

# the continental

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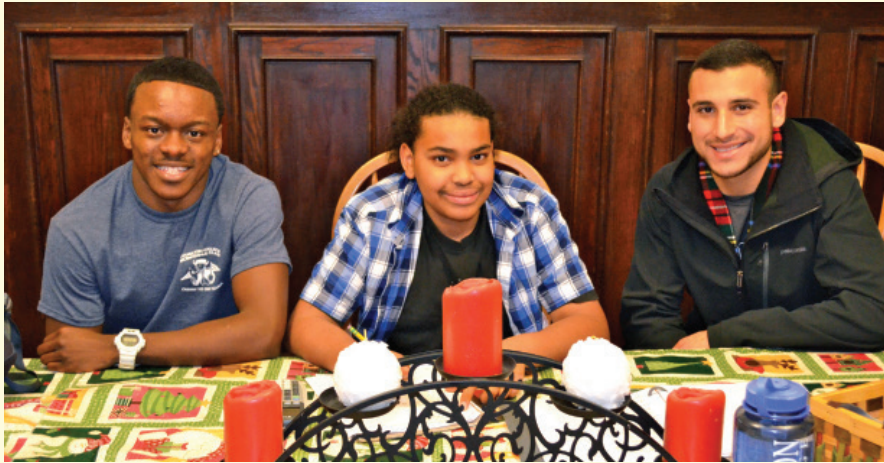


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# Students Find a Better Chance in Clinton, NY

By Maggie Maloney '15



The ABC Program, also known as A Better Chance, has operated in Clinton and on the Hamilton Campus since 1972. Despite its 40-year history of this program in our area, many Hamilton students remain unaware of the organization that has made quality educational opportunities possible for academically gifted minorities. A Better Chance was founded in 1963 as a national nonprofit organization and currently hosts students at more than 300 schools across the country, as well as over 13,000 alumni. The program provides students with academic support throughout high school and college, including guidance which helps place them at some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the world, including Hamilton.

At Hamilton, the ABC students live with a resident director in a college-owned house on Campus Road right behind the Science Center. Each ABC student has a host family that they stay with each Sunday. Dean Landry even serves as both a host parent and board member of the program. Over time, the ABC scholars become exceptionally close with their host families. The Hamilton program is usually comprised of 8 male students total, 2 from each grade, who attend Clinton High School and are extremely involved with various after school activities and sports. The ABC students become integral parts of the

Clinton community during their time here, despite hailing from places like Boston, Albany, and the New York City area. Their willingness to move away from their families to an unfamiliar town at the age of 14 or 15 in favor of better academic opportunities reflects their courage and desire to succeed.

There are 10 Hamilton students who work as tutors for the ABC kids and spend study hours at the house on weeknights. The tutors, led by Kayla Winters '13, cover a wide range of academic pursuits, allowing for each student to get the help he needs in any subject. Often, these tutors become mentors in areas other than academic life, because the students remain at the ABC house from freshman to senior year. Tutors watch them progress and mature through their entire high school career. Tutor Rico Welch '14 was an ABC student at Deerfield Academy and was eager to get involved with the program when he arrived at Hamilton. Both the students and the tutors make lifelong connections from the ABC experience, sharing in the students' success as they graduate from high school and continue on to college. "The students and my experiences at the ABC House have played a huge role in my life at Hamilton. It has not only been rewarding to watch the students grow intellectually but also to see myself grow as a mentor. My time spent with these boys has emphasized my love for teaching," said Winters. The graduating seniors of the Class of 2012 continued on to Providence College and Emory University, but they will undoubtedly remain in touch with the ABC house in Clinton.

To get involved with the program, sophomores can apply to be tutors in the beginning of the year. While the tutoring application process is selective, anyone interested in working in education, especially with students from low resource areas, should apply. The ABC program is an integral part of the Clinton community and Hamilton campus.

*Photos by Anandita Mariwala '15*