



# Winter 2009

P.O. Box 506 • 727 2nd Street SW • Rochester, MN 55902  
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*“A Better Chance . . . For A Better Future”*

January 2009

*You're cordially invited to the*  
**Rochester Better Chance  
Annual Gala & Silent Auction**

Friday, March 6, 2009  
6:00 p.m. - Reception & Silent Auction  
7:00 p.m. - Dinner

**International Event Center**  
7333 Airport View Drive SW • Rochester

\$50 per person or \$450 per table of 10

RSVP by February 27, 2009 to:  
Rochester Better Chance  
P.O. Box 506  
Rochester, MN 55903



Scott and Robin Gwaltney, their children, Brett and Jenna, and five RBC scholars pictured at the 2008 RBC Gala.

*Celebrate the past 16 years with  
Resident Directors Robin & Scott Gwaltney.  
Also featuring a “where are they now” look  
with dozens of past RBC scholars.  
This is an evening you won't want to miss!*

## RBC Holiday Open House

The Rochester Better Chance Board of Directors and Resident Directors Robin and Scott Gwaltney hosted a Holiday Open House at the RBC house in December. The house committee provided tours and shared ideas for the upcoming renovation at the house. Thanks to all who attended!



'Tis the holiday season at the RBC house.



James, Jenna and Demetrius.

### Rochester Better Chance Mission Statement

Rochester Better Chance (RBC) provides bright, talented and aspiring minority candidates with 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.

## President's Corner



Jackie Olson  
RBC President

Hello everyone! More than six months have passed since our last RBC newsletter, and WOW, we have had a busy six months!

The Board investigated the possibility of moving to a different house for the 2009-2010 school year, and after a thorough business case review, we voted to stay in the current house and remodel when appropriate funds are available. With the current economy, we are weighing our options for a Capital Campaign. Our operating expenses take top priority, so we need to make sure our existing and current donors know we are making sound decisions to maintain a vital Better Chance Program. I wish to thank Sean Allen and Steve Thornton from the Rochester Area Foundation. Their advice to the Board as we made a decision on the house was critical. They

are strong leaders of a critical Foundation for this community. We look forward to a continued positive relationship with this foundation as Rochester and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Project evolves.

Our scholars, Demetrius Champen and James Roche, returned to Rochester in late August to begin their senior years at John Marshall. They, along with Jenna Gwaltney, will graduate in June at the same time Scott and Robin Gwaltney will leave the program as our resident directors. Please block your calendars on March 6 for a very special Gala to honor Scott and Robin! They were also recognized last summer for KTTC's 10 Who Make a Difference, and then in October through REALTOR Magazine's 2008 Good Neighbor Award! And, take a look at the December 2008 issue of Rochester Magazine where there is a wonderful article about our program! Four past scholars are interviewed along with Scott and Robin. The Better Chance program truly does make a difference in our community and our nation!

We will soon be interviewing scholar candidates to join our program at the start of the 2009 - 2010 school year. We will likely start fresh with four scholars and grow to six the following year. This will allow a steady transition for our new resident directors, Denise and Tom Moody. We will tell you more about them in a future newsletter, however, I must let you all know that feedback from many community members has been very positive that a great selection was made.

As always, thank you for support of this very worthwhile program.

## First Annual RBC Best Ball Golf Tournament is a success!

Last Fall, on Monday, October 20, Rochester Better Chance hosted the First Annual Rochester Better Chance Best Ball Golf Tournament at Eastwood Golf Course. The event raised more than \$1,000 to support RBC. It was a perfect Fall day with sunshine and temps in the mid to upper 50s. Forty golfers participated in a fun-filled day with field contests throughout the course and an excellent dinner to round out the evening. Fifty yard chip-ins and 50-foot putts were the news at the dinner. Thanks to all who participated and to Eastwood Golf Course for hosting the event. Due to the tremendous positive feedback, please watch for a "Save the Date" card for our Second Annual RBC Golf Tournament to be held next Fall.



## Update from the RBC House Committee

What an exciting time this is for Rochester Better Chance. As the coming year anticipates many changes and new faces, I have the privilege of chairing the committee focused on making improvements to the house.



Sandy Haydon  
Chair, House Committee

The RBC Board initiated the renovation project in 2008 with a set of goals for house. These goals included reducing the monthly operating costs, resolving known deficiencies, and ensuring it provides a safe, secure, and appealing living environment for our scholars and resident directors.

Shortly after the project was initiated, the RBC Board received an opportunity to relocate. In order to select which house would best serve the program in the future, we asked two general contractors to assist us in developing a business case. A key component of the business case was an estimate of renovation/upgrade costs for each house. Our special thanks to these contractors and their associates for donating their time and expertise to provide us with these estimates. Our thanks go to Master Builders, Tom Gommels, and associates: Action Plumbing, Tonna Mechanical, Hamilton Electric, Stock Building Supply, Shott's Hardwood Flooring, and Home Improvement Professionals. Creekwood Construction, Ryan Schultz, and associates: Total Electric, Braun Plumbing, and New Direction flooring.

After careful review of the business case and other factors, the RBC Board voted to renovate the current house at 727 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW.

In August, a House Committee was established to lead the renovation efforts, in addition to providing normal house maintenance. This committee has developed design and architectural proposals and defined a set of phases for this renovation work. The first phase is to replace all 42 windows in the original portion of the house. Our thanks to Pella Windows and Doors for their generosity in providing these windows at an affordable cost.

The RBC Board also gives thanks the following Rochester businesses for donating their time and expertise for the following activities:

Developing design and architectural proposals for house renovation:

- Rochester Design society
- Holabird & Root
- Hammel, Green, Abrahamson (HGA)

Serving as members of the House Committee:

- Holabird & Root
- Hammel, Green, Abrahamson (HGA)
- Premier Builders

Providing on-going house maintenance and repairs:

- Total Home Detailing, Inc.

Stay tuned for future updates on our progress.

### RBC Calendar

February 11	RBC Board Meeting 7 p.m. at the RBC House
March 4	RBC Board Meeting 7 p.m. at the RBC House
March 6	RBC Gala Fundraiser 6 p.m. - Reception & Silent Auction, 7 p.m. - Dinner International Event Center
March 11	RBC Board Meeting 7 p.m. at the RBC House

### '08 RBC graduates - where are they now?



Ranferi Cruz, a 2008 graduate of John Marshall High School, is attending the University of California - Berkeley.



Zelford Leonard, a 2008 graduate of John Marshall High School, is attending Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.



Jonathan Orquiz, a 2008 graduate of John Marshall High School, is attending Riverside Community College in Riverside, California, with his brother, Will, who is a 2007 graduate from John Marshall and RBC.

## Please consider a donation to Rochester Better Chance . . .

Your contribution is vital to the operations and success of RBC and its scholars. The programs' operational expenses continue to rise, so a monthly contribution would help tremendously. Thank you for considering a donation to Rochester Better Chance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**My pledge is:** \$200 \_\_\_ one time \_\_\_ per month      \$100 \_\_\_ one time \_\_\_ per month

\$75 \_\_\_ 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  
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.

**PRESIDENT:** Jackie Olson, IBM

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Eric Funk, Thrivent Financial

**SECRETARY:** Mary Place, John Marshall English Teacher, retired

**TREASURER:** Jill M. Eggerichs, McGladrey & Pullen, L.L.P.

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Roger Dearth, Mayo Clinic

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

John Archbold, Mayo Clinic

Jill Beed, Mayo Clinic

Mark Burns, IBM

Cindy Cox, John Marshall High School

Pam Haack, Winona State University Adjunct Professor &  
retired Rochester Public Schools Administrator

Sandy Haydon, IBM, retired

Lorie Luedke, IBM

Terri Lundak, IBM

Rayna Dyck, Mayo Clinic

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER:**

Patrick Allen, Student Board Member, Mayo High School

Michael Allen, Student Board Member, Mayo High School

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Mary Lou Bartholome

**RESIDENT DIRECTORS:** Robin & Scott Gwaltney



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*For A Better Future”*

We extend our thanks to all who  
have supported our community  
program for 31 years!

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507.289.4370

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