

Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation
2013 Clearwood Drive
Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511

MARTHA MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

MMHMF

Newsletter

"Promoting Higher Education"

FALL 2009

Volume 9 Number 1



Martha M Hill
1911-1985

The Foundation has held fast to the guiding principle of its namesake-promoting higher education—for ten years. We realize the key to success is education and it is our responsibility as citizens to help children receive a quality education. To ensure that area children have the opportunity to achieve academically, the Foundation provides outreach programs and gives scholarships.



ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

The 2008 Awards Program included the 10th anniversary celebration of the Foundation. The event took place at Matoaca High School in Chesterfield. See pages 12 and 13 for details.

The 2009 Awards Program was held on Saturday September 26, 3:00 p.m., at Union Grove Baptist Church in Chesterfield, where Martha M. Hill worshipped all her life.



CONGRATULATIONS

Jasmine Wade

2009 Scholarship Recipient

An honors graduate of Matoaca High School, Petersburg, VA, Jasmine is a freshman at Cornell University and is majoring in Information Science. She began her studies at Cornell this past Summer where she continued her academic excellence. Her record of achievement in school and the community is both varied and extensive. See page 14.



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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN



Once again, I bring you greetings from the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation. It has been a good, but challenging year. With your help, the Foundation continues to support students, teachers, and schools. Our scholarship recipients continue to make us proud. The Foundation has encouraged students to read for pleasure by providing them books of their choice; for we know that the ability to read well is the foundation for success in all disciplines. Finally, the data shows that investing in quality teachers is the most effective way to provide quality education for all students, so the Foundation has adopted this strategy. On behalf of the Foundation, I thank you for helping to provide the resources that allow us to be a part of the nurturing, supportive community that serves our students.

The Foundation has pledged its support for quality education. We strongly believe that all students can learn if they have access to quality teachers and are in a supportive, safe environment. We also believe and understand that change takes time. The evidence that supports these beliefs is beginning to emerge as schools that were once among the worst performing are moving into the class of "best performing". These schools are in poor neighbors and serve a diverse population. Their common characteristic is that students believe they can learn; teachers believe that the students can learn; parents recognize that learning takes place outside the classroom and that they play a vital role in that process; administrators are held accountable for what the system does or fails to do; and political leaders recognize that resources must be provided.

The current economic climate has shown us that a solid education significantly increases the probability that one will survive the downturn. Does it guarantee a job? It does not, but the data shows that those with solid skills are more flexible, more adaptable and more likely to find a new position when the one they have is eliminated. The Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation's goal is to provide all students with a fighting chance. We need your continued help to do so!

2008 was a landmark year on many accounts. The changes on the political landscape energized and gave hope to many that did not believe that their participation could make a difference. We now know differently! But much work remains. The weak economy has pointed out the need to concentrate on the basics and to reassess what is really important for us individually and for us as a nation. We have listened to the comments and read the writings of some that cause us to think carefully about the differences between our rights and our privileges. We must remember that there is no excuse for bad manners! The bottom line is that we must continue to respectfully make our voices heard. It is time for the silent majority to wake up, to speak up, and to let our local, state and national leaders know that the vocal minority does not speak for us. Our namesake, Mrs. Hill, would implore us to each do our part. Addressing the problems that confront our community, our state and our nation is not someone else's job - it is a responsibility we all share. Let's all do our part.

James H. Stith

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100% of your tax-deductible donation goes to support Foundation scholarships and programs. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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MMHMF THANKS THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS FOR DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF BRENDA FRIEND BRIGGS

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Chesterfield Historical Society	Chesterfield, VA		

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes to support Foundation scholarships and programs.

MMHMF thanks all who donated to the Foundation in 2008. We apologize if any names were inadvertently omitted, or incorrectly posted on the donors list. Please contact the Foundation and the corrections will appear in the next publication.

Contact: MMHMF, 2013 Clearwood Drive Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511, Phone (301) 390, 914 or (804) 590 1493.
Email: ajhstith@msn.com.

A TRIBUTE TO BRENDA FRIEND BRIGGS, ESQ



The Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation joins the community in celebrating the life and legacy of Brenda Friend Briggs, a truly unique and amazing person. She had so much to offer, and always strived to do her best. Her contributions to the Foundation, the community and countless individuals were innumerable. Hers was a life of service, a shining example worthy of emulation. She exemplified the ideals of our organization and our namesake.

Preservation of legacy and service to others is significant to the Foundation and was also to Brenda. She sought to not only preserve the contributions of her family's ancestors, but was in the process of gathering the stories of other outstanding African Americans in Chesterfield, many whose stories are yet untold.

When asked by Gwendolyn Davis to become a member of the Board, Brenda consented in spite of her many obligations and commitments. She served as a member of the Board for three years, 2003-2006. During that time, her contributions were many including being a member of the Outreach Committee and Constitution Committee. She sought every opportunity to promote MMHMF and worked diligently to further the Foundation's goals. She attended the meetings and events regularly and supported all of the projects and programs.

It was Brenda's recommendation and subsequent efforts that the Board honored the late Oliver White Hill which had never been done in Chesterfield County. This was another of Brenda's "firsts". She was also responsible for having him attend the Awards Program in 2004, and having Richard "Dickie" King, Jr., Supervisor of Bermuda Magisterial District, present the Chesterfield County Proclamation to Mr. Hill.

In 2005 Brenda invited the Foundation to co-sponsor with the Trustees of First Baptist, Centralia, the **AFRICAN AMERICAN RAIL TRAIL; the History of African Americans in Chesterfield County, Virginia**. The trip was by train from Ettrick, Virginia to Richmond, Virginia. This was Brenda's creation and another of her "firsts". The first tour was on January 15, 2005 (Martin Luther King Day) and the second was February 12, 2005 (during African American History Month). Participants received packets that contained a wealth of historical literature. Brenda was the narrator for both very successful tours.

The Martha Mason Hill Foundation was blessed to be the beneficiary of Brenda's Christian spirit, her devotion to whatever she undertook, her creativity, and energy. We will always remember the tremendous impact she had on the Foundation and be grateful for how she inspired us to pursue our goals. We thank God for the love she showed, the inspiration she gave and her many other contributions. She will be dearly missed.

Brenda Briggs continued on page 4

CONGRATULATIONS
Brenda Friend Briggs, Esq.
2008 Service Award Recipient

Brenda Friend Briggs, a native of Chesterfield County, Virginia has nearly 40 years of successful professional experience, government service in the areas of education and law, and service as a community volunteer. She has been a professor, school administrator on the local and state level, federal regulations investigator, discipline-hearing officer, and special education attorney. She has investigated complaints and trained attorneys in special education law. She has also supervised school social workers and taught courses in education and law. After retiring from government service in 2001, Brenda opened a public service law office, Legal Resources for the Community, located in the Jefferson Davis corridor (business incubator in the Bellwood area) in Chesterfield County. Services provided included legal seminars, legal research projects for children, and individualized legal services for area residents and beginning businesses at low or no costs. In 2005, as a consultant to the Virginia Department of Education, she drafted specialized manuals. In January 2007, she became coordinator of Project 2025: Enhanced Access to Legal Assistance for Older Americans in Virginia, a special project of the Virginia Department for the Aging.

Brenda shared her passion for service in her community and preservation of history by conducting numerous free law seminars for the public, among them: Legal Tips for the Traveler, Your Annual Legal Checkup, and Is Your Legal Life in Order. Oliver White Hill: A Giant with Roots in Chester; and What Did Brown Do For You. Brenda's legal research and writing project, "Giant with Roots in Chester", for children ages 6 to 12, resulted in the creation of a notebook of nearly 50 original writings by young people in the Chester area. It was presented to Mr. Hill on his 96th birthday at the Richmond Juvenile Court. She continues to conduct free legal workshops for the community. She is currently in her 10th year as an Adjunct Instructor in Administrative Law for the Legal Assisting Program at J. Sargeant Reynolds College.

In the community, Brenda has been a member of the 4-H organization for over 50 years. In 1966 she was selected as the first African-American from the state of Virginia to represent the United States in an international exchange program. She served as a youth ambassador to Japan where she lived with three families for six months in different parts of Japan. In 1998, as a part of the International 4-H programs, Brenda was chosen to escort youth from five states on a month-long trip to Japan. In 2007, she was named a 4-H

all Star at the 4-H Congress held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. She continues to serve as a volunteer leader with the 4-H Business Bunch, a club she has been affiliated with for nearly 30 years. In addition, she continues to help with 4-H projects at the county fair, and with other youth development programs. Brenda's daughter and grandchildren are also active in the 4-H program, representing the five generations of family involvement.

Passionate about history and genealogy, Brenda has initiated several special programs to promote and preserve the history of African-Americans in Chesterfield County. She developed and conducted a program at Bermuda Hundred called "The Blessing of the Land". On Thanksgiving morning, Brenda, her neighbors and friends gathered to pay homage to sacred ground and watched ships sail around the Peninsula. Brenda established the Marguerite Friend Christian Educational Fund and the J. B. Friend Sr. Masonry Scholarship Fund

Brenda is a licensed attorney and has held licenses as a registered social worker, visiting teacher/school social worker, and Special Education administrator. She was one of the first 10 African-Americans to graduate from the T. C. Williams Law School at the University of Richmond, in 1978 and has been an active member of the Virginia State Bar since 1984. She earned a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Howard University in 1973 and a Bachelor's Degree from Virginia State College in 1965.

She became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1963, and has been affiliated with several other community service and professional organizations including the Petersburg Chums, the 23rd Psalm Investment Club, the Rose Garden Club, the Carver Class of 61, the Carver Reunion Group, the Jefferson Davis Association; and the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation (member of the Board of Directors, Outreach Committee and a special committee appointed to review bylaws and draft a Constitution). Brenda was invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the Chesterfield Historical Society, and currently chairs the African-American committee

Brenda treasures her affiliation with her church, First Baptist, Centralia, where her ancestors have been members and leaders for over a century. She has served as a trustee and usher, and in recent years was instrumental in creating a Greater program for the vestibule of the church.

Brenda Briggs continued on page 5

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2008 donations continued on page 18

SAM'S LIST 2008



Doretha Gilliam Houston,
presenting a check to MMHMF
at the 2008 Awards Program

Each year in August/September, the late Samuel Gilliam would contact his friends, colleagues and associates requesting a donation for the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation (MMHF). Last year at the tenth anniversary of the MMHMF his daughter, Doretha Gilliam Houston made a donation from his family and friends in his memory. She mentioned how deeply her dad cared about the Foundation and how committed he was to doing whatever he could to support it. Because of his commitment to the Foundation, and to preserve his legacy, we are continuing "Sam's List" of donors.

MMHMF thanks the following individuals who contributed to Sam's List in 2008:

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Serelda Gilliam Matthews
Robert & Pauline Scott
Jessie J., Shanks, Sr.
James & Alberta Stith
Everett D. & Audrey G. White
Joseph & Angelika Williams



NEW MMHMF SUPPORTERS HOST FALL FUNDRAISER

Friends of the Foundation in Maryland held the fun-filled event on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the home of Jim and Bert Stith. Featured was a large assortment of delicious main course dishes and desserts. The recipes were taken from the MMHMF cookbook (see page 9 to purchase a copy). MMHMF Board Chairman, Jim Stith welcomed guests and introduced the public officials and representatives of other organizations who were present. The Honorable Gerron Levi, Maryland State Delegate greeted the group, speaking briefly about the importance of organizations like MMHMF. Another highlight of the afternoon was the live auction conducted by Bernie Khoury who skillfully sold all twenty-one items that were donated by Committee members and friends of the Foundation. The Honorable Peggy Magee, Prince George's County Clerk, gave a few remarks before drawing the winning raffle tickets. MMHMF thanks members of the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) for their financial support and for attending. The afternoon successful and a lot of fun. The Committee thanks everyone who helped by donating funds, auction items, and food. Thanks also to those who purchased raffle tickets, cookbooks and auction items.

Honorary Members

Dr. George E. Cooper, President South Carolina State University

Dr. Vernon O. Crawley, President Moraine Valley Community College

Larry R. Ellis, CEO of ESSE; Director of numerous National and International Boards;
University System of Georgia Board of Regents; and Retired General, U.S. Army

The Honorable Gerron Levi, Maryland State Delegate

The Honorable Doug J. J. Peters, Maryland State Senator

Events Committee

Joan Christian Annette Coleman
Sharon Gray Bernie and Maria Elena Khoury
Delores ("Ray") Ray Jim & Bert Stith

REFLECTIONS OF BRENDA F. BRIGGS, ESQ.

MAJOR GENERAL BRUCE E. ROBINSON, ESQ.: It was a short thirty two years ago that I met Brenda Friend Briggs in the halls of the T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond. It was her big afro with its silver tint, signifying wisdom that gave her that trademark look of distinction. It has been three decades since we first endured the Virginia State Bar Exam in Roanoke and departed the halls of law school. Since then Brenda has distinguished herself in people and public service. She has been a tireless advocate for youth and seniors and is on of the trail blazers for Project 2025 which is concerned about the plight of Virginia's growing senior population. She has been the compassionate caretaker of the sick and energizer of the weak. Brenda appropriately possesses the "Friend" gene. She is one of my closest friends and is an inspiration to all as she triumphs in achievements and adversity. **CONGRATULATIONS Brenda Friend Briggs** on your recognition by the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation.

SARAH J. GREGORY: Brenda and I started a 4-H Club in Chester, Virginia 28 years ago when our kids were small. Working with the community kids and our kids we had a great time helping youth to learn everything they were interested in and what interested us. In association with the county, district, and state 4-H agents and specialists, our youth made great strides. They became international travelers and teachers just like Brenda Friend Briggs. During the 28 years, we have watched our youth graduate from colleges and universities with bachelor, master, and doctorate degrees. Brenda Friend Briggs started her community service as a youth. Not only a local and state community service worker, Brenda represented the Virginia 4-H youth program in Japan in 1966. She interacted and taught 4-h'ers in Japan for six months. Brenda had the opportunity to take a delegation of 4-H youth to Japan for a month in 1998. In her State of Virginia Education position, she escorted 4-H youth from six states of the US east coast to Japan. Now I am working with Brenda on the Chesterfield Historical Society in researching Black and community history. This has been a pleasant job and we have a lot of work to do. With Brenda as our Chairperson, I know the job will be done well. Thank you.

JANET JAMES, ESQ.: A Person of Great Wisdom, Professionalism, Tenacity, Creativity

There are some people, a few, who possess a unique combination of wisdom, professionalism, tenacity, creativity and are a pleasure to work within the legal arena. Brenda Friend Briggs is all of this and more. Since having the pleasure of meeting her during a December 2006 interview, I have come to greatly appreciate and value her skill as an attorney, a project manager and an expert visionary. Brenda can communicate on several levels but maintains such humility that you would never imagine the great achievements she has already accomplished that benefit so many persons. From her pro bono work in the community to her insight and assistance as an attorney – I am truly blessed to know Brenda and call her my friend. Brenda was instrumental and remains a sought-after volunteer in the strategic implementation of Virginia's *Project 2025: Enhanced Access to Legal Assistance for Older Americans in Virginia*. This important initiative would not have been as successful as it is without Brenda's hands-on involvement.

Thank you for recognizing Brenda for this honor and her extraordinary life achievements on behalf of others

SANDRA GORDON PETERSON, ESQ.: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to write something about Brenda. Brenda and I have known each other since my first year of law school. Her commitment to her family, her community, and her profession has been inspiring. Together we worked on two projects got for the Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys (VABWA): Take Our Daughters To Work Day and This Is For Men. Both of these projects involved using women and men in the community to act as mentors for inner city students in Richmond Public Schools. Brenda provided outstanding leadership in developing and implementing these programs. For this effort, the Virginia State Bar awarded the VABWA an Award of Merit in 1998.

MAGARET A THOMPSON: A lady of high integrity, a humble martyr, a caring friend and a peace maker, all help me to describe my friend, Brenda Friend Briggs.

First, I know her to be a lady of high integrity. She believes that accountability and moral responsibility are necessary tools for maintaining consistency between actions and principles, methods and measures, especially when the expected result appears incongruent with the observed outcome. Secondly, I see her as a humble martyr. Brenda is an individual that will sacrifice her life, (personal freedom), time, or the needed resources in order to further a cause or belief. She contributes much to the Carver Group and project without taking any credit for her efforts. Thirdly, I know her as a caring friend whose life amplifies unselfishly her love and service to and for others. She is a friend who will be with you through the good, the bad and the ugly. Fourth, she is a peace-maker. Brenda doesn't like confusion. However, to remedy the situation she will challenge the person to succeed as a leader. She views it as if others have failed to test their skills, assumptions and prior knowledge and allowing them to see the situation differently. Despite her medical challenges, Brenda continues to strive for perfection. No goal is too high! If there's a twinkle in her eyes, her dimples are showing and she starts joking, watch out because she's ready for action.

Brenda is so deserving of this award. Thank you, Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation, for recognizing her! To Brenda, I say, "Congratulations." You Go Girl!

CONGRATULATION
CARRIE WILLIS JOHNSON
2008 Education Award Recipient



Carrie Willis Johnson received her early education experiences in the Prince Edward School System, Farmville, Virginia, graduating from Robert Russa Moton High School on June 4, 1956 as valedictorian of her class. She continued her studies at Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia, graduating with the Degree of Bachelor of Science – The Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics on June 6, 1960. On May 21, 1972, Virginia State College, now University, conferred upon her the degree of Master of Education in Mathematics Education. She has done further studies at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia; University of Virginia,

Charlottesville, Virginia; John Tyler Community College, Chester, Virginia and Richard Bland College, Petersburg, Virginia.

Mrs. Johnson's teaching experiences began in 1960 with the Nottoway Public School System. Other school systems where she worked include the Spotsylvania Public Schools (John J. Wright), Prince Edward Free Schools, Prince Edward Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools (Matoaca Middle and Matoaca High Schools), Adjunct Professor at Virginia State, and Petersburg Public Schools (Peabody Middle School).

During the forty-seven years of teaching, Carrie Johnson has contributed much to the success of children. She has been a role model for her students as well as her peers. To mention a few of her accomplishments or contributions: advisor for the Student Council Association; first Black teacher at Matoaca High; set up an after school tutoring program in Mathematics at Matoaca High (even taking the students home after tutoring); Mathematics Department Chairperson; and advisor to student teachers in the field of Mathematics from Virginia State College/University). In 1980, the Matoaca High year book was dedicated to her. In the Petersburg School System, she served as lead teacher for the eighth grade teachers and students; mentor to Mathematics teachers; Title One Mathematics teacher and the Virginia Middle School Teacher Corps.

Mrs. Johnson is a member of many community organizations that include The Links, Incorporated, Petersburg Chapter; The Moles, Incorporated, Petersburg Chapter; and The Wives of Beaux Twenty. She is a member of Gillfield Baptist Church where she sings in the Gospel Choir and is a teller.

She is married to Dr. Norris J. Johnson. They were blessed with two children, Brenda Juacita (deceased) and Norris Dwayne; daughter-in-law, Charon and four grandchildren: James Bryant, Juacita, Chenteria and Arianna.

Mrs. Johnson firmly believes that education is the key to success.

Reflections OF Carrie Willis Johnson

Venessa Harris Bond, Class of 1976, Matoaca High School: From Family to church, to education, to the community, Mrs. Johnson, "you are one of the most genial, caring and devout teachers – persons – I know." For your warm spirit, your understanding persona, Mrs. Johnson, I am eternally grateful that you entered my life's path in Algebra I about 35 years ago. You have continually been a role model for me, and numerous others, because you truly represent the epitome of what humanity is all about. Thank you for all that you did and all that you continue to do.

Carrie Johnson continued on page 7

MORE SCHOLAR NEWS
Letter From: LOREN MURPHY
2008 MMHMF Scholar

I would like to thank you for your support during my freshman year at the University of Virginia. The scholarship that I received was very useful because it allowed me to purchase textbooks during the fall and spring semesters. I am also extremely grateful for the care package that I received during the stressful exam time. I could not have received that package at a more-perfect time!

Overall, I had a very good freshman year. I ended the year with a 3.2 GPA. During the year, I was involved in a number of organizations. One organization was the University of Virginia's Rodman Scholars Program. This program is a highly selective "living-learning" honors engineering program. The students who are selected into the program are from the top 5% of the first-year incoming engineering applicants and take an accelerated first year curriculum.

Another organization that I was involved in was the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). Through this organization I participated in numerous activities such as working the concession stands at UVA football, baseball, and basketball games and tutoring students at a local Charlottesville church in English, Math, and Science. Next year, I will hold a position on the organization's executive board as Programs Chair.

This summer I have been extremely busy. I took two summer classes, was also selected to participate in the University of Virginia's Research Experience for Undergraduates. Through this program, I worked in the University of Virginia's Center for Applied Biomechanics Lab. While in the lab, I worked on a team, who was sponsored by The Japan Automotive Research Institute (JARI), to study the response of humans during a side impact car crash. Through this research experience I was able to learn a lot about biomechanical engineering and the medical field. As a result, I have decided to change my major from mechanical engineering to pre-med biomedical engineering.

Overall, I have truly enjoyed my first year at the University of Virginia and am looking forward to returning to school in the fall. I am extremely grateful to the Foundation for your continued support and prayers. Please continue to pray for me as I return to school and I will continue to pray for you.

Thank You,

Loren Murphy



CONGRATULATIONS TO LEA TROTTER
2005 MMHMF Scholarship Recipient



2009 Graduate, NC
A&T State University

Lea earned a Bachelors degree in Animal Science from North Carolina A&T State University in May 2009. Her career goal is to be a physician assistant, a two-year medical school program. Currently she is working full time at Bank of America to save money for her future education. She volunteers at local hospitals and retirement homes.

Jasmine continued from cover

MMHMF SCHOLAR NEWS ABOUT JASMINE WADE 2009 Scholar

Jasmine is an honors graduate of Matoaca High School, Petersburg, VA. She is a freshman at Cornell University, and is majoring in Information Science. Her record of achievements in school and the community is both varied and extensive.

Extracurricular activities: marching and concert bands; majorette squad; Step Team; Drama Club (treasurer and actress and dancer in Spring musicals); National Honor Society and International Language Honor Society; American Red Cross Club; Future Business Leaders of America; Academic Challenge Team.

Honors and awards: Advanced Placement Scholar Award (World and US history and English Language); National Honor Roll Award for Academic Achievement; Outstanding participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program; Outstanding Achievement in English, Outstanding Achievement Spanish, Outstanding Business and Technology Education Student; Student of the Month.

Community activities: Girl Scouts of America (Gold Award); People to People World Leadership Forum (traveled to Spain, Portugal, France); YMCA Model General Assembly Page; University of VA Summer Enrichment Program; Capital One Women's leadership Conference; Junior Volunteer Award, Medical College of Va. Hospital; and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Debutante.

She enjoys creative writing, public speaking, playing the piano and flute, traveling, working with children, acting, and baton twirling. She is an active member of St. Paul's Baptist Church, Richmond, VA.

Jasmine attended a six-week pre-freshman program at Cornell this Summer taking classes in African Culture and Civilization, Introduction to Fundamental Programming Concepts and Calculus. She is proud of being able to say that she began the Fall semester with an "A" average from the Summer program! Jasmine has already acted on her desire to make the most of her time at the University. She has joined a wide variety of student clubs and organizations including Nigerian Students Association, the Chosen Generation Gospel Choir and the Phenomenon Step Team. Jasmine is also working as a tutor and role model with the Raising Education Attainment Challenge (REACH) Program at the Cornell Public Service Center. This organization is dedicated to alleviating the academic achievement gap between African-American, Latino school children and majority student.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2004 MMHMF SCHOLAR La Tonya Bowles, Cum Laude Graduate

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCATSU)



LaTonya received her Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering in the Fall 2008. She was a NCATSU cheerleader (2004-2008). She is currently employed as a Logistics Engineer at NAVAIR, builder of aircrafts for the U.S. Military. Her goals are to build her career at NAVAIR and to become a professional cheerleader.

In an interview with the Foundation, LaTonya expressed concerns about the radio broadcasting industry's impact on the African-American community today. She hopes to convince the industry to create more inspirational music. She believes the issues most needing to be addressed in today's society are sexism, racism, and relationships.

scholar news continued on page 15

REFLECTIONS OF CARRIE WILLIS JOHNSON

Daphne Cook Edwards, Class 1986, Matoaca High School: Mrs. Johnson made a lasting impression on the students she taught. She was a teacher, friend, mentor and a positive role model. She was instrumental in helping students reach their potential.

Charon Johnson, Daughter-in-law: Mrs. Johnson is a very loving, caring and compassionate woman. She is always willing to step in whenever a person is in need of assistance. When my husband is out of town, she will call to check on the children and me. Sometimes, she will take the children to her house to give me a break. Mrs. Johnson shows love for family and friends as well as strangers, in a Christian-like manner. Having no other family in Virginia, she graciously accepted my son and me with love. Finally, she goes above and beyond in whatever is expected of her. *With love.*

Mrs. Judith Warren, former co-worker: Carrie Johnson is a friendly caring and compassionate individual, who can relate to people from all walks of life. She is given to hospitality, and will extend herself to help a person in need. Carrie is a devoted and gifted math teacher. She is very active in her church and community. She touched many lives, especially in her work with students.

Bruce H. Branch, Class of 1974, Matoaca High School: "Ode to Mrs. Carrie Johnsonn" Mrs. Johnson was a teacher who was very hard on the students that she saw had potential. No matter what background they came from, she knew they were capable of doing the work. Sometimes things didn't seem fair to us, but Mrs. Johnson was only preparing us for what was to come in the future. I just want to take this opportunity to thank her for imparting in me the respect and responsibility of becoming an adult. In closing, I say, Mrs. Johnson, thanks again, and know that I love you for the great inspirational person you are.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Children Learn What They Live

*If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.*

*If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.*

*If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.*

*If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.*

*If children live with security, they learn to have faith.
If children live with approval, they learn to like himself.*

*If children live with acceptance and friendship,
They learn to find love in the world.*

Author Unknown

REFLECTIONS OF MARTHA MASON HILL

VIVIAN J. CLARK, FRIEND & MEMBER OF UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH: "I had the honor of meeting Mrs. Martha Mason Hill shortly after my family and I moved to this area in the early 1970's. Mrs. Hill was one of the first to welcome us to the neighborhood and into the Union Grove Baptist Church family. She would frequently ask if things were going alright as we were settling in. She always exemplified a Christian attitude with a warm, comforting smile; one that I looked forward to being in the presence of whenever possible. When I became an AVON representative, Mrs. Hill graciously insisted on helping me because she knew so many people and I was new in the area. It seemed to give her great joy to help others without expecting (or accepting) anything in return. There was something very "special" about her quiet, friendly demeanor. When I think of Mrs. Hill, this scripture comes to mind from Matthew 22:37, 39b, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. -Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (KJV)

TRUDY & JUDY STEPHENSON, GRANDDAUGHTERS: In memory of our grandmother, Martha Mason Hill, who had the spirit of giving, (Taken from the Psalms for Women).

"The Gift of Giving"

Giving generously from the heart is extremely satisfying for many reasons, but the most important reason is that it glorifies God. When we give freely, we are acknowledging the abundant, undeserved generosity He has poured out on us, His Children.

We should also remember that there are many ways to give. Money is often the first thing that comes to mind, but today with our busy, even frantic schedules, the gift of time is often an even greater sacrifice. No matter how we choose to give, we can always be sure that God is truly pleased and anxious to pour out His grace on us in return. He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendents are blessed. Psalm 37:26 NKJV

A FOND FAREWELL TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBER

Jackie Lenhardt



serve as an officer of the Congress. We wish them all the best.

MMHMF is very grateful to Jackie for six years of dedicated service. During her tenure, she was an active member of the Board of Directors and the Hospitality and Fundraising Committees. Jackie is moving to the United Republic of Tanzania with her husband, the Honorable Alfonso Lenhardt, recently appointed the United States Ambassador to Tanzania by President Obama. Major General Lenhardt, U.S. Army (Ret) was appointed the 36th Sergeant-at-Arms of the United States Senate on September 4, 2001, becoming the first African-American to

2008 MMHMF ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A DAY TO REMEMBER



Left to right: Omarh Rajah, member, Chesterfield County School Board and keynote speaker, and James Stith, MMHMF Board Chairman.



Left to right: Carrie Johnson, Education Service Award Recipient; her husband Dr. Norris Johnson; VA State Dr. Delegate, Roslyn Dance, 63rd District; and Community Service Award Recipient, Brenda Friend Briggs, Esq.



Jan Hatchette, Co-Chairman Scholarship Committee, presenting the 2008 Scholarship Award to Loren Murphy.



Dr. Marcus Newsome, Superintendent, Chesterfield County Public Schools who gave congratulatory remarks.



Board Chairman, Dr. Stith, presenting the Community Service Award to Brenda Friend Briggs, Esq.



Carrie Johnson, receiving the Education Service Award from Dr. Stith, Board Chairman.

2008 MMHMF ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Nearly two hundred gathered for the awards program and anniversary celebration held at Matoaca High School on Saturday, September 27, 2008. MMHMF was pleased to have so many friends and family members of the Foundation and the honorees present for this historic event. Among the guests and seated at the head table were: Virginia State Delegate Rosalyn Dance, 63rd District; James Holland, member of Chesterfield Board of Supervisors, Dale District; and Stephen Cunningham, Matoaca High School Principal.

It was a beautiful Fall afternoon both outside and inside. The skillfully arranged cafeteria area was warm and inviting. Rev. Dr. Harold Braxton, a long-standing member of the MMHMF Board and well acquainted with the Martha Mason Hill story, welcomed guests who were seated around tables draped in white linens and adorned with lovely centerpieces created by Otelia Greene ("Designs by Tee"). The setting was perfect for the occasion. Rev. Braxton reminded the audience that the purposes of the event were to: honor three outstanding individuals for their work; pay tribute to our namesake; and commemorate ten years of commitment by members of MMHMF to helping young people achieve academic success. This was the beginning of a very uplifting afternoon filled with accolades, presentations, inspiring messages, food and fellowship. From the opening remarks of the Rev. Dr. Gregory Howard, Pastor of Union Branch Baptist Church, who praised the Foundation and delivered the invocation; the congratulatory remarks and personal testimony of Dr. Marcus Newsome, Superintendent of Chesterfield County Public Schools; to the motivating keynote address of Omarh Rajah that included a moving sketch of his life, the audience was captivated. Mr. Rajah is the first teacher and African American elected to the Chesterfield County School Board.

No stranger to MMHMF, Amigo Wade, Senior Attorney, VA Division of Legislative Services and Master of Ceremonies, kept the afternoon flowing in amusing ways at times. In presenting the 2009 MMHMF Scholarship Award to Loren Murphy, Jan Hatchette, Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee, mentioned but a few of Loren's stellar accomplishments. The outstanding contributions to the community and to young people made by the Community Service Award recipient, Brenda Friend Briggs, Esq., and the Education Service Award recipient, Carrie Willis Johnson, were highlighted by a close friend of the former and the granddaughter of the latter. Dr. James Stith, Chairman of the MMHMF Board, presented their awards.

Complimenting the occasion, Carolyn Cobb sang two beautiful and very timely selections. Guests were treated to a delicious dinner, catered by Garrett Mason and Associates. They were assisted by members of the Hospitality Ministries of Union Branch Baptist Church and Union Grove Baptist Church.

At the end of the day, it was clear to those who had dedicated so many years to building MMHMF that the organization had significantly influenced the community and young people. It was very gratifying to witness this special day. The family of Martha Mason Hill is forever grateful to those who helped to make it all possible.



Pictured left to right: Rev. Dr. Gregory Howard, Pastor, Union Branch Baptist Church; Dr. Marcus Newsome, Superintendent, Chesterfield County Public Schools; Omarh Rajah, member, Chesterfield County School Board, and keynote speaker; Stephen Cunningham, Principal Matoaca High School; James Holland, member of Chesterfield Board of Supervisors, Dale District; Rev. Dr. Harold Braxton, MMHMF Board of Directors; and Amigo Wade, Esq., Senior Attorney, VA Division of Legislative Services.

MMHMF COOKBOOK "Cherished Family Recipes" 10th Anniversary Edition



Foundation members, Lawrence Mason Jr. and Annie Henderson shown selling cookbooks in front of Ukrop's Grocer, Colonial Heights, VA

The book features 1,050 recipes from 124 contributors

To purchase copies, write to Foundation at:
MMHMF, 2013 Clearwood Drive, Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511
or send an email message to: ajhstith@msn.com

— 2009 ANNUAL FOOD BOOTH —

Sponsored and Organized by
Garrett Mason, MMHMF Member

Held during

Virginia State University Homecoming
(Corner of River Road and Loyal Avenue)

Saturday, October 31, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MENU

Chicken and Fish Dinners
Desserts and Snacks
and
Brunswick Stew

(Prepared by *Bernard Jones* in an iron pot over an open fire!)

This is a Favorite Community Event

THE PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO THE FOUNDATION

MMHMF OUTREACH PROJECTS

September 2008 – July 2009

For more than ten years, the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation has strived to provide educational opportunities that aid students in reaching their potential. Over the years, the Foundation's Outreach Committee has focused on two elementary schools in Southern Chesterfield County, Ettrick and Harrowgate Elementary Schools. To ensure that every child has basic supplies for learning, each year in September, the Foundation and friends of the Foundation donate several baskets of school supplies to each school.

The Outreach Committee meets three to four times per year to evaluate and plan for outreach activities. School personnel are consulted to find ways to motivate students to be successful in school.

In November 2008, the Foundation gave Harrowgate Elementary School a monetary donation to pay field trip fees for students whose families cannot afford them. In addition, the Foundation sponsored a trip to the circus for the pre-K class at Harrowgate. This was a very rewarding experience for these very young students. None of them had ever gone to a circus!

Every February, between forty and fifty college students are sent care packages. This is a very popular and effective program. MMHMF receives numerous thank you notes from students each year. Parents also express their gratitude to the Foundation.

Harrowgate Elementary School celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday in March of 2009. The Outreach Committee participated by providing approximately 30 Dr. Seuss books for the students.

During Career Day at Matoaca High School in April 2009, Lawrence Mason Jr., a member of the Foundation, served as a greeter. The Foundation made a contribution to help defray the cost of lunch for the consultants.

In May 2009, Ettrick Elementary School sponsored several Standard of Learning (SOL) motivational activities for their students. The Foundation contributed funds to help purchase the shirts and hats the students decorated to wear during the tests.

MMHMF OUTREACH PROJECTS

September 2008 – July 2009



Every classroom at Harrowgate Elementary received Dr. Seuss books in celebrate of his birthday.



Ettrick Elementary summer school students shown shopping for books at "Books-A-Million."

Each fifth grade student at Ettrick and Harrowgate Elementary Schools received a book of their choice to take home for summer reading. The Outreach Committee delivered more than 300 books to the schools for distribution to the children.

The Foundation provided funds to help make it possible for each student attending summer school at Ettrick Elementary to purchase a new book of their choice on their field trip to Books-A-Million. The bookstore reserved a special section for the students. Members of the Outreach Committee met the students on July 21 and July 22, 2009 at 9:00 AM at Books-A-Million. Members assisted the school staff with monitoring the students and helping them select their books. Committee members also sat with students as they read their books, assisting them when needed.

For members of the Outreach Committee and the Foundation, this program is extremely rewarding. The schools served are grateful for the help MMHMF provides as expressed verbally and in writing each year.

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