

# Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation

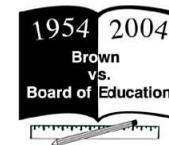
Summer 2004

## 2004 Annual Award Program

### Special Points of Interest:

- ▶ 2004 Scholarship Awarded
- ▶ Area Young People to Participate
- ▶ Mr. Oliver W. Hill Recognized

In Celebration of  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



MMHMF Outreach Delivers School Supplies For Needy Children In 3 Chesterfield Schools

It took just 2 weeks from the time the decision was made at the summer meeting of the Outreach Committee to provide supplies to schools to the actual delivery of 12 attractively decorated large laundry baskets and boxes to schools in Chesterfield County. Article on page 8.



**LATONYA BOWLES**

2004 Scholarship Recipient

(see page 6)

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President Clinton congratulates Oliver Hill, key attorney in the legendary Supreme Court Case, after presenting him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, August 11, 1999.

**A quote from Mr. Oliver Hill:** "In those days the big issue, as far as Negroes were concerned, was to try to get a law through Congress to make it unlawful to lynch a Negro. Getting something done through the political process was obviously out of the question. The only thing that seemed feasible to me was to go back to the Supreme Court and try to convince them they were wrong in \*1896. That was my motivation."

\*1896 was the year the Court decided Plessy v. Ferguson and established the legal principle "separate but equal." Page 3

### ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE GOSPEL SERVICE CONTINUES TO SUPPORT MMHMF.



**Major Bruce W. Jones,  
Gospel Service Chaplain**

In 2003, the 11:30 a.m. Gospel Service selected MMHMF to receive a "designated offerings." "Over \$2,600 was donated in February, 2003. MMHMF is grateful for the continued generous support of the Service.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN**

From the Desk of the Chair

Thank you for your continued support of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation. Your continued support has allowed us to move closer to accomplishing our goals and to honor the legacy of the foundation's namesake.

We are celebrating two milestones this year, both related and one building on the other. We celebrate the 6th anniversary of the foundation, an organization established to help ensure that underrepresented children of this community learn to value education and get the opportunity to pursue their educational goals. We also celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown versus the Board of Education. The intent of those who successfully argued the case before the Supreme Court was to ensure that children of all races and ethnicity have the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams and that this pursuit takes place on a level playing field. Brown vs. Board forced the nation to come to grips with the stark fact that we were a nation where "separate but equal" had never worked, did not work, and had no hope of ever working. Brown vs. Board allowed for all citizens to reach for and to believe in the American dream. While there have been successes, the struggle continues.

In 1959 – 20% of African Americans graduated from High School. In 2004, that number is closer to 70%. According to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, in 1960, only 4% of the Black population had a college degree. Now that percentage has grown to 17.3 percent. More than 3.7 million African Americans alive today hold a four-year college diploma. African Americans are making meaningful contributions in fields that 20 years ago, we only dreamed about. We are college presidents, we are astronauts, we are chairs of major boards, we are scientists.

While these results are impressive, there is still significant progress that must be made if we are to close the achievement gap. We know that if students are held to high standards, if they are placed in an environment that is supportive and nurturing, those students can and will succeed. For example, studies show that African American home-schooled children perform on par with white home-schooled children and that both groups score well above the average for all children. We also note that African American students that are products of Department of Defense School systems score significantly above Blacks in the general population. Both of these examples show what is possible if standards are high and if support is provided,

Your support has made it possible for MMHMF to make a difference. You have taken to heart the old African Proverb "It takes a village to raise a child". On behalf of the Board, I offer my sincere thanks. Together, we are making?? a difference.



**BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<p>Dr. James Stith, Chairman</p> <p><b>Officers:</b>  Mrs. Alberta Stith, President  Mrs. Sarah Cheatham, Assistant Secretary  Ms. Shirley Baugh, Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary  Mrs. Hilda Hatchette, Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Harold Braxton  Mrs. Brenda Friend-Briggs, Esq.  Mrs. Frances Hayes Brown  Dr. Renia E. B. Cobb  Mrs. Barbara Crews  Mrs. Gwendolyn Davis  Mrs. Delores Gilliam  Mr. Paige Johnson  Mrs. Jacquelyn Lenhardt  Deacon Beverly V. Mason  Mr. Lawrence Mason, Jr., Recorder of Minutes  Ms. Judy Stephenson  Ms. Trudy Stephenson</p> <p><b>COMMITTEES:</b></p> <p><b>Fundraising Committee:</b>  Mr. Garrett Mason, Co-Chairman  Mrs. Arlene Moore, Co-Chairman  Mrs. Marilyn George</p>	<p><b>COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><b>Hospitality Committee:</b>  Mrs. Brenda Friend Briggs, Esq.  Mrs. Sarah Cheatham  Mrs. Gwendolyn Davis  Mrs. Hilda Hatchette</p> <p><b>Outreach Committee:</b>  Mrs. Annie D. Henderson, Chairperson  Rev. Harold Braxton  Dr. Renia E. B. Cobb</p> <p><b>Program Committee:</b>  Ms. Trudy Stephenson, Co-Chairperson  Ms Judy Stephenson, Co-Chairperson  Mr. Arnold Baugh  Mrs. Lucy A. Cain  Mrs. Arlene Moore</p> <p><b>Publications Staff:</b>  Mrs. Shirley Baugh  Mrs. Alberta Stith</p> <p><b>Scholarship Committee:</b>  Ms. Jan Hatchette, Co-Chairperson  Dr. Adrienne Butler, Co-Chairperson  Mrs. Cheryl Nash</p> <p><b>Website:</b>  Dr. Andrea Stith, Manager</p>
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MMHMF Board of Directors meets twice a year, in May and in September. The next meeting is September 25, 2004, 10:00 a.m. at Union Grove Baptist Church. The meeting is open to the public.

For information and to make a contribution, write to the Foundation at:  
2013 Clearwood Drive Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511; ajhstith@aol.com

**Make checks payable to MMHMF and mail to the address above. 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes to support Foundation scholarships and Programs.**

**Pledge Card**

I ENCLOSE MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO:  
THE MARTHA MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**2003 Donations cont'd from page 13**

**\$50 - \$100**

Cw4 (Ret Ronald & Barbara Bradley)	Aberdeen, MD	Ms. Maria Elena Khoury	
Mrs. Frances Hayes Brown	Petersburg, VA	Rev. Don W. Lewis	Forest Hill, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Claiborne Edwards	Petersburg, VA	Mr. Garrett Mason	Petersburg, VA
Food Lion Shop & Share	Petersburg, VA	Mrs. Arlene Moore	Petersburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Graves	Ettrick, VA	Mr. Hayward & Gertrude Stith	Alberta, VA
Mrs. Olivia Mason Joseph	Stockbridge, GA	Ukrop's Super Markets, Inc.	Petersburg, VA

**\$100 - \$200**

Dr. James & Rudine S. Bishop	Columbus, OH	Senator Henry L. Marsh	Richmond, VA
Drs. Harold & Loretta M. Braxton	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Serelda Matthews	Baltimore, MD
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Mrs. Lois Coleman Ellis	Chesterfield, VA	Union Grove Missionary	Petersburg, VA
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Mr. & Mrs. George Henderson	Petersburg, VA	Mrs. Katie G. Whitfield	Petersburg, VA
The Honorable & Mrs. Alfonso Lenhardt	Alexandria, VA		

**\$200 - \$300**

Sgt Tyrone K. Baugh	Honolulu, HI	Ms. Jan Hatchette	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Sarah Cheatham	Petersburg, VA	Mrs. Doretha Houston	Baltimore, MD
Mrs. Gwendolyn M. Davis	Petersburg, VA	Dr. Andrea Stith	Alexandria, VA,
Mr. Lewis H. Johnson Jr.	Petersburg, VA		

**\$300 - \$500**

Dr. Adrienne Stith & Brian Butler	Laurel, MD	Mr. Lawrence Mason, Jr.	Chesterfield, VA
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**\$500 - \$1000**

Mrs. Hilda Hatchette	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Judy Stephenson	Petersburg, VA
Ms. Joy Hatchette	Owings Mills, MD	Ms. Trudy Stephenson	Petersburg, VA

**\$1000 - \$2500**

Ms. Shirley Baugh	Croton-On-Hudson, NY	Dr. & Mrs. James H. Stith	Mitchellville, MD
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**\$2500 up**

Andrews AFB Gospel Service	Andrews AFB, MD	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Gilliam	Aberdeen, MD
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**MMHMF thanks all contributors to the Foundation in 2003. We apologize if any names were inadvertently omitted from the above list. Please contact the Foundation if your name does not appear. Contribution envelopes were used in preparing this listing. Thanks to those who contributed to the general offering at the 2003 Annual Program.**

*Biography of Oliver White Hill*  
**(1907 - Present)**



Oliver W. Hill was born Oliver White in Richmond in 1907. (The last name "Hill" comes from his stepfather.) After graduating from Howard University in 1933, Hill remained close with Thurgood Marshall, who led the NAACP Legal Defense Fund that Hill worked on.

That group won the historic Brown vs. Board of Education case, which desegregated schools across the nation. While Hill is best known for his role in school desegregation, his team of Richmond-based lawyers also filed more civil-rights suits in Virginia than any other Southern state during segregation. His team won more than \$50 million in higher pay and better equipment for black teachers and students.

Hill - who at one time quit law and worked in Washington as a waiter - moved to Richmond, where the school system was ordered to provide equal pay for Black teachers. In 1951, Hill and his partner,

Spottswood Robinson III, learned that students at an all-black high school in Farmville walked out of classes because their buildings were in poor shape. As a result, Hill served as a trial lawyer in the Davis vs. County School Board of Prince Edward case, which became one of five cases decided under the Brown ruling.

Hill also ran for the Virginia House of Delegates (he lost by less than 2 votes) in 1947 and was elected to the Richmond City Council the next year. Despite the fact that Hill lost his bid for re-election in 1950, Hill is considered a trailblazer among black politicians. In recent years, Richmond's juvenile courts building was named in Hill's honor and the nonagenarian received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President William Jefferson Clinton for his work in defeating segregation.

**WHY GO TO COLLEGE?**

Knowledge is power, opening up a world of possibilities and options for students. A college degree is an investment in the future. It is increasingly important for economic and educational opportunity in this country. Getting a college education requires a lot of time and effort and planning on the part of parents and students, but it can provide the tools students will use for the rest of their lives to help them succeed in whatever they undertake. A college education can:

- 1. Provide better job opportunities - the world is rapidly changing and more and more jobs require a college education.
- 2. Increase your earning potential - statistics show that on average the more education you have the more money you're likely to earn.

3. Provide a good start in life - Greater knowledge in a wide range of subjects edge enhances personal growth as students learn to communicate better (written and oral), develop decision-making skills and make use of technology (computers).

**REFLECTIONS FROM A FAMILY MEMBER**

By Lawrence, Mason, Jr.

Martha Mason Hill's life and works, and countless other African-Americans, exemplified and personified what we should strive to become. That is why I support the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation unconditionally.

Therefore, it is important that we keep alive in our families and daily life a sense of pride and heritage of who we are and what we are. We must attain and maintain a sense of tradition. We must strive to better ourselves through Christian living, education, training, discipline, hard work, respect for who and what we are and never let anyone else define us.

It was during my years in Central Valley, NY that I became really conscious about the heritage that we, African-Americans, lost. Because we were forcibly brought here as slaves as opposed to seeking a better and new life in a new country as immigrants, every effort was made to erase any consciousness, pride in our heritage or History from our collective memory. We lost, forever, relatives, records, languages, dialects, homecomings in our native land, etc. that the rest of the world enjoys. We were stripped of our heritage, pride and ethnicity in who we were.

I experienced integration for the first time in September, 1965 at Monroe-Woodbury High School in Central Valley. My classes initially consisted of Caucasians only. Ironically, some of my students had their very first contact with an African-American as I was the first African-American to teach at Monroe-Woodbury and there were very few African-Americans living in the area. When I entertained in my home for the first time, every one of my guests was Caucasian. I recall visiting my sister, who lived in Hillside, N.J., that first Thanksgiving and driving through Newark and being excited at seeing so many people who looked like me.

Teaching and living in Central Valley for 27 years was a rewarding and different experience after living in the South and attending segregated schools from elementary school

through college and having very little contact with Caucasians.

Through the years I made many friends, some of them lifetime, and had a vital, enjoyable and rewarding life in an environment that forever changed my perspective and outlook which I will treasure forever.

For example, one of my best friends was Irish. He had family and friends in Ireland, therefore, they celebrated family reunions in Ireland occasionally. Another of my best friends over the years was a co-worker whose Scottish family's ancestors could be traced back to the Mayflower and some of her ancestors were members of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). I had other co-workers and students who would talk about a grandmother in Italy, a cousin in Germany, an uncle in Scotland, an aunt in France, etc. For the most part these people took pride in their heritage and ethnicity. They took pride in their heritage and ethnicity because they knew who they were and where they came from. Knowing your History gives you pride and self-esteem.

The Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation is proving that we can make a difference just as Martha Mason Hill proved that a dedicated, committed Christian, with the help of God, can make a difference. Her life is a shining example of what one can do even with limited resources because she believed in the Lord and was a living example to her family, friends and community that as long as you believe and have faith in God, anything is possible.

Martha Mason Hill's life personifies what can be accomplished. She lives on through good works as exemplified by the MMHMF which was founded by her children, all of whom attended and/or graduated from Virginia State College (now VSU) because of her strong belief that the way to a better life is through education.

**2003 Donations**

- \$0 - \$25 -

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Anderson	Silver Spring, MD	Mrs. Claudia Jennings	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Daisy & Royace Baugh, Jr.	Petersburg, VA	Mrs. Annie D. Mason	Petersburg, VA
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Benka	Lanham, MD	Ms. Sonya F. Mason	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Eva Clark	Petersburg VA	Mrs. Ruth McKinnon	Petersburg, VA
Mr. Marvin Coleman	Petersburg, VA	Mrs. Bessie Moorer	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Barbara Crews	Petersburg, VA	Mr. Floyd Robinson, Jr.	Petersburg, VA
Ms. Rose Escarfy	Petersburg, VA	Mr. Keith J. Scroggins	Joppa, MD
Mrs. Darlene Farmer	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Carlisa Stephenson	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Louise Friend	Richmond, VA	Ms. Canzata B. Turner	Petersburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Harris	Petersburg, VA	Mr. Clarence E. & Ruth Vaughan	Havre de Grace, MD
Mr. Horace Harris	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Judith Warren	Petersburg, VA
Mrs., Joyce A. Harris	Petersburg, VA	Mr. Richard Whitfield, Sr.	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Rosetta Harris	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Betty Wilkerson	Petersburg, VA
Mr. Durce. A. Jackson	Edgewood, MD	Ms. Robertnetta Williams	Petersburg, VA

\$ 25 - \$50

Mrs. Christine Barber	Petersburg, VA	Mr. William & Mrs. Blanche Harris	Petersburg, VA
Mr. George W. & Linda Blake	Havre de Grace MD	Mr. Phillip A. Jones	Laurel, MD
CSM. (Ret) James & Margaret Branner	Aberdeen, MD	Mr. Van R. Jones	Havre de Grace, MD
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Mrs. Lucy A. Cain	Petersburg, VA	Mrs. Marsha L. Miller & Alana Cooper	Chester, VA
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Ms. Rodina M. Collins	Petersburg, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Robinson, Sr.	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Vivian J. Clark	Petersburg, VA	Mr. Jessie J. & Roswitha Shanks	Aberdeen, MD
Mr. Edgar & Mrs. Dorothy Collins	Aberdeen, MD	Ms. Tonya Baugh Taylor	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Katie Costice	Ettrick, VA	Ms. Christina Vaughan	Havre de Grace, MD
Mr. Pearlis & Minnie R. Finney	Aberdeen, MD	Mr. & Mrs. Amigo R. Wade	Petersburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Henry F. Fisher	Petersburg, VA	SGM (Ret) Joseph & Angelika Williams	Edgewood, MD
Mr. Nathaniel & Mrs. Margarette Fisher	Ettrick, VA	Mrs. Jeraldine C. Willis	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Chrisabell B. Goode	Petersburg, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Wood	Columbus, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Garland Harris	Petersburg, VA		

*CONGRATULATIONS TO FOUNDATION MEMBERS*

**Rev. Dr. Harold E. Braxton** assumed the position of Interim Pastor at Gillfield Baptist Church, Petersburg, VA., July 1, 2004.

**Mrs. Brenda Friend-Briggs, Esq.**, received the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Old Dominion Bar Association at its annual meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Bar recognized her for her service in Public Interest Law for her dedication to providing free and low cost legal services in a series of free workshops and seminars.

**Ms. Jan Hatchette**, Assistant Director of Marketing, University of Richmond, received a Masters Degree in Marketing from the University of Richmond this spring.

**Dr. Andrea Stith**, Science Policy Analyst for Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), was elected to the Executive Board of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) in January, 2004. She is a past secretary for AWIS, Bethesda, MD. In August she was selected as a recipient of the University of Delaware Presidential Citation for Outstanding Achievement and will be honored at the Recognition Ceremony at the University on October 1, 2004 where she received her B.S. in physics. She also received a grant in August from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a project to be conducted at the national 2005 meeting of FASEB. She is the new MMHMF website manager.

**Dr. James Stith**, Vice President for Physics Resources, American Institute of Physics, was named "one of the Most Important Blacks in Research Science" for 2004 by the editors of Science Spectrum magazine and US Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine. Honorees are chosen for this annual list based on their work in making science part of global society. During the year that the list is publicized, its members are presented to young people as role models, and their accomplishments are upheld as examples of the important contributions made on a daily basis by the small but growing cadre of African Americans in the field. The 50 Most Important exemplars will gather for a colloquium and awards dinner where increasing minority participation in science, executive development, and educational readiness will be discussed. The event will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2004, in Nashville, Tenn., as a high point of the Emerald Awards Conference, an event that celebrates the accomplishments of minorities in science and promotes their greater representation among science professionals. He is Chairman of the MMHMF Board of Directors.

**2004 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

**CHERISHED FAMILY RECIPES COOKBOOK**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the planning, promotion and selling stages of this project and to all who were kind enough to purchase the book. There were several supporters who purchased multiple copies (10 or more in many cases).

We are grateful to everyone for their support. The cookbooks have been well received wherever they have been promoted. Only a few books are available for sale. Contact Arlene Moore at 804 590-1207 if you would like a copy. Special thanks to Arlene Moore, Garrett Mason and Marilyn George for all their work in planning and organizing book.

**YARD SALE:**

The Fundraising Committee organized the sale held in May at the home of Garrett and Vanessa Mason. Items for sale were donated by members of the Foundation and the community. Some individuals purchased tables to sell their merchandise. "Chef Garrett" prepared delicious meals (breakfast and lunch) that were also sold. The Committee thanks Foundation members and other volunteers from the community for coming out to help, all those who donated and purchased items sold. All proceeds benefited the MMHMF Endowment Fund.

**FOOD LION SHOP & SHARE PROGRAM**

Special thanks to Arlene Moore and Wilma DeBrew for heading up this project. With their help, nearly 200 persons are now registered for the program to support MMHMF. Please don't forget to use your MVP Cards EVERYTIME YOU SHOP, even when you are paying the regular price for items. **Every purchase counts!** If you have changed MVP Card numbers since you registered with us or if you have not given us your MVP Card number, please contact Arlene Moore (804 590-1207, or [emoore128@comcast.net](mailto:emoore128@comcast.net)) or Bert Stith (301-390-5914, [ajhstith@msn.com](mailto:ajhstith@msn.com)). Remember, this does not cost you anything. This is Food Lion's way of supporting the community.

**UKROP'S GOLDEN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

MMHMF also participates in this program that runs February through March each year. Use your Ukrop's card for all purchases during that period. In June, Ukrop's sends customers "Golden Certificates" attached to an advertisement. This past year, some folks tossed them accidentally there certificate because it looked like a store advertisement. However, Ukrop's Customer Service Department will give you another, just ask. Golden Certificates can be split among more than one organization. Check with Ukrop's Customer Service Department.

**CROWNS**

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of MMHMF members **Jackie Lenhardt** and **Jim Stith**, and friends of MMHMF **Joan Christian (Bowie, MD)**, **Jack Hehn, (Laurel, MD)** and **John Layman (College Park, MD)**, nearly 80 tickets were sold to see the musical, CROWNS, on July 28<sup>th</sup> at Arena Stage in Washington, DC. In addition, 15 individuals made outright donations. Crowns, a spirited gospel-infused production with song, dance and story-telling, is based on the best-selling book, Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats. The musical returned to Arena Stage this summer by popular demand. Great show!

**THE GILLIAM'S FUNDRAISER**

For the last three years Sam Gilliam has been raising funds in his community (Aberdeen, Maryland) to benefit the Foundation. We thank Sam and all those in the Aberdeen area for helping us reach our goals. His dedication to MMHMF is commendable and heartwarming. THANKS SAM!

## MMHMF SCHOLARS NEWS

### 2004 MMHMF Scholarship Recipient



Congratulations to LaTonya Bowles, a honors graduate of Matoaca High School. She is enrolled at attending North Carolina A&T and is majoring in Industrial Engineering.

+++++

CHARA MOORE, 2000 MMHMF SCHOLAR, GRADUATES WITH HONORS FROM UVA,  
ATTENDING LAW SCHOOL AT WILLIAM & MARY



Miss Chara Moore received her BA degree in Sociology in May from the University of Virginia and is currently enrolled in the Juris Doctorate Program at The College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law in Williamsburg, Virginia. Chara not only excelled academically, but also participated in many University and community activities. Below is an impressive list of her accomplishments and involvements.

**HONORS:** UVA Intermediate Honors Awards; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Omicron Delta Kappa (The National Leadership Honor Society);

Raven Society of UVA; Longevity of Excellence Award; The Anetta Thompson Scholarship Award; Honored at Harambee II for excellent academic record for Fall 2000 semester; Walter N. Riley Scholarship; Perry-White Charitable Scholarship Recipient; INROADS Scholarship Award; Club 17 Scholarship; and Dejourir Club Scholarship Recipient.

**LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT UVA:** President and Secretary, Black Expression Awareness and Thought Society; Subcommittee Chairman, Omicron Delta Kappa (National Honor Society); Executive Board Member and Social Chair, IVSA (INROADS Virginia Student Association); Organizer, Hoos Against Hunger and Homeless (Feed the Need Program).

**VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:** Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity; Computers for Kids Program; Big Sibling Program through Madison House; Habitat for Humanity; Co-ed Volleyball League; Circle K International; Note Taker for the Learning Needs Educational Center; Black Student Alliance Programming Committee; University Dance Club; Participant in 24-hour dance marathon for the Sarah Dubose Fund; ran in the 5K run for life for breast cancer.

We commend Chara for her many achievements. We congratulate her for continuing to be an outstanding student, leader, citizen and role model. She truly exemplifies the ideals of MMHMF.

## Children Learn What They Live

*If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.  
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.  
If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.  
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.  
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.  
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.  
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
He learns to find love in the world. Author Unknown*

### A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

continued

- **Having a child contribute to the functioning of the household (chores) regularly helps develop a sense of responsibility and a work ethic.** **Expose children to a variety of activities.** Sports are great, but exposure to additional activities such as those provided by community organizations (churches, the YMCA/YWCA, the scouts, civic groups, etc.) can help develop useful life skills. When it comes to competing for scholarships, well-rounded students and those that held leadership positions in organizations are very marketable.
- **Taking music lessons have been shown to be very beneficial to student learning.**
- **Limit the amount of television children watch and restrict the types of programs they see.** If students are working as they should academically and participating in activities in school and in the community, time for television is automatically restricted!
- **Make use of age appropriate educational toys and games.**
- **Point out successful people (“heroes) who have been empowered by developing their minds through education** (persons in addition to sports and entertainment figures).
- **Attend cultural events such as concerts, plays, museums (hands-on museums are great) and historical places.** Experiencing history first-hand is more fun and more likely to be retained.

**EXPECTATIONS play an important in how well students perform.** If you expect more from children, they will most likely rise to the occasion. Being negative, or not expressing any expectations for children may result in child living up (or down) to that expectation. Also remember that most of us, children and adults alike, don't live up to our full potential. All of us have more capacity than we utilize, and we all need some encouragement and a little “push” or urging now and then to stay motivated to do our best. So don't underestimate your children. **Encourage them with positive words. Expect more and not less from them and from schools and teachers,** to help your children realize their potential. A word of caution: be careful about applying too much pressure on children to achieve. This could be very harmful and counterproductive.

## MMHMF WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEERS

The Foundation welcomes and thanks the following individuals for volunteering their services. Their experience and willingness to help are tremendous assets to MMHMF as we seek to expand our work in the community.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** – The following individuals were elected to a three-year term on the Board (September, 2004 – September, 2007):

**Mrs. Barbara Crews**, Retired, Director of Special Education, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and current Assistant Church Clerk, Union Grove Baptist Church, Chesterfield, VA.

**Mr. Paige Johnson**, Retired, Former Coordinator Financial Aid/Affirmative Action/EEO, John Tyler Community College; Director of Financial Aid, Virginia State University (VSU); Resident Director/Counselor, VSU; Assistant Dean of Men, Shaw University. He has held leadership positions in more than 16 professional and civic organizations over the course of his career. He is currently President of the Chesterfield Branch of the NAACP and an official of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Petersburg, VA.

### WEBSITE MANAGER

Dr. Andrea Stith, Science Policy Analyst for Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

**We are very grateful to all our volunteers who give so much to the Foundation. Without them we could not succeed.**

SNAPSHOTS at Arena Stage, Washington, DC  
MMHMF sold nearly 80 tickets to see “Crowns” in July



## A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

### GAINING A COMPETITIVE EDGE FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE Give Children A Head-Start, Begin Preparing For College Early!

“Children learn what they live.” PARENTS (AND/OR PRIMARY CAREGIVERS) ARE THE PRIMARY TEACHERS OF CHILDREN. It is up to you as a parent! Start from day one making sure your children are learning. Get involved early and stay involved! It is much easier to achieve academic success in high school and college if the focus on learning has been in place from the beginning. The **most important learning for children occurs during the first 5 years**. The foundation is laid for building the skills that enable a child to achieve success, regardless of what he or she does in life!” The role of parents in student achievement cannot be overstated. The fact is that caretakers and the surrounding environment provide the greatest influence on children, shaping who they are likely to become as adults. **Studies show that when parents are actively involved, children are more likely to be better students and ultimately successful in life.** Parents need not be educators or professionals to make a difference, and the tools used for learning need not be sophisticated.

Below are examples of things parents can do.

- **Begin to reward and encourage learning early in life.** Build self-confidence; provide children with positive feedback constantly. Tell them often how great they are. Be quick to praise and slow to condemn or criticize. Reward and celebrate successes, big and small; for example, display good grades and awards received in prominent places like the refrigerator. **Be an enthusiastic “cheerleader” for your child throughout the years, just as you were when they utter their first words or take that first step.**
- **Be a good example for your child.** Children learn from parents, even very early in life. Exhibit the behaviors you want them to display.

**Let children see that education is important and a priority by your actions.** Lead by example. Talk about what your children want to become as adults and what they must do to prepare themselves. Try to improve your education or knowledge.

- **Take an active role in your child’s education.** Your child will benefit from your involvement. Know what is going on in your children’s classroom and school. Monitor homework. Be a volunteer in the classroom and school if only occasionally. Join the PTA. Attend school programs and meetings. Get to know the teachers and stay in touch with them; let them know your expectations for your children.
- **Spend time together as a family.** Talk WITH your child; listen to him/her. Make it a point to find out what is going on in your child’s life. Eat dinner together as a family. Have each person talk about their day, sharing new information learned. Go on family trips. Worship together. Establish family traditions and routines (doing special things for special occasions for example).
- **“Kids who read are kids who learn.”** Expose children to a variety of books early. Encourage reading by beginning to read to them as infants (reading advanced material as well as children’s books is fine). Make it a family activity throughout their childhood. Get children their own library card and teach them to use it properly (take care of books and return them on time); visit the library often. IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE if they grow up loving books. Parents should lead by example; let children see you reading.
- **Support/attend your child’s activities.** Show interest in whatever your child does, big or small.
- **Set aside routine study periods.** Other things should not interfere with this time.
- **Let children help set family rules and allow them take part in making decisions that affect the family.**

*\*\*\*\*\* Outreach Activities \*\*\*\*\**

**A Financial Aid Workshop** was held on November 22, 2003, 9 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. at Virginia State University, Foster Hall. Consultants present were Mrs. Zelda Tucker and Ms. Gertrude Taylor of Educational Talent Search. In attendance were 13 high school students and 15 parents. Topics discussed were: Grants, Loans, Work-Study, Merit-Based Financial Aid, Need based financial Aid, Scholarships  
Each participant received a packet of valuable materials. Lunch was served by the MMHMF Hospitality Committee.

**A Study Skills Seminar** took place on March 27, 2004, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Children’s Home of Virginia Baptists. The seminar was conducted by Mrs. Gertrude Taylor, Educational Program Practitioner, Virginia State University. Topic discussed was “What’s up with Study Skills/Time Management.” This was a hands-on seminar. A practice booklet was used. The students and parents worked through several study skills exercises in the booklet.  
The Foundation is indebted to Mrs. Sarah Cheatham and Mrs. Hilda Hatchette for their part in providing the snacks for both programs. The Foundation expresses its gratitude and sincere thanks and appreciation for their unselfish contribution.

Talent Search, Virginia State University, sponsored a **Study Skills Seminar** on August 14, 2004 for area students in grades 9 – 12. Members of the Outreach Committee and other Foundation members were instrumental in recruiting more than thirty (30) students to take part in the seminar. A total of sixty four (64) students participated in the seminar.

**MMHMF OUTREACH DELIVERS SUPPLIES TO THREE CHESTERFIELD SCHOOLS**  
Outreach Committee Chairperson, Mrs. Annie Henderson, called a meeting of the committee (other members are Rev. Harold Braxton, Dr. Renia Cobb and Mr. Paige Johnson). Other members of MMHMF present were Mrs. Brenda Friend-Briggs, Mrs. Sarah Cheatham, Mrs. Barbara Crews and Mrs. Gwen Davis. This project was appealing because lack of school supplies is a chronic problem in some schools. The group acted immediately. A list of supplies was provided by the schools and the group, donated personally and collected funds and items from other Board members, family and friends. Members of Union Grove Baptist Church were very generous as well. Initially kindergarten and first grade classes in two elementary schools were targeted (Matoaca and Ettrick); however, because of the tremendous response from donors, enough was collected to provide supplies for those classes at Harrowgate Elementary as well. The teachers in those grades will hold on to the supplies and make them available to those who need them the most. MMHMF thanks all who contributed.

**Outreach Committee: Mrs. Annie D. Henderson, Chairperson, Dr. Renia Cobb, Reverend Harold Braxton, Mr. Paige Johnson.**

*Outreach Activities cont'd*

Delivering School Supplies to Ettrick Elementary



Ms. Patricia Ebron, Secretary, (left) Mrs. Annie Henderson, MMHMF Outreach Chair, (center) and Ms. Cynthia Fareas, Teacher, (right)

Delivering School Supplies to Matoaca Elementary



Mr. Richard Parrish, Principal, (left) with Mrs. Annie Henderson, MMHMF Outreach Chair (right)

Study Skills Seminar at Children’s Home, Virginia Baptists



Mrs. Gertrude Taylor, Educational Program Practitioner, Virginia State University (left) and student participants

*November 22, 2003 Financial Aid Workshop*



Parents and student with Annie Henderson, MMHMF Outreach Chair (right)



Parents attending Financial Aid Workshop



Zelda Duggar, Director, Talent Search (left) and a student participant