

Guilford ABC Scholars:

Congratulations to Our 2015 GHS Graduates!

As the end of the school year approaches, Guilford ABC congratulates our two graduating seniors and recognizes the accomplishments of our rising juniors and sophomores.



2015 GHS Graduates Kymar Stewart and Cleo Adebiji

Senior **Cleo Adebiji** will be heading to Syracuse University in the fall with plans to study photojournalism. Over the summer, she will attend Syracuse's six-week Summer College Program to take advantage of the variety of credit-bearing courses offered. Following four years at GHS, Cleo reports being excited and ready to begin this next chapter in her life!

Senior **Kymar Stewart** will enter Bentley University in Waltham, MA to begin studies in the school's highly-acclaimed accounting program. Asked how she feels as her GHS career draws to a close, Kymar was business-as-usual, describing scholarship applications to complete and her part-time job at Big Y. This summer she plans to take classes to prepare for the fall, while holding down a new job at the Big Y in Stratford.

We wish Cleo and Kymar great success as they graduate from GHS and

Guilford ABC, and we look forward to hearing about their new experiences in college.

Rising Junior **Rebekah Calderon** is planning ahead for both a busy summer and the rigors of the upcoming junior year. Rebekah is pursuing a number of volunteer opportunities in Bridgeport, including working with kids at The Lighthouse Program. She also plans to work on college research.



Rebekah Calderon and Jada Allison at a recent GHS concert

Rising Junior **Katrina Green** will join Rebekah in pursuing volunteer activities in Bridgeport. In July, she will volunteer at the Mercy Learning Center, helping parents and kids at the Center's family literacy program. Katrina's love of kids will also come into play as she explores career interests in the field of pediatrics. Recognizing junior year as "the most important year," Katrina and Rebekah both hope to enjoy some summer downtime too.

Rising Sophomore **Jada Allison** is completing a successful freshman year, having settled into life at GHS and the ABC House. While her classes required more work than expected,

they were not as hard as she'd anticipated. Jada's summer plans include relaxation, a possible tennis camp and planning ahead for next summer.



ABC Scholars at reception for Hole in the Wall volunteer Marge Welsh (p. 2)

As rising Sophomore **Dorcas Saka** reflected on her successful first year in Guilford she remarked at how much ABC Resident Director Lisa Brady does—organizing dinners out, movie outings and trips to the beach. These have been welcome, as Guilford still feels like a small town compared to hometown New York City. Dorcas is pursuing summer volunteer opportunities along with her sister.



Katrina Green and Dorcas Saka enjoy dinner out with ABC housemates

GABC and Hole in the Wall Honor Marge Welch

On May 3rd, Marge Welch, a 22-year volunteer and assistant manager at Hole in the Wall, was honored at a gala brunch attended by fellow HIW volunteers, GABC board members and many loyal customers and friends. Marge brought a winning



HITW Retiree Marge Welch with ABC Board member Michael Brown, HITW Manager Patty Sullivan and ABC Board President Barbara Pine

combination to Guilford's oldest and only non-profit consignment and resale shop – a sunny personality, a love of people and four decades of retail experience as a buyer and manager. "There's such a feeling of friendship, family and helpfulness among those volunteering; it's one of the secrets to HIW's continued success," she noted, adding, "You don't normally see that kind of thing in retail."

Volunteering at Hole in the Wall

If you or someone you know has a few hours a week available and is looking for a friendly environment in which to help out, please call Patty Sullivan, Hole in the Wall's manager at 203-453-2088 or stop by the shop. New treasures and new bargains are on display every day, seven days a week. Do stop by and see for yourself. It's hard to leave empty handed!

Other ABC News...

Our thanks to retiring board members **Cheryl Barbour** and **Jenny Schaffer** for their many efforts in support of Guilford ABC. Jenny, who has just received Volunteer of the Year Award from the Guilford Community Fund, steps down after many years of leadership roles with ABC. Cheryl remain the volunteer bookkeeper at the Hole in the Wall.

We are delighted to welcome two new members, **Cynthia Banks**, a Guilford ABC alumna from the 1970s and **Tobie Meisel**, a social worker and attorney specializing in family practice. The Board's work will benefit from Cynthia and Tobie's special skills and experiences.

GABC bids farewell and best wishes to Resident Tutor **Kishundra King**, who begins doctoral studies at the Vanderbilt University Divinity School. We wish her great success.

Guilford ABC Reaches Out to New Audiences

This spring GABC joined **The Greater New Haven Foundation** and participated in **The Great Give**, a 36-hour online fundraising event supporting more than 300 local non-profits. We look forward to spreading the word about our program and reaching more potential volunteers, board members and donors through The Great Give in the years to come.

Another first for GABC, the **6th annual M.J. Petretto Foundation Golf Classic**, held on June 8th at Clinton Country Club, donated part of its proceeds to GABC in recognition of the important work of our organization. A number of GABC supporters signed up to play in the tournament, and GABC volunteers helped out on the day of the event.

On Friday, July 17th, GABC will again be a beneficiary of proceeds from the **carousel at Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale** in Madison.

Guilford ABC Program
P.O. Box 140
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GABC board members will be at Lenny and Joe's restaurant in the afternoon and evening to hand out information about our program.

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ABC Scholars Jada Allison, Rebekah Calderon and Katrina Green support American Idol winner, Nick Fradiani, at Nick Fradiani Day on the Guilford Green

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