



Winter 2010

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

January 2010

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

Friday, March 5, 2010
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, 2010 to:
Rochester A Better Chance
P.O. Box 506 Rochester, MN 55903



*Come and meet RBC's four new scholars -
Dontorrie, Jorge, Eric, and Wesley -
and RBC's new resident directors,
Tom and Denise Moody.
An enjoyable evening you won't want to miss!*

RBC house improvements continue

The fall season brought another round of house improvement activities. Thanks to more than 75 IBM volunteers participating in four "IBM Days of Caring," the third floor of the house has been repaired, painted, cleaned and ready for the RBC scholars to occupy. In addition, the front entry was updated, the new windows received a final coat of varnish and the kitchen steps were painted.

This wrapped up the house spruce-up projects for 2009. Overall, we replaced 42 windows, had two roof leaks repaired, one which was major, 11 rooms repaired and painted, three kitchen appliances and nine ceiling lights were



replaced. We also had an energy audit performed, painted the front porch and kitchen steps, washers, dryers and furnaces repaired and the house was thoroughly cleaned from top to bottom.

The House Committee is now developing a list of projects for 2010. We look forward to another exciting year.

Rochester A Better Chance Mission Statement: Rochester A 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



Eric Funk
RBC President

I am pleased to announce that Rochester A Better Chance will be looking for two additional scholars to join the program beginning with the school year of 2010-2011. This is exciting news as the scholars are the primary reason all of us continue to support this organization.

Sandy Haydon, who heads our house committee, has been working diligently to keep the house maintained and at this point I am happy to say that we have no pressing needs. This is a wonderful place to be with the roof leaks and other concerns that came up so abruptly this spring and summer.

We are currently evaluating expenses of the RBC program to determine how it can be run more efficiently. This is being done for the long-term viability of the program and to further help our volunteers and donors understand where their contributions are being spent. RBC's resident directors, Tom and Denise Moody, have been keeping a close eye on house expenses as we all continue to look for ways for the program to reduce costs.

For the past several months, the RBC board has been looking at its structure to make sure we have a succession plan in place for all board members. This is being done to allow for future board members to be successful in their new roles and to help create some continuity of the good work from previous board members.

The last piece of news aligns with the future of the program. We have started a Vision Committee to help create a long-term vision for the program. We asked previous board members as well as community leaders familiar with the program and others with no previous involvement with the program to offer their insight. Our hope is this diverse group will help find ways for the program to remain strong for years to come. We have no timeline on this as we do not want to create something for the long term and push it through quickly. I would like to have this done and shared with the community so everyone has an understanding of where the program hopes to be in the long term.

I want to finish my letter thanking you for your support of Rochester A Better Chance, and I hope to see many of you at the annual RBC Gala on March 5 at the Rochester International Event Center.

Eric Funk
RBC President

RBC Calendar

February 10	RBC Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Rochester A Better Chance house
March 3	RBC Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Rochester A Better Chance house
March 5	Rochester A Better Chance Gala International Event Center
April 14	RBC Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Rochester A Better Chance house
May 12	RBC Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Rochester A Better Chance house

RBC thanks Minnesota Energy Resources



Rory Lenton (left), Minnesota Energy Resources, presented a check for \$5,000 to RBC President Eric Funk to assist with remodeling RBC's 100+ year old home.

RBC is looking for . . .

- snowblower, sleds, snow pants for the boys
- humidifiers
- electric blankets for the boys' beds
- household staples such as laundry soap, paper towels, toilet paper, and garbage bags

A message from Tom and Denise Moody, RBC resident directors

It has been a very busy first semester for both the boys and us. Since the boys arrived, Denise and I have experienced several new and fun events. During the fall semester, Jorge played on the Junior Varsity John Marshall soccer team. For those of us who haven't had much experience with soccer, we had a very good time



attending his games. As fall moved into winter, two of the scholars, Jorge and Dontorrie, signed-up for wrestling. They had their first meet in early December and

again, we found it eye-opening. The boys weighed in at 7:30 in the morning and did not come home until 6:30 p.m. We really enjoyed watching them wrestle and interact with their teammates and peers! Following the meet, we picked up our Christmas tree and spent the rest



of the evening decorating for Christmas. For one of the boys this was their first Christmas tree ever.

Early on in the school year, Denise and I wanted to challenge the scholars to set a high GPA goal for the first quarter. After talking with several of the past scholars, we came to realize that going to school here at JM can be a lot more difficult than what the scholars were used to and it wasn't uncommon for them to find it much more difficult to be successful than in the past. This, coupled with the fact that the boys are all taking honors classes and are away from home for the first time in their lives,

worried us because we really wanted the boys to feel they can be successful here in Rochester. During dinner

one evening, we discussed this with the guys. As a group, we agreed that if they could collectively have a house GPA of 3.5 during the first quarter, we would take them up to the Mall of America and stay in the Twin Cities overnight. Well, the guys all rose to the occasion. At the end of the quarter, the house GPA was a 3.65! We were extremely proud of them! We took them to the Mall of America and had a great time. The guys wandered the mall and we had



lunch at the Rainforest Café. At the end of the day, we stayed at a hotel (where the fire alarm went off and the fire department came) and in the morning, we went and played video games and ate pizza at Chuck E. Cheese. For this semester, the guys have decided to maintain their GPA of 3.65. If they can reach this goal again, they have decided they would like to go skiing. I have never skied before, but I think I had better learn pretty quick!

MEA Weekend Getaway

For the long MEA weekend in October, we took the opportunity to get away to Wisconsin Dells for a two night stay. We stayed at the Wilderness Resort with Denise's parents and siblings. We enjoyed hitting all three of the water parks. It was a great reminder of how important and fun it is just to take time to play with your kids. I think having so many kids around is going to keep us young!



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RESIDENT DIRECTORS: Tom and Denise Moody



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We extend our thanks to all who have supported our community program for more than 35 years.