

MARTHA MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

Volume 16 Number 1

Helping Young People Succeed Since 1998!

◀ **THREE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED ANNUALLY**

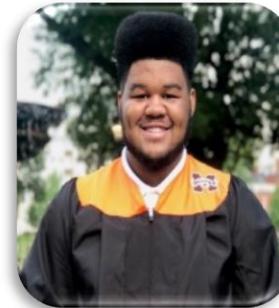
◀ **OVER SIX OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Every year in schools with high percentages of students from low income families, members conducted or participated in 12 activities since September 2019!

◀ **ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED AT VA STATE UNIVERSITY**

“In Times Like These”much is required of us!

Two outstanding young men were awarded our 2020 scholarship! See page 3 for the details.



In response to the current crisis
MMHMF is doing
MORE in 2020!!
 See OUTREACH on pages 9 - 14

WE NEED YOUR HELP! See page 19.

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MMHMF is a public all-volunteer organization, exempt from Federal taxes under IRS code sections 501 (C) (3)

Email address for MMHMF: mmhmfoundation@mail.com website mmhmf.org



**FROM THE DESK OF THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON
DR. ANDREA L. STITH**



In times like these...

For more than 20 years, the Foundation has sought to improve the lives of Chesterfield County youths by supporting their education and by providing them with opportunities and support. By many measures, we've achieved a lot by providing scholarships, care packages, school supplies, books and other items as requested by teachers. Given the extraordinary times, it is fair to ask, do we need to do anything different? What can we do to extend the platform that we have built in order to better advocate for our community? The words of

Toni Morrison, the inspirational author and first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, provides much needed guidance. She says,

“if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some **power**, then your job is to **empower** somebody else.”

Events this year have challenged the health and well-being of so many in this nation—including members of our community. I am proud to see the ways that our Foundation has responded to these challenges and found ways to meet these new and immediate needs. In spite of fundraising challenges, we, as a small private family foundation, have been able to shift our limited resources to where they are needed most.

How are we working to achieve this? We are maintaining regular communications with local schools, learning about the specific needs that the sudden turn to online learning has created. We have responded by providing essential supplies, resources, and food. Surely, we will need to do more moving forward to meet the evolving needs of our community.

While we cannot, for the foreseeable future, continue holding the events that have helped up build community and support for our cause, we will find new ways to reach out and carry out our mission. Our namesake, Martha Mason Hill would certainly have responded with urgency, generosity, and thoughtfulness under these current circumstances, and I am proud that our Foundation strives to do the same.

Andrea Stith
Andrea Stith

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

2019 DONORS IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL A. GILLIAM

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Mr. Richard Carey	Joppa, MD	Ms. Serelda Matthews	Baltimore, MD
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Miss Maya Butler	Laurel, MD	Dr. Andrea Stith	Denver, CO
Mr. Nicholas Butler	Laurel, MD	Dr. James & Mrs. Alberta Stith	Mitchellville, MD
Mrs. Fay Kramer	Millersville, PA	Dr. Laurell Wiersama	Arlington, VA

**MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO MMHMF
TODAY**

**100% DIRECTLY BENEFITS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS
The family of Mrs. Hill PAYS ALL OPERATING COSTS!**

To donate, use the enclosed **DONATION ENVELOPE**. Make checks payable to MMHMF. Fill in the requested information and mail to: MMHMF, 2013 Clearwood Drive Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511. Phone: (301) 390-5914 or (804) 590-1493.

Email: alberta@mmhmf.org. **ONLINE DONATIONS** accepted at: mmhmf.org.

JOIN THE MMHMF LEGACY CIRCLE!

**Help deserving students for generations to come!!
You don't have to be wealthy to leave a legacy. Have a *lasting impact* on the future education of young students by making a gift in your will!**

IF INTERESTED, check the box on the enclosed donation envelope or contact Doretha Houston at manspidr7@yahoo.com, or leave a message on 410-521-0402.

THANK YOU



LETTERS FROM FORMER MMHMF SCHOLARS

BRIANNA NICOLE BRANNON – 2019



Brianna wrote:

Hello, my name is Brianna Brannon and I was the 2019 recipient of the Alyssa Joy Stith Memorial Scholarship. I finished my freshman year at Old Dominion University in the spring and I can definitely say that it was one for the books. Unfortunately, my first-year college experience was cut short due to the pandemic, but the time that I spent on campus was filled with lots of new and different experiences. My classes went well (my final GPA was 3.41), though some were definitely more interesting than others.

As a vocal music major, I got the opportunity to go to tons of interesting

live performances and hear music from all over the world. I even got to meet and talk to some of the musicians that came to perform on campus, which was super cool. If it were not for the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation, I definitely wouldn't have been able to be on campus to be given such wonderful opportunities, so I thank you for gifting me with your scholarship and making these things possible for me. Thank you.

Sincerely

Brianna Brannon

JONATHAN COLEMAN - 2019



Jonathan wrote:

Hello, my name is Jonathan Coleman and I was the 2019 Recipient of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Scholarship. This past year at East Carolina University went extremely well. I adjusted college with ease. I managed to earn a 3.7 as my final GPA while being on the football team. I declared a major in Management Information Systems. My goal is to pursue cybersecurity. Although I faced challenges throughout the year, I believe this year allowed me to find out so much about myself. This was the longest time away from my parents and family. I had to continue

to build on my foundation independently. First and foremost, finding a church that would continue to mold me into the Christian that my parents would be proud of and, also surrounding myself with good people. I am currently a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Council and want to continue to use my platform as a voice on my campus. Again, I would like to thank the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation for helping aid me through this process. I will continue to strive to be the very best person I can be and always put God first.

Jonathan

2019 DONATIONS

\$50 to \$99.99

Dr. Jane Baskerville	Richmond, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Johnson	Washington, DC
Mrs. Bonnie Baugh	Centreville, VA	Dr. Melloney Johnson	Colonial Heights, VA
Master Christopher Baugh	Centreville, VA	Mr. Kevin Lassiter	VA Birdie
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Miss Tatum Baugh	Centreville, VA	Ms. Rosa Manson	Petersburg, VA
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Ms. Jenefer Hughes	N. Chesterfield, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Wildy	Glen Allen, VA
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Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Johnson	Bowie, MD		

\$100 to \$199

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Anderson	Silver Spring, MD	Mr. Tom & Lynn Lubey	Bowie, MD
Mr. Tyrone Baugh	Centreville, VA	Mrs. Janice Mack	Etrick, VA
Mr. Paul Bellamy, Jr.	Vienna, VA	Ms. Laverne Madison	Brandywine, MD
Mr. Tommy Busch	MD Golfer	Mrs. Joyace A. R. Mason	Chesterfield, VA
Miss Maya Butler	Laurel, MD	Mrs. Mozelle Mason	Chesterfield, VA
Master Nicholas Butler	Laurel, MD	Ms. Serelda Matthews	Baltimore, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo Collier	Petersburg, VA	Mr. F.L. & Mrs. V.J. Mitchell	Havre de Grace, MD
Mr. Richard Carey	Joppa, MD	Mr. Randy Nanna	Clermont, FL
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Gillfield Baptist Church	Petersburg, VA	Dr. & Mrs. Dwight Springer	Keller, TX.
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Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Harris	Chester, VA	Dec. & Mrs. Wendell Stephenson	Fayetteville, NC
Mrs. Gloria Harris	Chester, VA	Tabernacle Baptist Church	Petersburg, VA
Ms. Isabelle Hilliard	N. Chesterfield, VA	Dr. & Mrs. Porcher Taylor, Jr.	Petersburg, VA
Mrs. Canta Johnson	Fort Washington, MD	Ms. Esther Carita Tompkins	Alexander, VA
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Mrs. Fay Kramer	Millersville, PA	Ms. Brenda Wynne	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mr. Leroy C. Lane	S. Chesterfield, VA		

2019 DONATIONS**\$200 to \$499**

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Archer	Bowie, MD	**Ms. Sonya Felecia Mason	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mr. Arnold Baugh	N Dinwiddie, VA	Ms. Ayodele McClenney	Columbia, MD
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Mr. Oscar Mc Henry	Upper Marlboro, MD	Unknown	
Dr. & Mrs. Woodrow Knight	Upper Marlboro, MD		

\$500 to \$899

Mr. Wilbert Briggs, Sr.	Arlington, VA	**Mrs. Martha D. Stevens & Family	Richmond, VA
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Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Penn	Catonsville, MD		

\$900 to \$1999

Aberdeen Proving Ground FCU	Aberdeen, MD	**Ms. Judy Stephenson	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mr. Robert Catlett	Silver Spring, MD	**Ms. Trudy Stephenson	S. Chesterfield, VA
**Mrs. Sarah Cheatham	S. Chesterfield, VA	Union Branch Baptist Church	Chesterfield, VA
Mrs. Yolanda George	Silver Spring, MD	Union Grove Baptist Church	S. Chesterfield, VA
Ms. Jan Hatchette	Richmond, VA		

\$2,000 to \$3,999

**Ms. Shirley Baugh	Croton-On-Hudson, NY	Dr. Adrienne Butler Stith	Laurel, MD
Ms. Joy Hatchette	Owings Mill, MD.	Dr. Andrea L. Stith	Santa Barbara, CA
*^Mr. Garrett Mason	S. Chesterfield, VA		

\$4,000 and above

Mrs. Delores Hill Gilliam	Aberdeen, MD	*^Dr. & Mrs. James Stith	Mitchellville, MD
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****Indicates that in-kind contributions are included.**

We apologize if any names were inadvertently omitted. Please contact the Foundation and your donation will be acknowledged in the next publication.

THE 2019 RAFFLE WINNERS

1st place – Bernie & Maria Elana Khoury, Boyton Beach, FL

2nd place - UNKNOWN (Foundation's name written on ticket)

3rd place - Earl Mason, Chesterfield. VA

THE 2020 RAFFLE - SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 31ST

Contact Alberta Stith for tickets at 301.390.5914 or at ajhstith@msn.com

MMHMF 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**LANGSTON JACKSON**

LANGSTON is a 2020 graduate of Monacan High School. He plans to major in political science at Christopher Newport University. At Monacan, Langston was an active participant in the music program, playing in the Marching, Jazz, and Pep Bands. During his senior year, he was the leader of the Low Brass section. In addition, Langston was a member of the National Honor Society, DECA, and Virginia Boys State of the American Legion. He was lead mentor in his school's freshman mentor program.

Langston was also active in his community. He participated for several years in the ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation Walk, Marine Corp Marathon, Mansfield Crossing Association, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day. Langston also served as a Youth

Usher at Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.

Langston is an aspiring politician who values what can be gained by finding common ground with people of varying views and backgrounds

VICTOR RIVERA

VICTOR is a 2020 Graduate of Cosby High School. He will attend Columbia University in the fall, majoring in Biology or Neuroscience and Behavior.

Victor maintained leadership roles in several organizations at Cosby High School. He was President of the Key Club, Vice President of the Medical Awareness Club, and Treasurer of the Science National Honor Society.

In his community, Victor volunteered as a kennel assistant and animal socializer at the Richmond SPCA. He served as a patient response volunteer and volunteer trainer at St. Francis Hospital. Victor was also a Life Teen Catholic youth mentor.

Victor has deep interests in both science and patient care and plans to become a physician. Inspired by a summer internship in a lab conducting experiments, he hopes to continue lab work while in college.

FAMILY NEWS

JESSICA A. HARRIS

June 2020 Graduate of National University, La Jolla, CA.

Jessica received a M.F.A. in Creative Writing., magna cum laude. She is the daughter of Gilda and the late Billy Harris, the granddaughter of Sarah Cheatham and the great granddaughter of Martha Mason Hill.



CAROLINE NASH

2020 Graduate of James Martin High School, Arlington, TX.

Caroline graduated with honors in June. Throughout her secondary experience, Caroline maintained an "A" average. She was recognized in her graduating class of 855 as the only student to earn Perfect Attendance from Kindergarten to Twelfth grade. Caroline will begin her studies at the University of Virginia in August. Caroline is the daughter of Cheryl (Johnson) and Kelvin Nash, the granddaughter of the late Charlotte (Hill) and the late Lewis Johnson, and the great-granddaughter of the late Martha Mason Hill.



NALANI ARYANA STEPHENSON

2020 Graduate, Douglas Southall Freeman High School Henrico, VA

Nalani is the great-great granddaughter of Martha Mason and Thomas Hill, great granddaughter of Doris and Wendell Stephenson, Sr, granddaughter of Renee and Wendell Stephenson Jr, daughter of Christopher Stephenson.

Nalani graduated on June 9th with numerous honors including: member of National Honor Society, STEM (technology, engineering, science and mathematics) Certificate, and Community Service Awards in Teen Mentoring. She volunteered as an assistant in programs for special needs children. Nalani has received her Certified Nursing Assistance (CNA) certification from Hermitage Technical Center, Richmond Va. She is currently working on her Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) certification from Bon

Secours St Mary's Hospital, Richmond Va. Nalani plans to further her education in Nursing by attending a 4-year college and receiving a degree in RN/BSN with a concentration on neonatology.



LESLIE STEVENS

2020 Graduate, NYU, New York, NY, MCC Academic Achievement Award (MA)

Denise Stevens is proud to announce the graduation of her daughter Leslie Stevens with a Masters' degree from New York University (NYU) School of Media, Culture, and Communication. Leslie is the granddaughter of the Late Doris & Wendell Stephenson Sr., and the great-great granddaughter of Martha Mason Hill. Leslie distinguished herself with an academic award during her study NYU. Her future plans are to seek full-time employment in the communication field.



MEET...

ANTHONY J. MCLAURIN, Ed.D., Principal, G.W. Carver Middle School

A message from Dr. McLaurin:



It takes a village to raise a child. This timeless adage is more relevant now than ever. Middle school is the one of the most critical times of growth because our children begin to understand the things that they have observed throughout their young lives. Middle schoolers are brutally honest, beautifully creative and unbelievably curious. It is important for parents, community, and school personnel to collaborate with each other to demonstrate the significance of education and teamwork. So many of the images that our children see glorify strife and divisiveness. Combined efforts of school and community show our children that they matter, people care about them and people are able to work together to accomplish common goals for the benefit of a greater good. We are truly appreciative of the Martha

Mason Hill Memorial Foundation for their support of our literacy programs and for providing financial support for some of our families with the greatest need. Continued support of our literacy programs and book drive is appreciated and will provide our students with the opportunity to fulfil their potential and continue to thrive through middle and high school and beyond.

EMILY CALHOUN DAVIDSON, Communities in Schools (CIS) Coordinator, Ettrick Elementary

From the desk of Emily Davidson:



Sixty-one percent of our students reside in a single-parent or blended (parent plus stepparent) household. Sixty-three percent of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch; of this percentage, the majority of students (67%) live in a household with an annual income at or below the poverty level.

One of our biggest problem is attendance: 34 students currently have missed 17 or more days. Statistically, we know that 3 out of 6 students who are chronically absent by the 6th grade will be at risk of not graduating from high school. We created a campaign called "ZERO HERO" to address the problem. Another area that we address is that many of our students have experienced many forms of trauma. We anticipate after this pandemic our students will come with even more childhood traumatic

experiences from missing so many days at school and being home for such an extended period of time. We are hoping to provide our teachers with training on how to deal with students using trauma informed care practices as well as creating spaces throughout the building that allow our students to "cool down or blow off steam."

I have reached out to our families to check on how they are doing. For many, their needs were great BEFORE the pandemic! Now many of our households have lost work hours, their/jobs, and they need food and so much more!

MMHMF has done incredible things for our students including, buying and creating calm down kits of every classroom; providing supplies every year, summer reading books for our 3-5th graders, items and decorations for our students and families during our back to school block party, helping with our holiday hero shop that allowed families to come and shop for their students during the holiday season and providing our teachers with gifts for teacher appreciation. This is not an exhaustive list but just the small ways MMHMF has helped us.

Emily says that times are definitely challenging now, forcing them to think outside the box about ways to help students continue to succeed, but at a distance. Ettrick students' basic needs seem to be the biggest challenge right now. The school is working with man community partners to make sure our families are safe and fed.

2019 DONATIONS

UP to \$24.99

Mr. Charles & Mickey Backus	Chester, VA	Ms. Stella Johnson	N. Chesterfield, VA
Ms. Christine Barber	Petersburg, VA	Mr. William Lawson	Petersburg, VA
Ms. V. E. Barbour	S. Chesterfield, VA	Mrs. Sandra Mason	S. Chesterfield, VA
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Mrs. Uthai Harris	S. Chesterfield, VA	Ms. Patricia Woodfolk	Petersburg, VA
Ms. Tonya Henderson	S. Chesterfield, VA		

\$25 to \$49

Amazon Smile	On-Line	Mr. Steve Harris	S. Chesterfield, VA
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Mr. Garland Harris	S. Chesterfield, VA	Mr. David Walker	VA Golfer
Mrs. Joyace A. Harris	Petersburg, VA	Mr. Donald Wall	Petersburg, VA

LETTERS FROM FORMER MMHMF SCHOLARS

LAILA AMPY-THOMAS - 2019



My name is Laila and I was the 2019 recipient of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Scholarship. I was thrilled to receive this scholarship and grateful for the opportunities it provided for me. I am currently an Animal and Poultry Sciences major on the production track attending Virginia Tech. I am now a sophomore and I will be talking about my experience as a freshman. My freshman year was difficult in the beginning because I had to adjust to being three and a half hours away from my family and friends. I was also adjusting to living in the mountains which are beautiful when the sun sets. My first semester was a rollercoaster. I met new people and made friends. I got lost a couple of times here and there. I was taking animal science classes and experiencing firsthand how to handle livestock. Then college got harder academically, and I had to adjust my studying techniques for my new environment. Then my second semester started, and I felt I had a better handle on my new life as a college student. I was working out regularly to relax myself. I volunteered on campus at the VT Swine Center and I was raising a heifer (a young female cow) named Patches. I got out more and was making new friends inside and outside of my major. I became the president of the Sheep Club. It was all seeming to look great and be better for me then Covid-19 sent us home. I was happy to be home and feel safe in my own space since I was living in a dorm with a community bathroom. It was still upsetting to be leaving once I finally felt I was fitting in more. My course work became harder in some classes like my biology classes which I attended office hours for more clarity on subjects and my livestock handling class got harder because now there were no animals to handle. Then my other classes were easier, and I just watched videos and answered questions. I ended my freshman year with a GPA of 3.45. I was also on the Dean's List for my fall and spring semesters. Overall, my freshman experience at Virginia Tech was a learning experience and taught me a lot of valuable lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. My freshman year has also given me great lifelong friendships. I would like to say thank you again for giving me this opportunity and helping me continue my education.

FAMILY NEWS

ARBRIANNA MARIAH HARRIS

June 2020 Graduate of Matoaca High School, S. Chesterfield, VA



ARBRIANNA earned an advanced studies high school diploma in June. She is attending Virginia Commonwealth University, majoring in Nursing, and seeks to earn a commission through ROTC. **Arbriannaa** is the granddaughter of Arletha and the late Bernard Gilliam, and the great-granddaughter of Erner Mason Gilliam (first cousin of Martha Mason Hill).

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!!

VOLUNTEERS ARE RECOGNIZED AT OUR ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

2019 ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM - Dr. Mervin B. Daugherty, Guest Speaker; Nicholas Butler, Linda Hopkins; Joyce Jefferson; Rev. Dr. William E. Johnson, III; Patricia Lewis; Dr. John Murray; Kenneth Pope, Rev. Gladys Robinson; Howard Warren. **USHERS:** Shiloh, Union Branch and Union Grove Baptist Churches.

AWARDS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



OUTREACH - Felicia Brown; Annette Crews; Clifton Dickens; Rev. Douglas Harris, Sr.; Dr. & Mrs. Bernie Khoury; Sandra Mason; Ronald Stephenson; Rev. Clementine Robinson; Ricardo Rochelle; Mildred Tucker; Katie Whitfield.

FUNDRAISING AND HOSPITALITY - Shirley Barksdale; Adam Harris; Sheila Harris; Nanette Hudson; Bernard Jones; Alfred Mason, Jr.; Tonya Ruffin; Kyndell Satterwhite; Darius, Shakita & DJ Stephenson; Marlene Stephenson; Ronald Stephenson; Samantha Thibodeaux.



JOHN DALIANI OF COASTAL GRAPHICS (coastalgraphics.com) Our website host since 2014, has essentially donated his time in developing, designing, updating and maintaining our website without compensation!



KATHERINE (KITTY) ANDERSON, FINANCIAL MANAGER

Since 2014, Kitty, a long-time supporter of the Foundation, has helped with QuickBooks matters. She is "on call" anytime to assist us without compensation!

AYODELE MCCLENNEY, JD



Ayodele, a loyal supporter and donor, just started volunteering her help this year. She has been asking for some time what *more* she could do! She is the ACC Director of Strategic Initiatives and Business Development, Johns Hopkins University. Previously, she was the Director of Occupational Safety and Health at DC Water. In this capacity, she oversaw the development and delivery of safety initiatives for the Authority and ensured compliance with a wide range of regulatory requirements. She has extensive management and leadership experience. She holds a BSCE from Howard University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland. She is helping us with strategic planning and fundraising strategies.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW - OUTREACH 2019-2020 (continued)

◀ GIFTS SENT AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT PROVIDED IN DECEMBER FOR HOLIDAY EVENT



AT ETRICK ELEMENTARY AND AT THE BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM – The Foundation sent items for Ettrick’s HOLIDAY HEROES SHOP and sent 20 bags with gifts to the before and after school program. Members attended both and helped with Ettrick’s HOLIDAY HEROES SHOP where parents who could not afford to buy gifts for their children could shop. The event was also set up as a reward for the parents whose children had improved their attendance! MMHMF volunteer, Ronnie Stephenson (left), and members Alberta Stith (left in right photo) & Denise Stevens (far right) helped at the Holiday Heroes Santa Shop. There were plenty of gifts donated for parents to shop for gifts for their children. There was a wrapping station as well! Communities in Schools (CIS) Coordinator, Emily Davidson, appears on the left in the middle photo.



GIFT BAGS FOR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STUDENTS - Outreach Chair Ann Henderson made plans to prepare 20 gift bags for the children. Outreach members, Dr. Regina Knight Mason (center in the photo) and George Henderson (not pictured) took care of the project. Dr. Mason and husband Earl Mason (on right) delivered the bags (filled with fresh fruit, a beautiful notebook and decorative pencil etc.) the day before the party. She and outreach member Gloria Harris (on the left) attended the party.

ADDED PROJECTS SINCE COVID-19 HIT

◀ **“SUPPORT A FAMILY”** – In June, the Foundation chose to help a family with eight children. One of our members took them shopping to purchase clothes and other essentials for the family. We will continue helping.

◀ **DONATING TO ETRICK ELEMENTARY AND TO A FOOD BANK** – Food banks have been overwhelmed! Ettrick feeds most of its students’ breakfast and lunch. We will continue helping.



◀ **PREPARED 102 PACKAGES FOR ALL THE 5TH GRADE GRADUATES AT ETRICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - **Items included:** an MMHMF certificate of achievement, an MMHMF pencil pouch containing school supplies, and the Newbury Award winner graphic novel, *NEW KID*, and other items provided by the school.



NOW THAT PLANS ARE SET FOR OPENING SCHOOLS ONLINE IN SEPTEMBER, MMHMF IS PREPARING TO DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP THOSE WE SERVE

MARTHA MASON HILL FEATURED IN HARROWGATE ELEMENTARY NEWSCAST

During Black History Month 2020, students created a YouTube news broadcast



On Friday, 28 February 2020, the students of Harrowgate Elementary School devoted a Black history segment to the life and legacy of Martha Mason Hill during their Eagle News broadcast. As a part of Black History Month, the children highlighted the lives of amazing people of color who inspire them, and Mrs. Hill was one of the special people presented as a local, unsung hero who performed many kind and generous acts for others during her lifetime as a resident of Chesterfield County, Virginia. The children discussed what her life was like growing up and what she valued, specifically

education as the key to a better life. The tribute mentioned her 40-year career in housekeeping at Virginia State College (now University), and her desire to ensure the college education of her seven daughters, who have carried on the mission on behalf of Black youth through the Foundation named after her. Certified reading teacher Ms. Paula Balducci Iannini supervised the project and helped students with the script. The spotlight can be viewed on YouTube, using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dekjFypsek8>



A Tribute to ANNIE D. HENDERSON

Board Member and Outreach Committee Chairwoman Extraordinaire



Our beloved member and friend, Annie D. Henderson, passed away peacefully at home on March 8, 2020. On March 21, 2020, members of MMHMF joined her husband and fellow Foundation member, George Henderson, their children (Jabril A. Muhammad, Tonya L. Henderson, and Brandon B. Kimble) and other family and friends to celebrate her life.

Ann, as we affectionately called her, was a true blessing from God! In her presence, one was always greeted by her warm smile, her gentle spirit and a willingness to serve. All who knew her will agree that she was an extraordinary friend, parent, colleague and community servant. A stellar leader or follower, Ann was a team player, loyal and committed to MMHMF in all things. Ever present, without question, you knew that Ann could always be counted on to provide her full support for everything related to the Foundation. She and George would show up to Foundation events, even those held in Maryland!

Combined with her natural spirit of giving and caring about others, and her passion for education, Ann was a perfect match to help the Foundation carry out its Mission. We were blessed to have her in our lives and on the MMHMF Board of Directors for six years, and the vital and cherished Chairwoman of the Outreach Committee for eighteen years. She served in both capacities until she passed in March of 2020. Though she was already actively involved in a host of organizations and groups, when asked, she readily agreed to assume the leadership position on the newly formed Outreach Committee in 2002. The Outreach Committee was the busiest of all our committees. Under her leadership, the Committee expanded operations over the years to the current level of conducting at least six activities annually. She held planning meetings at least a couple of times a year. Under her guidance, MMHMF outreach efforts increased to supporting two elementary, two middle and one high school were supported. In addition, a before and after school program and a pre-k program were supported. Committee members will attest to the fact that in spite of her failing health, Ann made sure that everything was accomplished, including Board meeting reports and newsletter articles!

We thank God for Ann! The Foundation was so pleased to honor Ann during our 20th Anniversary Gala held in July 2019. We wanted to let everyone know then as well as now just how much we appreciated and loved her. No one was more deserving of recognition!

Ann’s work and deeds reflect the remarkable person she was. Her inner beauty shone brightly, bringing much joy into the lives of many. She will live on, for we know that the impact she had on the lives of so many is indelible.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW – OUTREACH 2019-2020 (continued)

◀ **FOOD AND BEVERAGES DONATED TO THE BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AND TO ETTRICK ELEMENTARY** – Items are purchased and delivered when requested. The before and after school program requested healthy snacks during the year. The Communities in Schools Coordinator at Ettrick Elementary asks organizations in the community to assist with activities she plans during the year to enhance student learning. For example, we sent cider and cups for the Pumpkin Patch Festival in October.



Before & after school students greeted members George Henderson (left) and Sarah Cheatham (right), and volunteer Sandra Mason (back row, middle). Ettrick Elementary Pumpkin Patch Festival, Fall, 2019

◀ **BOOKS PURCHASED FOR CARVER MIDDLE LITERACY PROJECT** – The principal has set a goal of securing 30,000 books to build libraries in every classroom to promote reading and improve student reading skills. Since the fall of 2019, the Foundation has purchased nearly 200 books. Gayle Sutton picked up the books ordered from Barnes and Noble. MMHMF labels were placed in the books that were delivered to Carver by Sarah Cheatham, Gayle Sutton and Barbara Crews. They were presented to the school at a faculty meeting. Barbara Crews made the labels. Gayle Sutton ordered and picked up additional books for the school. Labelled books were presented to Carver Middle by Gayle and Barbara Crews.



Pictured above (left to right): Principal Dr. Anthony McLaurin and Outreach Committee members Sarah Cheatham, Barbara Crews, Gail Sutton

Our first delivery was during a faculty meeting. Members (left to right) Barbara Crews, Gayle Sutton and Sarah Cheatham placed the books on display for viewing. Dr. McLaurin introduced members and shared some MMHMF history.

2019-2020 OUTREACH



THE SCHOOLYEAR IN REVIEW



MMHMF continued its focus on helping those who need it the most, students from low income families.

The MMHMF approach has always been to select schools with high percentages of students from low income families. On the list currently are: **two elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, a pre-school, and a before and after school program.**

Though the school year was cut short, ending in March because of COVID-19, the Foundation's outreach efforts remain strong. Added to the lengthy list of activities planned and executed by our outstanding outreach team each year, our Executive team has focused attention on helping wherever it is needed the most at this time in the community we serve. **AS ALWAYS, WE ASK SCHOOLS HOW WE CAN HELP! See page 14 for the details.**

◀ **ANNUAL OUTREACH PLANNING MEETING HELD IN AUGUST**– Chairperson Ann Henderson called the meeting early in the month to organize the year, decide on the activities, assign leaders to each project and work out the schedule. The first project, collecting school supplies, is organized and started at this time.

Foundation POCs were assigned to each school or project: Gayle Sutton – Ettrick Elementary and Carver and Matoaca Middle Schools; Assist. Chair Barbara Crews – Harrowgate Elementary; Ann and George Henderson assisted by Dr. Regina Knight Mason – Books for Summer Reading, Matoaca High Senior Awards Breakfast, Before and After School Program; Sarah Cheatham – Care Packages for College Students; Dr. Cortez Dial – Foundation Support for Students & Families in Response to COVID-19. S. Felecia Mason – Photographer.



Left photo: Members and community volunteers gather usually at Union Grove Baptist to work on projects. **For many years** Bernie and Maria Elena Khoury (middle photo) have collected school supplies for the foundation in their summer home community in Laurel MD, Victoria Falls (right photo). The residents are always **VERY GENEROUS!**

THE YEAR IN REVIEW – OUTREACH 2019-2020 (continued)

◀ **SUPPLIES SORTED, PACKED AND DELIVERED IN SEPTEMBER** – Schools were contacted to arrange delivery dates. Members and community volunteers gathered to prepare the supplies for delivery to our adopted schools and programs listed previously. MMHMF POCs for each school coordinated the deliveries.



Pictured (left to right): members Dr. Will Lewis, Judy Stephenson and George Henderson, volunteer, Ronnie Stephenson; Member, Barbara Crews. Middle photo: members George Henderson and Clifton Dickens unloading items. Right photo: Adam Harris (left) and George Henderson (right). From start to finish, this a BIG JOB, involving a lot of “helping hands!”



Supplies were delivered to two elementary schools, a middle school, and to the before and after school program. There were PLENTY to go around! Pictured (in left photo, left to right) volunteer Rev Doug Harris; Barbara Crews, Gloria Harris; Gayle Sutton; school staff member and a student. Right photo, left to right: Gloria and Rev. Doug Harris.



Carver Middle received the supplies that were best suited for middle school students.



The before and after school students also received supplies. There were plenty **WELCOMING FACES, SMILES** and **HEARTFELT THANK YOUS** there and at every location!!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW – OUTREACH 2019-2020 (continued)

◀ **READ TO STUDENTS AT HARROWGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** – The “First Book” program provides books and resources to Title I schools. Volunteers read books to small groups of students and engage students in discussions and related activities. Committee members and volunteers read to the students in October, November 2019, and January 2020. February reading was canceled due to the school system being closed because of inclement weather, and it was discontinued in March because of COVID-19. Readers who participated for one or more dates were: Gloria Harris, Clifton Dickens, Cortez Dial, Katie Whitfield, Annette Crews, Michelle Thornton, Pat Woodfolk, Stella Johnson, Joyce Cosby, Gayle Sutton and Barbara Crews.



Each student gets a copy of books to take home. Members: Pat Woodfolk (left). Members (left to right in photo on right): Felecia Mason, Gayle Sutton, Paula Ianini (school staff), Dr. Will Lewis and Barbara Crews.

◀ **SUPORTED BACK TO SCHOOL AND OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AT CARVER MIDDLE AND ETTRICK ELEMENTARY**– Members attended and supplied requested items. Members served as **FACILITATORS** at a **Spaghetti Supper Community Meeting** for parents and school officials.



Members Barbara Crews, Dr. Will Lewis and Gloria Harris were facilitators



Fall 2019 Community Meeting at Ettrick Elementary School