

## Grace Barlow



Grace Barlow states that her personal “mission is to inspire, lead, and promote while expressing the value of faith, courage, and optimism to, for, or with broadcast journalism, performing arts and mental health.”

Grace is a 2023 graduate of Abington Friends School graduating with a 3.55 grade point average. Grace demonstrated her ability as a scholar and a leader by managing her time and resources well. She has an impressive academic and community service record and is the recipient of a \$1,500 Book Scholarship from the R.W. Sorrell Scholarship Fund. Grace has earned a seat with the 2027 graduating class at **Spelman College** in Atlanta, Georgia where she will pursue a degree in Communications. Her vision is to become a journalist. She has already received honors and recognition for her written work from the Philadelphia Inquirer for submitting the best overall story related to the lack of black representation in literature and its impact on students mental health. WHY? also recognized her as a finalist by presenting her with the Youth Medal Award. Additionally, Grace was nominated and awarded an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Science on a video produced with WHY? highlighting the impact of gentrification and displacement in Philadelphia.

Grace is an active member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Community Liaison for the Pennsylvania Girl Choir, and Senior Motet on the Pennsylvania Girls Choir. Grace has a passion for singing and hopes to join the Spelman choir. She sings at her church and nationally around the country.

While attending Abington Friends School, Grace was involved in numerous extra-curricular activities, i.e., President of Black Student Union (BSU), via Quaker consensus, peers nominated her Clerk of the BSU, where she challenged, lead and inspired the student body toward unity and change. As President of the Psychology Club, whose mission was to dismantle the stigma of mental health in underrepresented communities, she educated herself about mental health challenges through meetings with clinical psychologists and sports therapists to help spread awareness of seeking mental health treatment. Grace’s leadership ability was showcased once again when she led the BSU’s event by organizing, “HoopsGiving.” Her school’s first basketball tournament allowed students to raise funds beyond their goal for a trip to the African-American Museum in Washington, D.C. There, they celebrated Black History Month with guest speaker Marc Lamont Hill.

Grace exhibits a strong faith and is very active in her church where she is head youth volunteer of “Two Fish, Five Loaves,” a food distribution service. She was also the organizer of the “Day of Hope Sock Drive,” where over 2,500 socks were distributed to those in need.

Congratulations Grace! ■