



Fall 2010

P.O. Box 506 • 727 2nd Street SW • Rochester, MN 55903
Webmaster@rochesterbetterchance.org • www.rochesterbetterchance.org

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

Meet the busy RBC scholars

Wesley Cammon, sophomore, Chicago, IL

Family: parents and a sister

Favorite Class: American Studies

Wesley is looking forward to all of the events and the RBC Gala.

Dontorrie Chatman, sophomore, Chicago, IL

Family: mom

Favorite Class: American Studies

Dontorrie is looking forward to the RBC Gala and snowball fights.

Cody Jones, freshman, Indianapolis, IN

Family: mom

Favorite Class: Physical Education

Cody is looking forward to getting good grades at the end of the year, making friends and having fun at home.

Nickolas Vasquez, freshman, Santa Ana, CA

Family: parents and a brother

Favorite Class: American Studies

Nickolas is looking forward to his first year at the RBC house and having a good academic year.



Pictured from top to bottom of stairs: Cody, Eric, Nickolas, Dontorrie and Wesley.

Eric Walker, sophomore, Santa Ana, CA

Family: parents, sister and six half brothers

Favorite Classes: Chemistry, Algebra

Eric is looking forward to snowboarding this winter and kayaking in the spring.

Updates on the house continue

The RBC House Committee has completed another round of maintenance items. The most significant task was repairing bedroom 2A which was damaged during last year's roof leak. Thanks to 10 IBM volunteers (as part of IBM Days of Caring) and several committee members, one of the boys eagerly moved into his new bedroom. And, he didn't even wait for the trim to be installed.

This past summer, CareFest helped RBC by installing a donated tool shed, washing windows, and developing a parking area in the back of the house. In August, the RBC tutors helped prep the house for the boys' return by giving the house a good cleaning. The IBM volunteers painted several hallways and stairways plus did miscellaneous handyman tasks. A big RBC THANKS to all our volunteers: CareFest, tutors, and IBM.

The House Committee was very excited to recently learn that RBC will be a recipient of a 2011 Community Development Grant. This funding should enable us to complete the long list of renovation projects started more than two years ago. These projects include tasks such as replacing a 40-plus-year-old furnace on third floor, insulating the attics, improving the exterior (soffits/facia, gutters/downspouts, siding, foundation covering), asbestos abatement in the basement, and other items.

This wraps up the house spruce-up projects for this year. We're looking forward to our 2011 projects.

WANTED LIST:

- ✓ A sturdy vacuum cleaner
- ✓ Rug shampooer
- ✓ Window fans
- ✓ Snow blower
- ✓ Refrigerator (to be used for extra food storage)

President's Corner



Terri Lundak
RBC President

Do you enjoy reading our newsletter? We're challenged with the cost of distributing our newsletter and although we are looking for funds and donations to continue this mailing, we currently have plans to send this electronically only in the future. We are so thankful to have your support and the opportunity to share our progress with you periodically so we ask that you please consider sending your email address to: webmaster@rochesterbetterchance.org and request to receive the newsletter via email.

It's a new school year with lots of exciting things happening. First and foremost our resident directors, Tom and Denise Moody, welcomed their son, Tallen, into the world and the Rochester A Better Chance house at 7:03 a.m. on Thursday, October 7. That means there are now eight children residing in the house. Wesley and Dontorrie had a great summer in Chicago and are back as sophomores. Eric spent his summer at home in California, also returning as a sophomore. Cody Jones joins the RBC house as a freshman from Indianapolis and Nickolas Vasquez joins us as a freshman from Los Angeles.

There have been some exciting changes to the Rochester A Better Chance board. I'll start by introducing myself. I'm Terri Lundak and I've been involved with RBC for the past three years. I'm a manager at IBM and have been living in Rochester for the past 14 years. I spend my time outside of IBM with family and friends, along with walking, cooking, reading, hiking, and making wine.

I'd like to welcome our new board members: Michael Tally - Mayo Clinic, Laura Samuell - Mayo Clinic, Ben Turnquist - Smith Schafer & Associates, Kevin Melvin - Mayo Clinic, and Pancho Garcia - IBM.

Our current board is energetic, fun, and I'm looking forward to working with each of them and to a very successful year for RBC. We also have a couple board members stepping down from the board that I'd like to publicly thank - Eric Funk and Thrivent for their support, and Jill Smith, from Mayo Clinic, who fulfilled a full term as RBC's legal advisor.

It was an exciting 2009-2010 school year as the program transitioned through significant changes in preparation for its future. Along with many areas of the economy, RBC faced and continues to face severe financial challenges. This coming year will be a year of focus on financial sustainability, and of course, a major emphasis will be on helping the five scholars get a better chance with the support of all who make the RBC program a reality.

In every newsletter, I plan to share details about a specific aspect of our program as a way of helping the community become more intimately aware of how RBC operates. The first key area of support that I'd like to share with you is our host families. Host family relationships are often the most enduring. A host family acts as a mentor and as a friend, imparting lessons of respect, responsibility, and leadership. Visits typically occur every other Sunday to allow a brief respite to the resident directors and to give our scholars another resource in the community. The exact nature of the relationships are as different as the people themselves, but the impact is often the same, making an incredible impact on youth during their critical teen years. We'd like to thank our current host families: Eric - Robin and Scott Gwaltney, Dontorrie - Tim and Kristen Limberg, Nick - Jon and Trisha Torrens-Burton, Wesley - Colin and Andrea Thomas, Cody - Trevor and Kari Wahlen.

The program has some exciting events planned and these will only be successful with the community's support and participation. If it's been awhile since you've been involved with Rochester A Better Chance, please reach out to me or Tom and Denise, or to any of our board members. The program is more exciting than ever, and we'd love to have you be a part.

Thank you for your continued support.

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.

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

Your contribution is vital to the operations and success of RBC and its scholars. The program's operational expenses continue to rise, so a monthly contribution would help tremendously. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

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

\$75 one time per month \$50 one time per month

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Please mail form/donation to: Rochester A Better Chance
P.O. Box 506
Rochester, MN 55903



Rochester A Better Chance is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization so your donations (including in-kind gifts) are tax deductible. 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

Save the date for two upcoming RBC events!

Bowling Night for Rochester A Better Chance (A Rochester WinterFest Event)

Saturday, February 5, 2011
Rochester Recreation Lanes

Watch for detailed information in the
Rochester WinterFest promotions and
www.rochesterbetterchance.org



Rochester A Better Chance Annual Gala & Silent Auction

Friday, March 4, 2011
Rochester International Event Center



Come and meet RBC's scholars:
Dontorrie, Eric, Wesley, Cody and Nikolas.
Dinner, Silent Auction and more!
An enjoyable evening you won't want to miss!

Rochester A Better Chance
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