

also their involvement in the community. For the A Better Chance Program, turning 50 does not mean having a midlife crisis. The impact that the program has on Andover can be seen in every aspect of the town. Not only have the kids that have called the ABC House their home been academically prevalent, they've been involved in show choir and sports to almost everything in between.

Mr. Norton, AHS assistant principal, attended the Gala event and said he believed that "the impact of the ABC Program on Andover High School has been valuable on many levels. First, the opportunity to meet amazingly hardworking and courageous students who take incredible risks to leave their own communities to come

alumni, host families, supporters, former teachers, all sorts of parts of the community that came to support these scholars."

"[E]very high school student needs to experience ...meeting people that are different than they are."
Assistant Principal Darlington

The event was anticipated to have a turnout of 250 people, but it ended up receiving an immense crowd of almost 400. Thankfully the venue was large enough to hold all of the unaccounted-for

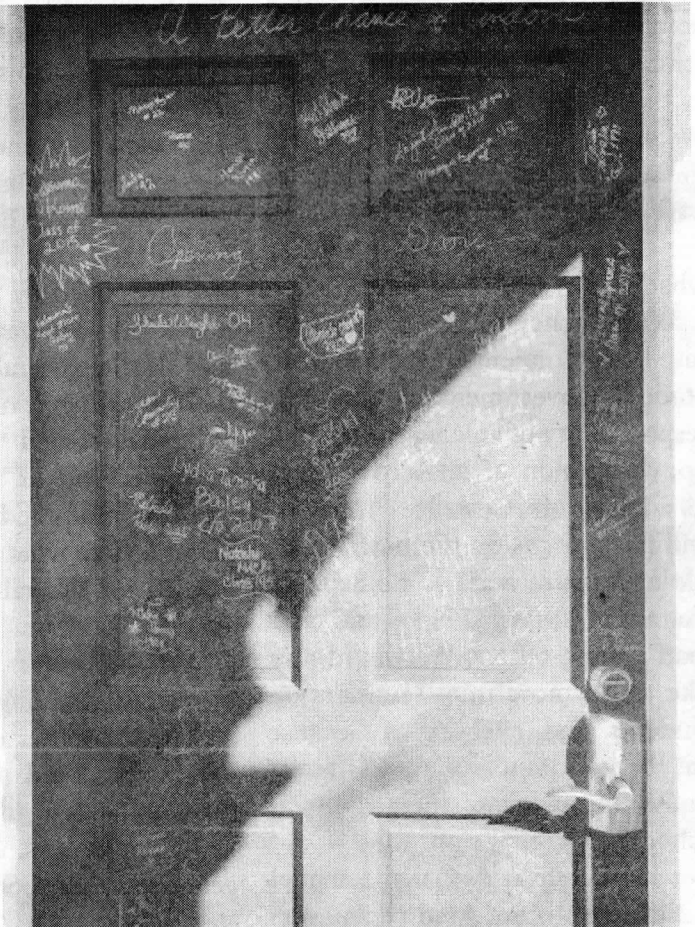
families of the current Andover residents also were able to enjoy the festivities.

Mr. Darlington, another AHS assistant principal who attended the event, reflected on the value of the diversity ABC brings. He stated, "I just think something that every high school student needs to experience is meeting people that are different than they are, to meet and share experiences with these people is a key part of your education."

Padovani, a New York City native, recounted that "the 50th was an amazing event, the turnout was amazing and it just goes to show how big of an impact the program has had not only on us, but on this community in Andover," she said.



Above: A banner for the event is bookended on either side by flags of alumnae's colleges. At right: The door of the ABC House is marked with the names of returning alumnae.



Courtesy Photo; Photo by Sydney Bergan