



Winter Newsletter

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

December 2007

P.O. Box 506 • 727 2nd Street SW • Rochester, MN 55903 • (507) 289-4370 • Webmaster@rochesterbetterchance.org • www.rochesterbetterchance.org

RBC Mission Statement

Rochester Better Chance (RBC) provides to bright, talented, and aspiring minority candidates a mentoring and nurturing home environment, optimizing their opportunities to excel in school and community settings. This prepares them for an excellent college education and future leadership opportunities.

You're invited to join us at the Holiday Open House

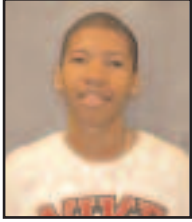
Friday December 14th

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

At the RBC House 727 2nd ST S.W.



RBC Scholars



Demetrius Champen
Class of 2009
Dayton, OH



James Roche
Class of 2009
Bronx, NY



Jonathan Orquiz
Class of 2008
Riverside, CA



Zelford Leonard
Class of 2008
Cliffwood, NJ



Ranferi Cruz
Class of 2008
Riverside, CA

Fall is always a busy time when the boys return to the RBC House. You will find them throwing a football, watching football, and keeping up with their studies. This fall, Jonathan, Ranferi and Demetrius played Varsity Soccer and Jonathan was named Honorable Mention to the Big 9 All Conference Team. Demetrius mentors incoming freshman as a Link Crew leader. Teen Life Concerns allows Jonathan, Ranferi, and Zelford to share life skills with middle school students. Zelford is also using his great oratory skills as a member of the Speech team and the Mock Trial team, but the choir will miss his voice. James is currently investigating different activities to find his niche, while playing intramural basketball with the rest. You will also see their faces as community volunteers hoping to make a difference here including the Ronald McDonald House. Currently the seniors are busy working on their college applications and scholarships. So there is never a dull moment at the house!



*Jonathan Orquiz in action at the JM-Mayo game
September 18.
Photo courtesy of the Post Bulletin*



*Ranferi Cruz & Demetrius Champen at the National
College Fair Minneapolis*

RBC Tutors



During their time in Rochester, the RBC scholars receive guidance from many people in many forms. One of the most regular and important forms of guidance they receive is from their tutors. Every school night, three or four Mayo Medical students and their spouses dedicate an hour of their time to help the scholars during their nightly study hall. For many years, the students of Mayo Medical School and their significant others have fulfilled this role within the RBC program.

Although a great proportion of our time is dedicated to assisting with homework, school projects, test preparation, and college applications, most of us feel that our role goes far beyond just helping the scholars excel in the classroom. Because we are able to work one on one with each scholar on a weekly basis, we have a great opportunity to form strong mentoring relationships with each of them. Besides helping them solve math equations or write essays, we discuss topics such as their college hopes, career plans, and future lifetime goals. We see this as not only a great responsibility but also as an honor.

Although we give one hour of our time every week and countless words of advice and encouragement, we receive a great deal in return from each of the scholars. It is exceptionally rewarding to watch them grow and aspire just as we did a handful of years ago. As we give the scholars guidance on achieving their future goals, they serve as a constant reminder to us of how eager and hopeful we were at their age. It is very rewarding to see that our contribution to RBC and the scholars is not just helping the scholars improve their academic performance. Every week we are granted the opportunity to invest in the lives of five outstanding young men.

Current Tutors: Anand Patel, Mariana Cook, Nafisseh Sirjani, Christopher Camp, Tunde Adekola, Justin Juskewitch, Ashlee Byrd, Diana Frey, Rod Rahimi, Ryan Antiel, Leslie Antiel, Stephen Mihalcik, Kristen Yuan, Brandon Yuan, Jenny Martinez, Neha Kumar, Greg Boone, and Randy Miles

The most important asset of any organization is the People. We are trying to find former: SCHOLARS, TUTORS, VOLUNTEERS, HOST FAMILIES and BOARD MEMBERS.

Please contact us at webmaster@rochesterbetterchance.org

Community Days of Caring



Washing windows and siding.



Painting the front steps.



President Jackie Olson supervising.



Jackie Olson helping the painting crew.

Remodelers Council



Fundraising Evening

Save the Date

RBC GALA Fundraising Evening
Friday March 7
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

International Event Center



Will you be there???

Otto Bremer Foundation Grant Scholar –*Jonathan Orquiz*



The Minnesota ABC received a grant this past summer from the Otto Bremer Foundation, based out of St. Paul, Minnesota. The Minnesota ABC then divided the grant across the four ABC programs in our state, based on the number of students in each program. As part of the grant requirements, we have named a specific scholar, Jonathan Orquiz, to correspond with this foundation on a regular basis to let them know how he is progressing through our great program.

The Otto Bremer Foundation mission statement is: “In accordance with the principles set forth by Otto Bremer in his trust agreement, the mission of the Otto Bremer Foundation is to assist people in achieving full economic, civic and social participation in and for the betterment of their communities. Beneficiaries must reside in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota, with preference given to those in regions served by Bremer banks.”

The Otto Bremer Foundation emphasizes two programmatic strategies: Civic Engagement and Organizational Effectiveness. These programmatic strategies, combined with program related investments and community connections, ultimately help the Foundation achieve its mission, not only fitting the trust agreement and reflecting Otto Bremer’s own interests, but also helping to ensure that nonprofit organizations can best serve the communities with and in which they work.

We are honored to receive this grant, and especially honored to have Jonathan be our voice back to the Otto Bremer Foundation.

President's Corner by Jackie Olson

Happy Holidays! The fall months have been busy with the scholars and the Gwaltney family focused on school work, along with soccer and football and other John Marshall activities. Imagine having five students in your house getting ready for the Homecoming dance!

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we have five committees focused on specific goals for the organization. One committee's focus is a Capital Plan for House Maintenance and Restoration. We are pleased to have Roger Dearth leading this committee, which will be focused on a plan to remodel each floor and the outside, while we transition in new Resident Directors and students in the next 2-3 years. If you have driven by the house in the past four months, you may have seen a sign from the Rochester Remodelers Council. They have selected the RBC house for their 2007 Community Project and have nearly completed remodeling the 2nd floor bathroom. The room is amazingly different! Also this fall, through the United Way "Day of Caring" program, we had about 15 IBM employees come to the house on two Friday afternoons to power wash the outside of the house, clean windows, and then paint the front and side porches. We are very pleased with the results and the hard work put forth.

As the years go by, having 7-8 teenagers in a house can start to wear down the furniture, etc. Here is a "Wish List" for you to consider. If you have any of these items or other household items to donate, please call the house at 289-4370, and Robin and Scott will let you know if it is something we can use.

WISHLIST

Furniture for the basement: Couches or sectional sofa or chairs
Towels for the 3 bathrooms
Towels for the kitchen
Beds – twin size, full size, and/or bunk
Large area rugs for the wood floors on the main floor
Conference style table and chairs for the study room
Security System

On behalf of everyone connected with the RBC program, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season. Please consider the RBC program when planning your year-end donations.

Jackie Olson, RBC President

Upcoming Events

December 12	RBC Board Meeting	March 7	RBC GALA Fundraising Event 6-9 p.m., International Event Center
December 14	Holiday Open House 5-7 p.m., RBC House	April 9	RBC Board Meeting
January 9	RBC Board Meeting	May 14	RBC Board Meeting
February 13	RBC Board Meeting	June 8	Graduation Open House 4-7 p.m., RBC House
March 5	RBC Board Meeting	June 11	RBC Board Meeting

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
P.O. Box 506
727 2nd Street SW
Rochester, MN 55903

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.

RBC Board Members

Jackie Olson, President, IBM
Eric Funk, Vice-President, Thrivent Financial
Mary Place, Secretary, Retired John Marshall English Teacher
Jill M. Eggerichs, Treasurer, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP
Roger Dearth, Past President, Mayo Clinic
Jill Beed, Mayo Clinic
Cindy Cox, John Marshall High School
Dirk Erickson, Bouquet Companies
Pam Haack, Winona State University Adjunct Professor &
Retired Rochester Public Schools Administrator
Kimberly Hall, Mayo Clinic
Rosemary Kuzma, Mayo Clinic
Alyx Porter-Umphrey, Mayo Clinic
Jen Schnabel, Veteran's Administration Hospital & Great Plains Legal
Mark Burns, IBM
Patrick Allen, Student Board Member, Mayo High School
Whitney Thompson, Student Board Member, Mayo High School



*“A Better Chance...
For A Better Future”*

Resident Directors

Robin & Scott Gwaltney

Other

Mary Lou Bartholome, Administrative Assistant

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
our newsletter sponsor: **Mayo Foundation**
200 First Street SW
Rochester, MN 55905*

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