Elizabeth Roldan: ABC alumna stays connected and gives back

“Time at Andover was life-changing,” states Elizabeth Roldan, AHS ’00. “It broadened my opportunities in life.”

Now back in her hometown, New York City, and well into a professional career after a successful education, Roldan has begun to reconnect with Andover and other alumni. She also has decided to begin giving back financially to the program.

“I have kept in contact with my host family and with my AHS mentors,” the alumna relates. “I was also a host resident for three years.”

Roldan was selected to join Inroads, an organization whose mission is to increase racial diversity in Fortune 500 companies. As an Inroads scholar, she had the opportunity to intern every summer at Allina, formerly Philips Motors.

She took off a semester to work at the League of United Latin American Citizens based in Washington, D.C., which advances economic and educational opportunities among Latinos. After graduating from Binghamton, Roldan continued to work for Allina in the government affairs department. She also added an internship with the Hispanic Association for Corporate Responsibility to her already impressive roster of accomplishments.

Eventually moving back to New York City, she worked for two years as an international trade specialist for a company that specializes in customs compliance for the petroleum sector.

Then she had, as she laughingly refers to it, a quarter-life crisis, when she realized “I want to do something more meaningful with my skills and experience.”

Roldan would like to find a position that involves corporate responsibility and is considering graduate study to get there. In the meantime, she works for The Standard, an insurance company that assists people with financial issues associated with disability.

To the ABC scholars in Andover, she has this advice: “Connect socially with the community, even though this could be the hardest thing about the experience, and maintain friendships with other scholars. When I go on interviews, I talk about my Andover experience and employers value this. They understand it takes courage and perseverance to be successful in that kind of environment. It’s part of who I am.”

President’s Message: ABC scholars inspire volunteers

This fall, Andover A Better Chance is exploding with tremendous energy, momentum and talent.

Our new House Committee is tackling a wide variety of projects in “this old house.” Our Communications team is propelling us towards better use of digital technology as well as exploring new paths of community outreach to raise our visibility. And, our new returning ABC scholars are flocking to expanded relationships and activities with community organizations and institutions. The ABC program is humming on all cylinders!

The ABC House, built in 1810, is a beautiful, historic house, but it requires constant upkeep. Skilled volunteers Tony Adams and Bruce Letwin were joined over the summer by new board member Susan Connelly, who must have been a property manager in another life. Due to their efforts, the basement no longer floods, the bathroom vents work, the plumbing doesn’t leak, the stairs are repaired and much more.

Free Christian Church and South Church also have provided expert work crews for a Day of Service in November. In addition Dave Meldrum, our volunteer computer technician, has made major improvements that save us money while improving Internet access for the household.

Similarly, energy is percolating with our renewed efforts to build a more effective and comprehensive communications plan. Carey Adams, a new Friend of ABC, has joined forces with board members to increase our outreach and visibility in the Andover community via the Internet and social media. In addition, new board member Nancy Vogler will strengthen our relationship with the high school and its PAC (Parent Advisory Council) in her role as AHS Liaison.

To paraphrase a common saying, it takes a community to sustain Andover A Better Chance.

Over the scholastic program’s 43 years, that support has come from a broad spectrum of local residents, businesses and institutions. And we always need more volunteers.

The community as a whole has stood behind the nonprofit program since its beginning in 1967, when Andover’s Town Meeting voted by a wide margin to welcome ABC students tuition-free into Andover High School.

Each year, ABC scholars receive a fine preparation for college from the excellent Andover High School faculty, administration and staff. This is why they are here.

Andover ABC’s role is to broaden these scholars’ academic experience with opportunities to develop their social and intellectual skills and sense of self-potential. Much effort is needed to keep this ambitious program running. That’s where so many others become involved.

Several teachers and other knowledgeable residents tutor our six scholars. Dozens of volunteer drivers are on call to transport our students to never-ending local activities, enriching ABC scholars with exposure to Boston and other sites, and to public transportation centers for trips home. Institutions, civic organizations and a core of volunteers have stepped forward.

• Latitude Sports Club, the Merrimack YMCA and Greater Lawrence Community Rowing program make their facilities available under special arrangements.

To learn more about this program work and to receive an invitation to the fall program work event this month, please contact the Andover Committee for A Better Chance, 1810 Andover St., Andover, MA 01810; or email aBetterChance@AndoverMA.net; or call 978-781-3014.

Mary E. Pitchard
NEW TO ANDOVER ABC

Mary Pritchard, a member of the Board of Directors for three years and a leader in student enrichment, has succeeded Amy Joyall as president. New vice presidents are Mark Connolly and Mary Beth Nason; and Louise Valalle is now secretary.

The following have joined the Board of Directors: Susan Connolly, technology services executive and parttime handysteve; Jackie Hesekht, who brings salesmarketing experience; Kate Lamanna, tutoring agency owner; Joanne McConnaughey, teacher (K12) of wellness, science and social studies; Aiko Onishi, thirdgrade teacher at the Pike School and former resident assistant at Andover ABC; Beth Prawdzik, art studio owner; and Nancy Vogler, a nurse who helps provide healthcare to our program and is involved in drama programs at Andover High.

New “host parents” Carlo and Tamara Cadet are paired up with 9thgrade Abigail Awoadele. Jim and Patty Gillette have remained with the program to host junior Monique Espinoza, while David and Brenda Bryan have returned to host 9thgrade Jazzare Mays.

Monique Lopez Espinoza entered Andover High as a junior from Garden Grove, CA, after spending two school years in an ABC program in Eden Prairie, MN. Granddaughter of an Orange County sheriff, she is considering a career that combines teaching and psychiatry, possibly working with prison inmates.

“My family and I chose [Andover ABC] for a better education and new experiences so I can go to a better college and have a wonderful and successful life,” she says.

This fall Abbi was in Andover High’s production of the musical “Rent.” Long term, she would like to study at Harvard or a university in Europe. She has her sights set on becoming a cardiologist and treating people suffering from poverty, war and other crises in Africa and elsewhere.

Jazzare Mays, the other entering 9thgrade, comes from New Haven, CT. Her favorite courses are math and science – not what you hear from most 9thgrade girls. “It’s something that comes to me easily,” she explains.

She also hopes to put Harvard on her college application short list. This fall, taking a diversion from a longterm interest in dance, she has joined the color guard of the AHS marching band.

Monique enjoys writing poetry and short stories. She is competing this fall in a Greater Lawrence Rowing eightperson shell, worked backstage in an AHS musical and also likes to cook.

To monitor the students’ health while they are away from their families during the school year, we have the physicians at North Andover Pediatrics to thank. For many years, Andover Pediatrics has taken good care of our ABC scholars. This year new board member Nancy Vogler also fills in as house nurse, so it made sense to combine forces with her husband, Dr. Mikel Vogler. And Dr. Megan Evans, in addition to her medical role, signed up to tutor our seniors in anatomy next semester.

At the ABC house on Main Street:

• Volunteers pitch in to keep the 200yearold building safe and sound, with upto date computing and other amenities that students need. A grant from TD Bank’s charitable foundation funded recent computing upgrades.
• Bill Perkins and Maureen Smith from Free Christian Church and Ron and Candy Dann from South Church mustered expert work crews for Day of Service projects in November that focused on winterizing, roof repairs and basement projects.

Many people make this program work (Continued from page 1)

As part of this effort, John Ward, a licensed home inspector, and Dan Harrington of RI Northrup have inspected the ABC House for critical repair needs.

• Andover High student Adam Jones coordinated his communityservice requirement by assisting with home repairs.

Additional residents, business people and others such as Sara and Bob Knapp, hosts of a fall ABC reception help our program at fundraising events, local activities even work projects.

Providing a home away from home for the ABC students in Andover are the host families that make each student part of their activities several days and evenings each month. The 26 volunteer members of the Board of Directors, in addition to directing the program, individually help the students enjoy new experiences and confront new challenges during their sojourn in Andover.

In other words, it’s definitely the community that sustains this program.

President’s message: ABC scholars inspire volunteers (Continued from page 1)

This fall, we have also seen new developments with our health care providers. The physicians at North Andover Pediatrics, headed by Dr. Mikel Vogler, have welcomed our students to their practice. He and his wife, Nancy, a nurse, have already made several house calls.

We are fortunate to have psychologist Lani Peterson join us in an advisory role. Lani brings an exciting new dimension to our program; we are grateful for her wise counsel.

But it must be said that all of our energy and momentum for this year comes from the extraordinary group of scholars we have in the house. These six young women are an inspiration. They do the heavy lifting: leaving their homes, their friends and their neighborhoods to reach out for this lifechanging educational opportunity. Please consider joining us, bringing your talents and energy to create a better chance for these courageous students.

If you want to get the next ABC newsletter by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Louise Valalle at valalle@verizon.net.

ABC is going digital!

Refreshments stand at Art in the Park raised ABC scholars’ expense funds. Filling orders are (front, from left) Henrica Brasil, Darée Color, Felicia Reyes and Abigail Awoadele.

ABC Board Members
Mary Pritchard, President
Mark Connolly, Vice President
Mary Beth Nason, Vice President
Adele Benson, Treasurer
Louise Valalle, Secretary
Clark Benson
Joan Cohen
Mary Ann Comparto
Susan Connolly
Donna Crowther
Cindy Darvin
Lynn Eliksenberg
Chris Grant
Dan Hall
Jackie Hesekht
Jane Hill
Amy Joyall
Katherine Lamanna
Joanne McConnaughey
Dot McGlincy
Toby Coltin O’Leary
Joan Onishi
Joel Parks
Beth Prawdzik
Eileen Reilly
Nancy Vogler
Resident Director
Audra Reilly
Resident Assistants
Paige Bonito
Amber Edwards
Kristen Breese
Scholars’ Hosts
Brenda & David Bryan
Tamaro & Carlo Cadet
Patty & Jim Gillette
Edward & Jill Parks
Jennifer & Dan Pan
Catherine Giles & Scott Stecher
More news/photos at AndoverABC.org

Alumni news
Vanessa (Monroy) Canas, AHS ’04, Colgate ’08 - Vanessa lives in NYC and is a research coordinator at Weill Cornell Medical College. She says she’s working on plans to apply to medical school.

Ivelisse (Ramos) Christian Vega, AHS ’04, Fordham ’08 – Ivelisse is teaching English at the University of Puerto Rico and is a research coordinator at Weill Cornell Medical College. She says she’s working on plans to apply to medical school.

Lydia Bailey, AHS ’07 – Lydia is a senior at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA and will receive a Bachelor’s in Business Administration in May 2011. She is a HR/MIS minor currently working as an HR trainee at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and as a Temple Human Resources intern. She is also president of Temple’s chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management.

Nacas Green, AHS ’07, Loyola (Maryland) ’11 – Nacas is majoring in global studies (minor in international business), is president of the Caribbean Students’ Union and also works. An intern last summer at the World Trade Center Institute, she heads to Brazil and Chile in January for a study program.

Thanks
Andover A Better Chance is grateful for major contributions from locality Foundation M, Fairview Capital, Old Parish and West Parish Church. They have helped keep our program vibrant during the past year’s recession.

Contributions, which are taxexempt, will reach Andover ABC at P.O. Box 212, Andover, MA 01810. Stock donations and contributions made in someone’s memory are welcome.
NEW TO ANDOVER ABC
Mary Pritchard, a member of the Board of Directors for three years and a leader in student enrichment, has succeeded Amy Joyal as president. New as vice presidents are Mark Connolly and Mary Beth Nason; and Louise Valleau is now secretary.

The following have joined the Board of Directors: Susan Connolly, technology services executive and part-time handyman; Jackie Heseltine, who brings sales/marketing experience; Kate Lamam, tutoring agency owner; Joanne McConaughy, teacher (K-12) of wellness, science and social studies; Aiko Onishi, third-grade teacher at the Pike School and former resident assistant at Andover ABC; Beth Prawdzik, art studio owner; and Nancy Vogler, a nurse who helps provide healthcare to our program and is involved in drama programs at Andover High.

New “host parents” Carlo and Tamara Cadet are paired up with 9th-grader Abigail Awodele. Jim and Patty Gillette have remained with the program to host junior Monique Espinoza, while David and Brenda Bryan have returned to host 9th-grader Jazzare Mays.

Monique Lopez Espinoza entered Andover High as a junior from Garden Grove, CA, after spending two school years in an ABC program in Eden Prairie, MN. Granddaughter of an Orange County sheriff, she is considering a career that combines teaching and psychology, possibly working with prison inmates.

“I always wanted to be a cop,” she notes, “but it would be physically hard because I’m less than five feet tall.”

Monique enjoys writing poetry and short stories. She is competing this fall in a Greater Lawrence Rowing eight-person shell, worked backstage in an AHS musical and also likes to cook.

Abigail Awodele, who was born in Nigeria, is one of two 9th graders to join Andover ABC this fall. Her parents brought her and her five brothers to the U.S. in 2004 seeking better schools and now live in Bridgeport, CT. The older of her brothers is pursuing careers in engineering, pharmaceuticals and surgery.

“My family and I chose [Andover ABC] for a better education and new experiences so I can go to a better college and have a wonderful and successful life,” she says.

This fall Abbi was in Andover High’s production of the musical “Rent.” Long-term, she would like to study at Harvard or a university in England. She has her sights set on becoming a cardiologist and treating people suffering from poverty, war and other crises in Africa and elsewhere.

Jazzare Mays, the other entering 9th-grader, comes from New Haven, CT. Her favorite courses are math and science – not what you hear from most 9th-grade girls. “It’s something that comes to me easily,” she explains.

She also hopes to put Harvard on her college application short list. This fall, taking a diversion from a long-term interest in dance, she has joined the color guard of the AHS marching band.

To monitor the students’ health while they are away from their families during the school year, we have the physicians at North Andover Pediatrics to thank. For many years, Andover Pediatrics has taken good care of our ABC scholars. This year, new board member Nancy Vogler also signed up as a house nurse, so it made sense to combine forces with her husband, Dr. Mike Vogler. And Dr. Megan Evans, in addition to her medical role, signed up to tutor our seniors in anatomy next semester.

At the ABC house on Main Street:
• Volunteers pitch in to keep the 200-year-old building safe and sound, with up-to-date computing upgrades.
• Bill Perkins and Maureen Smith from Free Christian Church and Ron and Candy Dann from South Church mustered expert work crews for Day of Service projects in November that focused on winterizing, roof repairs and basement projects.
• As part of this effort, John Ward, a licensed home inspector, and Dan Northington of RH Northrup have inspected the ABC House for critical repair needs.
• Andover High student Adam Jones coordinated this community-service requirement by assisting with home repairs.

Additional residents, business people and others such as Sara and Bob Knapp, hosts of a fall ABC reception help our program at fundraising events, local activities... even work projects.

Providing a home away from home for the ABC students in Andover are the host families that make each student part of their activities several days and evenings each month. The 26 volunteer members of the Board of Directors, in addition to directing the program, individually help the students enjoy new experiences and confront new challenges during their sojourn in Andover.

In other words, it’s definitely the community that sustains this program.

Many people make this program work (Continued from page 1)

If you want to get the next ABC newsletter by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Louise Valleau at lvalleau@verizon.net.
Elizabeth Roldan: ABC alumna stays connected and gives back

Elizabeth Roldan

“Since the Andover Andover was life-changing,” states Elizabeth Roldan, AHS ’00. "It broadened my opportunities in life.”

Now back in her hometown, New York City, and well into a professional career after a successful education, Roldan has been reconnecting with Andover ABC and other alumni. She also has decided to begin giving back financially to the program.

“I have kept in contact with my host family (Sandy and Don Hitchens) and have recently reconnect ed with ABC scholars from AHS, Phillips Academy and Brooks,” she relates. A major reason: “We share a unique experience.”

Social media has made it easier for Roldan to reconnect with Andover. "I decided to begin giving back financially to the program.

...Roldan was selected to join Inroads, an organization whose mission is to increase racial diversit y in Fortune 500 companies. As an Inroads scholar she had the opportunity to intern every summer at Altria, formerly Philip Morris. She took off a semester to work at the League of United Latin American Citizens based in Washington, D.C., which advances economic and educational opportunities among Latinos.

After graduating from Binghamton, Roldan continued to work at Altria in the government affairs department. She also added an internship with the Hispanic Association for Corporate Responsibility to her already impressive roster of accomplishments.

Eventually moving back to New York City, she worked for two years as an international trade specialist for a company that specializes in customs compliance for the petroleum sector.

Then she had, as she laughingly refers to it, a quarter-life crisis, when she realized “I wanted to do something more meaningful with my skills and experience.”

Roldan would like to find a position that involves corporate responsibility and is considering graduate study to get there. In the meantime, she works for The Standard, an insurance company that assists people with financial issues associated with disability.

To the ABC scholars in Andover, she has this advice: “Connect socially with the community, even though this could be the hardest thing about the experience, and maintain friendships with other scholars. When I go on interviews, I talk about my Andover experience and employers value it. They understand it takes courage and perseverance to be successful in that kind of environment. It’s part of who I am.”

STUDENT BOARD

Daree Colan, a senior, has been chosen president of the Andover ABC Student Board for the school year.

The other board officers are:

- Vice president: Henric Bresil
- Treasurer: Monique Lopez Espinoza
- Secretary: Abigail Aviadolo
- Enrollment: Felicia Reyes
- Public relations: Jazzare Myers

Student Board

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 125
Andover, MA

President’s message: ABC scholars inspire volunteers

This fall, Andover A Better Chance is exploding with tremendous energy, momentum and talent.

Our new House Committee is tackling a wide variety of projects in “this old house.” Our Communications team is propelling us towards better use of digital technology as well as exploring new paths of community outreach to raise our visibility. And, our new and returning ABC scholars are flocking to expanded relationships and activities with community organizations and institutions. The ABC program is humming on all cylinders!

The Andover House, built in 1810, is a beautiful, historic house, but it requires constant upkeep. Skilled volunteers Tony Adams and Bruce Letvin were joined over the summer by new board member Susan Connolly, who must have been a property manager in another life. Due to their efforts, the basement no longer floods, the bathroom vents work, the plumbing doesn’t leak, the stairs are repaired and much more.

Free Christian Church and South Church also have provided expert work crews for a Day of Service in November. In addition Dave Meldrum, our volunteer computer technician, has made major improvements that save us money while improving Internet access for the household.

Similarly, energy is percolating with our renewed efforts to build a more effective and comprehensive communications plan. Carey Adams, a new Friend of ABC, has joined forces with board members to increase our outreach and visibility in the Andover community via the Internet and social media. In addition, new board member Nancy Vogler will strengthen our relationship with the high school and its PAC (Parent Advisory Council) in her role as AHS Liaison.

... (continued inside)