



Spring Newsletter

"A Better Chance... For A Better Future"

May 2005

727 2nd Street SW • Rochester, MN 55902 • (507) 289-4370 • E-Mail: RBC727@aol.com • www.rochesterbetterchance.org

Meet Freshman Scholar Jonathan Orquiz



Hometown: Riverside, California

Vital Information: Brother of sophomore scholar, William Orquiz

Favorite subject: Math (he feels that it will help in pursuit of a career in architecture)

Favorite pastimes: playing video games and hanging out with the guys in the house

Extracurricular Activities: soccer team (scored 9 goals this year); orchestra (violin)

Favorite food: Mexican (of course!)

Having my brother here at RBC has been great! Having already completed my freshman year, I know the struggles that come with being away from home for the first time. I feel that by me being here, I have helped my brother adjust very well. It has also been easier for our parents knowing that we are together. Sharing the RBC experience with Jonathan has made our stay in Rochester all the more worthwhile.

William Orquiz

RBC 2005 Fundraiser



The RBC 2005 Fundraiser was a complete success! The support of local businesses and individuals was absolutely phenomenal. This year, we received contributions that allowed us to raise nearly \$20,000 in support of RBC's operational costs for the upcoming year. The 2005 RBC Fundraiser event featured community leaders such as Fr. Nick Mezacappa (this year's Master of Ceremonies) and corporate executives such as Tim McChristian (IBM executive and vice president of the National "A Better Chance" organization).



The RBC scholars, the RBC board of directors, and the supporters of RBC would like to send a special "thank you" to all of the businesses, individuals and volunteers that made the RBC 2005 Fundraiser such a wonderful event! All of you make RBC possible and we look forward to making next year's fundraiser an even bigger success.

Charles Petite

Senior Danny Leon Bids Farewell

It feels like it was just yesterday that I boarded a flight with my mother from Los Angeles to Rochester, MN. I didn't know what to expect. I had never been out of the West. Now here we are: senior year, days from graduating. My stay in Rochester has been remarkable. John Marshall has been a wonderful environment.

When I first moved to Rochester, I was very curious and scared. My first year I was very shy, only for a moment though; once my feet were wet, everything began to run smoothly. The help of the John Marshall staff has made my high school years enjoyable. At John Marshall I was actively involved in DECA. DECA is an association of marketing students, which is instructed by Mr. Apse. It is here that I discovered my passion for business. DECA strengthened many of my skills, such as leadership, responsibility, and multi-tasking. These are important skills that I will need throughout my college and post-college life. Many of my other classes also gave me experiences that I couldn't have had in the metropolitan lifestyle of Orange County, CA. Environmental Awareness has taught me many survival skills and information I didn't know about the environment. As part of this class, in late May I will be going to the Boundary Waters, which should be a great experience. I would like to thank the whole John Marshall staff for guiding me in the right direction and providing me with multiple memorable moments.

The community of Rochester has been welcoming and warm. Everyone has been very helpful. All the people who have donated throughout the past four years are a segment of my success: the volunteers who have come to work on the house or computers, those who contribute by attending the banquets, anyone who has stopped by to donate school supplies. Every little thing counts, and without them my life

could be completely different. I would like to thank everyone in the community. With all the support of the community and John Marshall staff I have been accepted to the university of my choice, which was the main reason for my coming to Rochester.

I will be attending the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in the fall. I plan to obtain a double major in business management and finance. Along with that I would like to minor in statistics. After I have completed six years at the University, I would like to work in a bank for a few years for a steady source of income. Then I plan to open my business and be an entrepreneur. With RBC all of this can happen at a much smoother pace. RBC has opened doors that were not available to me in California.

I would also like to thank my mother for allowing me to take advantage of such a great opportunity. She wasn't too hesitant because she realized the importance and urgency of the situation. I would like to say farewell and thank everyone involved in the RBC Program and those who have influenced my life. Memories of RBC and Rochester will be with me always!

Senior Marcus Mason Reflects on Four Years with RBC



As my years of high school and time at RBC come to a conclusion, I am overcome with mixed thoughts and feelings. I'm sad to say that there is still so much I wish I would have done while here in Rochester. I'm sad to have to leave Rochester, which I've

finally come to appreciate after four years. Now I'll have to start over as my journey will continue in Evanston, Illinois where I will attend Northwestern University. I'm sad to leave all the friends that I've made. On top of being sad, I'm scared. I'm scared because I have yet to find out what the future has in store for me. I'm scared to have to start from scratch all over again; once again I'll be moving to a place where I will know no one.

Although I may be sad and scared about what lies ahead, I am also extremely happy – happy because I know that my years here in Rochester have prepared me for the “real” world. I'm happy because I'll be in college; I've been waiting for this moment since I first started my educational career. I'm happy because the first chapter of my life is days away from being complete.

However, I could not have come this far had it not been for the help from others. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to the community – without all of your giving, RBC might not have been around. Thank you to RBC: the push that you all gave me was just what I needed to

realize what I must do to succeed. Thank you to the Gwaltneys – I could not have asked for a better family with which to spend four years; your love, support, and generosity will never be forgotten. Thank you to Anita Porter and Aundrea and Fred Douglas; you three have done so much that words cannot express the gratitude that I have for you. Thank you to Rob and Tonya Holt, my host family – you mean more to me than you'll ever know; all of your words of wisdom, love, support, and encouragement cannot and should never go unrecognized. Thank you to the RBC boys, my brothers – you guys have made my years at RBC some of the most memorable years of my life; there will not be a day that passes when I won't think of you all, and I wish you nothing but the best of luck. (Don't forget the plan.)

Last, thank you to my family, friends, and God – you all carried me through the hard times and were with me in spirit during the good times.

What more could I ever ask for? Thank you!

Recruiting Update

Our spring recruiting season is well underway as we fill the slots left by our two college bound seniors. Many of you heard John Buycks of Dayton, Ohio accept a position during his speech at the March 11, 2005 fundraiser. John and his mother Toni enjoyed their first fifteen minutes of fame on the popular “Dr. Phil” television show earlier this year and both remain excited about this new adventure in their lives. John's love and prowess for football should leave the JM coaching staff excited for the next four years and his academic abilities will excite the teaching staff as well. As I write this article Robin and Scott are hosting another family from Dayton, Ohio. We are confident this boy will move from prospective to incoming scholar after meeting the RBC family and the visiting JM for the day. A special thanks to Robin and Scott Gwaltney, Mary Place, Barb Anderson, and Cindy Cox for all of their contributions to the recruiting process.

Roger Dearth

RBC Scholar-Graduates Return to Rochester for the Summer

Three RBC scholar-graduates will return to Rochester for the summer as they complete internships at IBM. Greg Monegro, class of 2002, and Danny Leon and Marcus Mason, class of 2005, will be interning at IBM and living at the RBC House.

RBC Seniors Finalize College Plans

RBC seniors Danny Leon and Marcus Mason have finalized their college plans. Danny Leon will be attending the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities next fall, where he plans to major in business management and finance, with a minor in statistics. Danny hopes that this career path will lead to ultimately owning his own business.

Marcus Mason has accepted an invitation to attend Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, receiving a full tuition scholarship. Marcus plans to major in biochemistry and eventually hopes to obtain his medical degree.

Mary Place



Upcoming Events

- May 26Senior Awards
7:30 p.m. in the J.M. Auditorium
- June 4Graduation
7:00 p.m. in the J.M. Stadium
- June 5RBC Graduation Party
2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the RBC House
- July 13RBC Board Planning Meeting
4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the RBC House

RBC Graduation Party

The RBC open house / graduation party for Danny Leon and Marcus Mason will be taking place on June 5, 2005 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the RBC House.

Please join us in celebrating the lives and accomplishments of these wonderful scholars. They have succeeded in Rochester, graduated from John Marshall High School and will now be moving on to college because of your generous support. This open house is as much expression of thanks to you as it is a celebration of Danny and Marcus.

Julie Postier

Resident Directors' Column



What an amazing year it has been at the RBC House! The two new scholars fit in so well that no one would have ever guessed they were new. It helped that Jonathan is William's younger brother and that Jonathan and Ranferi got to know each other in California before coming to Rochester. The guys all had a very successful year; grade point averages are high, attendance is great, they are all taking honors courses, everything is going just as expected. In addition to doing so well academically, the boys have been very involved in clubs and sports at JM. We certainly don't sit around much looking for something to do.

This is always a very emotional time of the year for us with the school year coming to a close. It will be hard saying good-bye to Marcus and Danny but we are happy they both plan to spend the summer with us to work at IBM. We feel fortunate that they both will attend schools near by, so that we will certainly see them often throughout their college years. We have all had an opportunity to meet our two incoming freshman for the 2005-2006 school year and they are both great. We feel confident that next year will be as successful as this one. In the meantime, we are looking forward to a little break in our very hectic lives over the summer months.

Robin and Scott Gwaltney



Please consider these Donation Options:

Donations to RBC during the summer are slow, so your contribution now is vital to the operations and success of RBC and its scholars. As a result, we enter the fall school year financially stretched, so donations regardless of amount really help maintain ongoing expenses. If you can give \$75, 50, or 25 per month over the next few months it would help tremendously. Thank you for any gift you may be able to give.

I can HELP!

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

My pledge is: \$ 200 ____ one time ____ per month \$ 75 ____ one time ____ per month
 \$ 100 ____ one time ____ per month \$ 50 ____ one time ____ per month
Other \$ ____ ____ one time ____ per month

Special Projects I'd like to help with time or materials (Name/Items): _____

Annual Fund Raiser Project: _____

Board of Directors Membership: _____

Please mail form/donation to:

Rochester Better Chance
727 2nd Street SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Additional Options to Consider:

Rochester Better Chance is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization so your donations (including in-kind gifts) are tax deductible. There are a variety of ways to contribute other than a traditional one-time donation that may make it easy and work best for you. RBC enjoys minimal administrative expenses; the working board and resident directors contribute their time and personal funds, this enables RBC to put 100 percent of donations toward educating the students and operational expenses.

IRS Tax Exemption Certificate #: 41-1237746
MN State Tax Exemption Certificate #: ES 26189

Endowments – Consider Rochester Better Chance in your estate planning. RBC is a supporting member of Greater Rochester Area Leave a Legacy Foundation. It's an excellent way to leave your legacy with the program. Consult your estate planner/lawyer for the best method for using this option.

Payroll Deductions – Are easy and automatic, and if your employer has electronic deposits, donations can automatically be transferred with each pay period. (Contact (507) 287-6876 for electronic route #'s)

Stock Certificate Transfers – Stock certificates may be transferred to RBC as a one-time gift. Value of the Donation will be based on the unit stock price and quantity of shares transferred over on date of transaction.

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Resident Directors

Robin & Scott Gwaltney

We would like to extend our thanks
to all our friends and supporters who have
supported our community program for 31 years!

Thank you Rochester!

*A very special thank you from all of us at RBC to
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