman year in college... I look forward to staying involved with those who supported me during high school and hope to make them proud with my work in the future.”



MARCUS Omwanza
Hometown: Blaine, MN
Activities: RHS Basketball, RHS Track & Field,
2018-2019 JV Basketball MVP
College: University of Minnesota; Computer Engineering

“My experience with the A Better Chance Program, specifically with Radnor ABC, was a phenomenal experience and a journey that allowed me to better myself academically as well as form bonds and connections that I will hold forever. Leaving your family and friends to travel 500 miles away to Radnor, Pennsylvania at the age of 14 to most sounds like a plot of a movie. Leaving everything you once knew to attend a nationally renowned high school in a city foreign to me was a scary thought... With the help of all the school staff, Radnor ABC Board Members, volunteers, friends, and the Radnor community, I am glad to say that with all that support, I am in a position to graduate and attend a four year university... Overall, my experience with Radnor ABC is one that I'll never forget...”

JEREMY Glover
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Activities: RHS Football, RHS Track & Field
Plans to pursue a career in sound engineering and music production



You can make a donation anytime through PAYPAL: radnorabc.org/donate, or you can mail a check payable to: Radnor A Better Chance, 120 West Wayne Avenue, Wayne, Pa 19087

Like
facebook.com/radnorabc

a letter from the PRESIDENT

Dear Community,

As a black mother, the most painful thing in the world is to watch your children face a lifelong problem, not of their making, that you can't fix and to know that not only might it not get fixed in your or their lifetime, but that it will likely cause them physical, emotional, and/or financial harm. Perhaps it already has. With the recent murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, many of you are asking what you can do to help put an end to our country's centuries-old system of racism.

There is much that must be done in terms of awareness, education, healthcare, and the justice system, just to name a few. I choose to put my time and resources into Radnor A Better Chance (ABC) because they have been helping to address the educational inequities since 1972.

The work Radnor ABC does affords disadvantaged teens of color, from around the country, the chance to spend 4 years at Radnor High School being nurtured by our community, building networks, and getting an education that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. The opportunity to be a Radnor ABC scholar not only gives each participant a chance for a more promising future, but it impacts their families, their future, and the future of their children.

When you give a kid a **better chance**, you are helping to break the chains of systemic racism by giving them an opportunity to become equal participants in our society. And we all know that a rising tide lifts all boats.

Today, more than ever, your help is needed as we face the financial challenges brought on by yet another insidious situation, the COVID-19 pandemic. The cancellation of our biggest fundraiser of the year this spring and the added expenses we will incur to ready the House for the return of our scholars (purchasing PPE and additional cleaning supplies and obtaining personnel to supervise the scholars during the school day if they are required to continue online schooling) are having a significant impact on our ability to continue the work that Radnor ABC has done for the last 48 years.

So, if you are looking for a way to make a deep, long-lasting difference in the life of a child of color, please consider volunteering with or donating to Radnor ABC.

Sincerely,

Candyce Wilson

Candyce Wilson, President
Radnor ABC Board of Directors



A Big THANK YOU Isabel!

After 6 years, Isabel Clark will be ending her time as Resident Director for the Radnor ABC House. From the entire Radnor community, we want to say **THANK YOU** and wish Isabel great success in everything she does. She was part of ABC for 11 years, starting as a resident tutor in the Lower Merion ABC house, and shared amazing experiences with the scholars. Isabel told us about memories from almost every scholar, too many to list, and many times that made her time at ABC rewarding. What was so impactful, she said, is seeing scholars come in as 13-year-old kids, leave as 18-year-old young adults, and then talk to them 3 and 5 years later as peers. She added that she enjoys seeing them find things they love and watching them thrive. Her parting words for the scholars: "Pursue what you are interested in, and stay in touch!" **Thank you, Isabel! We will miss you, but your impact will carry on!**

Welcome to our new Resident Directors!



As a couple and individually, **Jonathan and Shellina Marshall** have found themselves in many situations where they have mentored students young and old. From Jonathan's experience working with families from varying backgrounds in social work and beyond, to Shellina's counseling of youth and families, it is clear that they have a heart for young people.

Jonathan earned a B.A. in Elementary Education from Eastern University and transitioned into working with youth as a mental health social worker for over 10 years in Delaware County. Shellina also graduated from Eastern University, with a degree in Youth Ministry and two minors in Psychology and Communications. In his current work, back at Eastern University Jonathan has the opportunity to help shape the minds of those seeking higher education and wanting to go into the education field, something he hopes to pass on to the scholars at A Better Chance.

Shellina also has a Masters in Counseling from Westminster Seminary and applies this to her work with children, youth, and families through her counseling work in the larger Delaware County area.

Jonathan and Shellina hope to bring their unique gifts of counseling, mentoring, organization skills and love for education to ABC but even more so, are excited at the opportunity to impact the lives of the scholars.

Jonathan and Shellina have two young boys, Isaiah (9) and Elijah (7), and as a family some of their favorite things to do are to have random dance parties, play ultimate family full board bingo (yes that's a thing) and just hang out together.

2020

RADNOR ABC FUNDRAISER

In place of our annual spring soiree, Radnor ABC is hosting an online fundraising campaign. Although we are sad that we were unable to be with our Radnor ABC scholars, alumni, board members, and many friends at our soiree, we invite you to still help our program meet our financial goals. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Please help Radnor ABC continue to provide a high-quality education for 10 scholars seeking a better chance at Radnor High School through any of the following ways:

Become a Sponsor: Sponsoring Radnor ABC at the \$500 level includes special recognition on our website, social media accounts, and fall newsletter with company logo or individual name.

Make a Donation: For every \$75.00 donated, you will receive a ticket entry into a raffle for two baskets with \$150.00 in gift certificates from Radnor / Wayne restaurants. This is a great way to support Radnor ABC and local businesses.

Participate in our Online Auction: From **June 22nd to July 10th**, we are offering exciting one-of-a-kind travel experiences and memorabilia to the highest bidder. Items include autographed sports jerseys from the Philadelphia Eagles and Philadelphia 76ers. If travel is your preference, soak up the sun in Cabo San Lucas or explore the great outdoors in Jackson Hole, WY just to name a couple.

Participate in our Wishing Tree: Please consider helping Radnor ABC by underwriting one or more of the expenses for our scholars including:

- ★ Sports fees
- ★ Operating costs such as utilities and maintenance to support our 100-year-old house
- ★ Music lessons
- ★ SAT / ACT Prep Courses
- ★ Cultural enrichment activities in the Philadelphia area

PLEASE VISIT radnorabc.org for more details



WELCOME to our new board members!

Stacy Biscardi • Mike Blumberg • Dennice Schenk • Michelle Wetzel • Amy Wildey

You can make a donation anytime through PAYPAL: radnorabc.org/donate, or you can mail a check payable to: Radnor A Better Chance, 120 West Wayne Avenue, Wayne, Pa 19087

DONATIONS

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

neighborhood league shops
Of Downtown Wayne



HOW YOU CAN HELP

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Help support the Radnor ABC Program by shopping at smile.amazon.com. Simply enter **Radnor A Better Chance** in the search field after you sign in to your account.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the **Radnor ABC Program!**

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Radnor ABC is in need of volunteers in fundraising, academics, student life, recruiting, host families, household repairs. We can always use an extra hand. If you're interested or for more details, please email us: board@radnorabc.org or contact Heather Sheehan @ 415-902-8695.