



FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS  
A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1974



Dear Friends, Neighbors and Supporters of the FM ABC Program,

The mission of Fayetteville-Manlius A Better Chance (“FMABC”) is simple: We give academically talented young women of color from underserved urban areas a chance to overcome daunting obstacles and enhance their potential for achievement by providing a challenging educational experience and a supportive residential environment. Scholars apply to our program with the hope of securing a better future and the 100 graduates during the 50 years of its existence are evidence that it is a seminal experience. These young women have used the education made available to them and the tools and skills gained as part of the FMABC program to change the course of their lives. They have attended college, pursued careers, and become successful professionals, leading the way for others to follow. But it’s not a one-way street. Their presence while in residence improves the local community, helping to diversify Fayetteville-Manlius High School while breaking down racial barriers and socioeconomic stereotypes. These students are not only scholars, but very often leaders among their peers.

During their high school years, FMABC scholars live in the program residence and attend Fayetteville-Manlius High School. We provide supervised room and board and academic support during the 10 months of the school year. We function much like a boarding school, with one important exception – there is no charge to the scholar or her family. Each scholar is supported by staff and board members, an academic advisor, and two host families, as well as counselors and teachers at FM High School. Scholars receive numerous personal, social, and cultural enrichment opportunities. We also assist scholars with the college application process and in securing financial-aid packages.

The FMABC residence located in Manlius was built in 1806 and purchased by the program in 1974. A capital campaign about 20 years ago raised funds used to upgrade the electrical system, replace and repair molding, and install new walls and floors. In the interim we have replaced the furnace, painted the interior, upgraded windows, bought new furniture and made significant cosmetic improvements to enhance the living environment for our scholars and staff. We undertook an expansion and renovation of the staff portion of the residence, adding an 800 sq. foot apartment in order to continue to attract high-quality staff to oversee the scholars and the operation of the residence.

**All of this comes with a cost. We have been thankful for the support of many people, organizations and businesses in the past. This year we find ourselves with higher maintenance costs, transportation costs, special high school course costs and insurance costs. We truly need your financial help to maintain the quality program we have had and want to continue. Please remember that your contribution goes 100% to the program. It is truly appreciated.**

Thank you.

**Nancy Durkin**

Chair, FM AB Board of Directors

