



# A BETTER CHANCE

## RADNOR ABC HOUSE NEWSLETTER

radnorabc.org

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1963

Spring / Summer 2019

# CONGRATULATIONS!

to our  
graduating  
Scholar...

2019 – 2020

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### 2018 – 2019 SCHOLARS

Jade Winn-McNeil (2019)  
Desyne Clarke (2020)  
Jeremy Glover (2020)  
Marcus Omwanza (2020)  
Caleb Jaramillo (2021)  
Zaiya Ngubeni (2021)  
Morgan Usher (2021)  
Hannah Baumgardner (2022)  
Keyara Crawley (2022)  
Justin Holley (2022)

### JADE Winn-McNeil

*Hometown:* Upper Darby, PA

*Awards:* Awarded a Cresson Scholarship from RTSD on Senior Recognition Night. The Cresson Scholarship was the first scholarship established for the school and was endowed by Miss Sara Lloyd of Philadelphia in 1916 in memory of her mother. Criteria for the scholarship include citizenship, academic achievement, character and activities.

*College:* Drexel University, Music Industry Program



## Radnor ABC ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES



### JEFFREY De La Cruz

Jeffrey graduated from Radnor High School as part of the A Better Chance program in 2002 and from Syracuse University's Martin J. Whitman School of Management in 2007. He has been in management for over 10 years working for Sears Holding Corporation and CVS Health.

### GABRIELLA Fontan Venson

Gabriella graduated from Radnor High School as part of the A Better Chance program in 2007 and from Temple University in 2011. She then went on to pursue her master's degree in Public Administration in 2015 followed by her Doctor of Law this past spring from Loyola University Chicago's School of Law. She has worked as a case manager for Turning Point for Children, the largest provider of foster care services in Philadelphia, and more recently, as a law clerk in the Cook County State Attorney's Office. In April, she took three Radnor ABC juniors to visit Temple University.



*The Radnor ABC Alumni Speakers Series is a forum to connect alumni and current scholars. It also provides an opportunity for alumni to share their experiences at Radnor, college and life beyond and to answer questions from current scholars.*



“We have really enjoyed our first year as an ABC host family. Getting to know Keyara has been a treat. We enjoy our Sunday afternoons and dinners and have big plans to show her more of Philadelphia in the upcoming year. We encourage incoming freshman families to consider being part of this program as it doesn't take a lot of your time and it forces you to slow down one day each month and focus on what matters most - family time and friendship.”

**KAREN Solomon, Host Parent**

Help support the Radnor ABC House by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

Simply enter **Radnor A Better Chance** in the search field after you sign in to your account.

You can also *donate through our PayPal account at [radnorabc.org](https://radnorabc.org)*



[facebook.com/radnorabc](https://facebook.com/radnorabc)

## a letter from the PRESIDENT



Although the school year has ended and things are quiet around Radnor, life hasn't slowed down for the board and staff of the Radnor ABC program. Before I tell you about our plans for next year, I'd like to highlight some of the program's accomplishments from 2018-19. Eight out of ten (80%) of our scholars finished the year with academic honors--six scholars received Distinguished Honors recognition, two scholars received Honors recognition and one scholar received straight A's for the entire year. Our three freshmen were very impressive this year with one being invited to compete in a Spanish speaking competition at the Haverford School and two discovering that they are budding thespians as a result of the theater class they took. Our sophomores and juniors worked hard this year and excelled in extracurricular activities and sports as well as academics. And we are excited for our senior, Jade Winn-McNeil, who will be attending Drexel University in the fall. We will miss her smile, spirit and presence in our program but look forward to seeing what great things she does in the future!

While undertaking the annual summer tasks of facility repairs and updates, restocking the kitchen, household and school supplies, securing 4-year commitments for a Host Family and Academic Mentor for our incoming freshman, as well as countless other things, the board is also working to take on the bigger tasks of developing sustainable practices and enhanced communication.

Most importantly, we want to be sure each of you knows that without YOU, none of this would be possible. This program exists because all of us--Radnor Township School District, Radnor High School, the Radnor ABC community, our volunteer staff, the ABC scholars, their parents and the Radnor ABC Board of Directors--work together to give our scholars a *better chance*. And we want YOU to know that we recognize and appreciate all of your support.

Finally, as we move forward, I'd like to express the board's gratitude to Christine Kingsbery and Missy Deck for their tireless work and dedication as co-presidents of the board for 2017-18 and Missy Deck for her generous support and efforts as 2018-19 board president. I'd also like to introduce you to the 2019-20 officers:

President	Candyce Wilson
Vice President	Heather Sheehan
Secretary	Laura Janson
Treasurer	Vince Boyd

Have a wonderful and safe summer and don't forget to check our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) often for Radnor ABC happenings and ways to continue to support our scholars.

*Candyce*



Eric Janson, the head of groundskeeping for the Radnor ABC House, is looking for yard work volunteers including: weeding, raking leaves, trimming bushes, etc... a great way to spend some time outdoors! Please contact him to find out more: [eric.janson126@gmail.com](mailto:eric.janson126@gmail.com)

### Radnor ABC School Year Supply Drive

Help our Radnor ABC scholars & house get off to a great start for the 2019 - 2020 school year! Items in need are listed on the Radnor ABC site: [radnorabc.org](http://radnorabc.org) and can be dropped off on the front porch or mailed to:

Radnor A Better Chance  
120 West Wayne Avenue  
Wayne, PA 19087

Thanks for all you do for our scholars!

## DONATIONS

### ALUMNI SPONSORS

Alex Breeland '00  
Jesse Eaton '81  
Shelley Harris '78  
Sparkle Escott Moore '98

### COMMUNITY SPONSORS

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### HOW YOU CAN HELP

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Help support the Radnor ABC House by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://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 Amazon Smile purchases to the **Radnor ABC House!**

### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Radnor ABC is in need of committee members. Whether your interests / skills are in fundraising, academic areas, adolescent life, recruiting, handyman or household repairs, we can always use an extra hand. If you're interested or for more details, please email us: [abcradnorpa@gmail.com](mailto:abcradnorpa@gmail.com) or contact Heather Sheehan @ 415-902-8695.

# 2019 annual RADNOR ABC soiree

A big thank you to **ELIZABETH & BILL Marino** who hosted the annual Radnor ABC House Soiree Fundraiser at their lovely home on another beautiful May evening! Dawn Timmeney, Fox 29 News anchor, was the MC. It was an exciting event with many great auction items up for bid including designer sunglasses, a week in Margate, NJ and a week in Cape Cod, MA and for the golf enthusiast, a round on the links at the renowned Overbrook CC.

A special thanks to the 125+ guests who contributed **over \$24,000!**

Additionally, we would like to thank the following contributors whose support contributed to the success:

- Soiree 2019 Underwriters
  - Cindy & Dave Pelton
  - Lisa Kohn & Bruce Trachtenberg
  - Kathy & Jeff Moore
  - Brooke Lawrence & Michael Reed
  - Catherine & James Murdock
  - Howard Deck
- The Bernabeos
- Seafood USA
- Tredici Market (Wayne)
- Sweet Jazmine's Pastry Shop
- Maria McDonald & Louella
- PNC Bank
- Radnor High School Ensemble



Photography courtesy of Jennifer Imperato

## From our scholars....

*I've enjoyed meeting new people through the clubs and activities I've joined.* **DESYNE Clarke**, Bronx, NY

*Challenges turn into opportunities with the support of the people in Radnor.* **MARCUS Omwanza**, Blaine, MN

*Family isn't always about blood relation, and ABC is there for you.* **JEREMY Glover**, Atlanta, GA

*I've had a chance to create a family here in Radnor.* **JADE Winn-McNeil**, graduating senior, Upper Darby, PA

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



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## 2018–19 Radnor ABC House



We absolutely love Justin, and are truly blessed to have such an awesome “bonus kid” come into our lives. We have done so many fun and memorable things together

this past year – picking pumpkins, shopping at the mall, going out to dinner, painting, seeing movies, etc. Our family’s experience with the ABC program to date has been incredibly meaningful and we are so grateful to be a part of the ABC experience. I am excited to see what the future has in store for Justin!!!

**KAREN Conen, Host Parent**

## 2018–19 highlights



**MARCUS Omwanza’20** is participating in the Radnor Educational Internship Program this summer as an intern for BSD Code and Design Academy. Marcus also placed at many different track meets this spring competing in high jump



**DESYNE Clarke’20**  
Color Guard camp



**BAKU** – will be enjoying the dog days of summer!



**ZAIYA Ngubeni’21** is a summer camp counselor for a STEM camp at Georgia Tech



“ We were a host family to Mariah from Sept.’13 to June’17. She was a great addition to our three RHS kids. We enjoyed spending time with her two Sundays a month. We threw her into our Sunday routine of homework, raking leaves, watching Eagles games and grocery shopping... followed by fun family dinners. We formed a bond with Mariah that has continued beyond graduation. We still keep in touch and see her as often as her college schedule allows. We are very grateful we became a Radnor ABC host family and gained a fourth child. It’s been wonderful watching Mariah grow and mature into a lovely young woman. ”

**JENNIFER Saionz, Past Host Parent**

If you’re interested in the rewarding experience of being a host family, please contact Jennifer Saionz: [jennifervsaionz@comcast.net](mailto:jennifervsaionz@comcast.net)