Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation(MMHMF)
c/o Shirley Baugh
14 Scenic Circle
Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520-1658

The Key to success is EDUCATION

MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

MMHMF

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018 **Volume 14 Number 1**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO STUDENTS!

WE'RE STILL GOING AND STILL GROWING!

****

THREE $1,500 SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR - Most Awarded Ever!

Anthony Anderson, Lilli Anna Manso and Tamia Penn. ***Read about our new scholars on page 4***

MORE THAN SIX OUTREACH ACTIVITIES EVERY YEAR

Supporting two elementary schools with high numbers of low income families, a pre-school program, a before and after-school program, a middle school, a high school and college students. **PLUS!! We ask teachers to tell us what else they need!** ***More on pages 10, 11 and 12.***

In the photo are some of the MMHMF members and community volunteers who spend untold hours every year working on projects.

****

CARE PACKAGES TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

This project is very popular among students and parents! ***Read more on page 11.***

It is widely accepted that simple acts showing care and concern can have a positive impsct on student retention.

FRIENDS OF ETTRICK EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Graduates are off to Kindergarten!

This is the first graduating class. ***Read more about this wonderful program on page 12.***

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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 CHAIRMAN

The 20th anniversary of the founding of MMHMF finds the Nation experiencing significant political and social turmoil. I can't help but wonder "What would Mrs. Hill and others on whose shoulders we stand say about these times? What advice would they have for us?

I believe that they would urge us to talk and think about what we should be doing rather than what they should be doing. They would urge us to ensure that our actions speak loud and clear and support and reinforce the words that we speak. We would be reminded to cherish the many gifts that we have been given and to pay it forward. As an example, my mother, a third grade educated single parent gave me the gift of not having to miss school to work on the farm when she saw the joy that I received from the lessons that I learned there. While she was not formally educated, she valued learning and believed that a quality education would give me access to a better life than she lived.

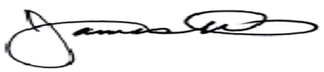
Our elders taught us to recognize that in the baseball game of life, we realize that we did not hit a double or a triple, but that because of the work that was done by those who went before us, we were born on 2nd or third base. They emphasized that it was our responsibility to pay it forward and to give others a helping hand.

Mrs. Hill's daughters speak of their childhood experience of getting on the school bus or sitting in the classroom and seeing a girl wearing one of their favorite skirts or blouses as their mom felt that girl needed it more. VSU women in Branch Hall (the dormitory in which Mrs. Hill worked) would often find "care packages" in their room, courtesy of Mrs. Hill. Giving shaped the legacy that she left!

Yes, our parents may have been poor, but they taught us the value of sharing. How often did we hear- "Go into the garden and pick a pail of peas and carry they over to the neighbor who can use them" or "Christmas Is coming – go into the smoke house and take that piece of smoked shoulder to the "Smith" family to help them spread a little cheer".

Our elders taught us the value of empathy and humility. While we learned to recognize the good work done by others, we did not always have to talk and boast about the good work we thought we had done. They firmly believed in the spirit of the old Negro Spiritual "Let the work I have done speak for me".

MMHMF strives to embody the spirit of Mrs. Hill in all that we do and have used that spirit to help shape our vision and goals. Our vision and goals reflect an appreciation for the value of the spirit of community and the Foundation's place in and responsibility for the growth, support and health of the neighborhood. The Foundation fully realizes that we can make a difference only if we have your support. While the world in which we live is constantly changing and we embrace those changes that make our lives better, let us not forget that there are customs and values that are worth remembering and saving. MMHMF is committed to highlighting the contributions by our elders while supporting and encouraging the next generation of stars.



Jim Stith

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To donate, use the **DONATION CARD** below. 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.

100% of your tax-deductible donation supports Foundation scholarships and outreach projects. **THANK YOU**

DONATION CARD

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MMHMF 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ANTHONY ANDERSON

Anthony graduated from Matoaca High School and is majoring in Business Information technology at Virginia Tech University in Blackstone, VA. His high school activities were: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Soccer and Lacrosse. In the community he was a youth usher in his church and helped package meals for Rise Against Hunger. He was also a volunteer for Operation Christmas Child, The Hope Center, the Chesterfield Food Bank and voter registration. He is the son of Anthony and Gwen Anderson.

LILLI ANNA MANSO

Lilli is a graduate of James River High School. She is attending Virginia Commonwealth University, Midlothian, VA and majoring in Art Foundation. She is the recipient of the Alyssa Joy Stith Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the Stith family for students in the Arts. Her high school activities included the National Art Honor Society, SEA of Japan, and the National Language Honor Society. Lilli has worked at Penn Station Subs, Grandpa's Attic Consignments and the Visual Arts Center of Richmond. She is the daughter of Pamela Manso.

TAMIA PENN

Tamia graduated from Meadowbrook High School, N. Chesterfield, VA. And is attending the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. At Meadowbrook, Tamia was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, the Beta Club, the Interact Club and the Marching Band's Color Guard. Her community activities: Peer to Peer Tutoring; House of Prayer; and A Giving Heart. She enjoys drawing, reading, philosophy, astronomy, painting, video games and jogging. Her parents are William and Leticia Penn.

****

THEATER SCHEDULE

Arena Stage, **1101 Sixth Street SW Washington DC 20024**

ANYTHING GOES (a musical comedy) December 8, 2018 at 2pm
Saturday, December 8, 2019, 2pm

JUBIKEE world-renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers)
Saturday, June 1, 2019, Saturday, 2pm

For more information contact: alberta@mmhmf.org

2017 DONATIONS

$200 to $399

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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.

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2018 ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Saturday, September 29, 2018, 330 PM
Union Grove Baptist Church
19111Church Road, South Chesterfield, VA 23803

HONORING

2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Anthony Anderson, Lilli Anna Manso, & Tamia Penn

2018 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT:

Deacon John W. Ellis, Jr.

2018 EDUCATION SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT:

Mrs. Tammy L. Pulliam Edwards

GUEST SPEAKER

DELEGATE LASHRECSE D. AIRD
Virginia House of Delegates, 63rd District

Delegate Lashrecse D. Aird was sworn in January 2016 to represent the 63rd District, which includes all of the City of Petersburg, parts of the City of Hopewell, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George County. She holds the special distinction of being the youngest woman ever elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. Delegate Aird has been appointed to serve on the General Laws; Health, Welfare and Institutions; and Appropriations committees

Delegate Aird's service is guided by her allegiance to the citizens she represents and her devotion to improving their quality of life. In her first legislative term, she has placed a significant emphasis on education—K-12 and higher education—local governments in fiscal distress and workforce development. Additionally, she has been instrumental in securing millions of dollars for school systems in her district.

Delegate Aird's professional and civic life reflect her conviction that the struggle for equality begins with political freedom and education. At Richard Bland College of William and Mary, she has a direct impact in helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders, as the Assistant Director of Development; raising money for scholarships to make college more accessible and affordable.

A tireless and trusted community leader, Delegate Aird is actively engaged in numerous civic boards and organizations.
Through her hard work and clarity of vision, she has risen to a leadership position in each organization that she serves. Currently, she chairs the 4th Congressional District Committee for the Democratic Party of Virginia. In addition, she is Chair of the Petersburg Democratic Committee; a member of the Board of Directors for Southside Regional Medical Center, the Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a former member of the Petersburg Planning Commission and the Governor's Council on Women.

Delegate Aird earned her undergraduate degree from Virginia State University in 2008. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia's Sorensen Political Leadership Program; a graduate of the American Council on Education Virginia Network for Women in Higher Education's Senior Leadership Seminar and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University's Minority Political Leadership Institute. In addition, she has completed coursework at Virginia Commonwealth University toward a Master's in Public Administration.

Delegate Aird has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Virginia Education Association, 2017 Solid as a Rock Award, being named to the Virginia Leadership Institute's Top Ten Leaders under Forty; the recipient of Virginia State University's Presidential Medallion; and the Young Trojan Distinguished Alumni Award for two consecutive years.

Delegate Aird is a resident of Petersburg where she and her husband, Blaine, reside and are raising their two young boys, Blaine and Blake.

Reception: Church Fellowship Hall Following the Program
ALL ARE WELCOME! ***FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***
For additional information, Contact: alberta@mmhmf.org

2018 EDUCATION SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

TAMMY LaNAE PULLIAM EDWARDS

Tammy LaNae Pulliam Edwards is a native of Chesterfield County and resides in the Matoaca Magisterial District. Tammy is a product of Chesterfield County Public School System and attended Ettrick Elementary moving on to graduate from Matoaca High School. She continued her education and graduated from Virginia State University in 1997 where she earned a Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree with a concentration in Vocal Music Education; and she is certified in Elementary Education. In 2014, Mrs. Edwards earned a Master of Education degree in Leadership from Regent University.

Early on in Mrs. Edwards' childhood, she was always singing--she sang at home, at church, and at community functions. God blessed her with a beautiful voice. Mrs. Edwards was baptized at Union Grove Baptist Church in Chesterfield; and it was a given that she would become a member of the Youth Choir where she continued to sing. In addition, she was an active participant in the Girl Scouts.

While at Matoaca High, she was invited by the Wives of Beaux Twenty of Petersburg to be a debutante. Mrs. Edwards was named in Merit's Who's Who Among American High School Students. She was Senior Chorus Soprano with guest conductor Vito E. Mason in the Virginia Music Education Association presents the District Three All-Regional Chorus Concert at Lloyd C. Bird High School. She served as president of the acclaimed Virginia State University Gospel Choir reunion group when they celebrated their 12th anniversary at Petersburg High School with the theme "God is On Our Side" with guest conductor Larry Bland.

Mrs. Edwards began her teaching career as a long-term substitute teacher in the Petersburg Public School system. At that time, she really did not intend to make teaching a career. As she explored career options, she developed a love for teaching children and watching them learn and grow intellectually and socially.

Later, Mrs. Edwards served as a Reading and Math instructional assistant. During this time, the administration of Petersburg Public Schools recommended that she become a certified teacher. Tammy returned to Virginia State University to complete undergraduate studies with Petersburg Public Schools providing funding to support her post- secondary training.

Mrs. Edwards has always been inspired by the words and actions of both her grandmother, Elva Manson Billips and great-aunt, Rosa Manson Lewis. Their words resonate with Tammy each day as she teaches and trains her students to become the best that they can be. Tammy acknowledges teachers and administrators along the way who have helped her immensely through mentorship and general motivation.

Mrs. Edwards' first full-time teaching position was at Walnut Hill Elementary School in Petersburg where she taught kindergarten and witnessed so much student growth in a year's time. The parents worked with her to insure that their children succeeded

Mrs. Edwards loves teaching and enjoys implementing new programs and spearheading visions of teaching and learning. She has been an administrator for after school, extra-curricular and summer camp programs. She enjoys equally both teaching and administration.

With the paraprofessional experiences and teaching opportunities in Petersburg, Mrs. Edwards sought to share her knowledge and skills in Chesterfield County. She has been teaching in Chesterfield County for more than thirteen (13) years. Her first assignment was at Hopkins Elementary followed by several years at Ecoff Elementary. She is currently teaching at Bensley Elementary School and was instrumental in establishing a relationship with From One Hand To Another (FOHTA). This is a STEAMM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math and Motivation) camp that is the brainchild of Grammy award winner, singer, songwriter and producer Pharell Williams; the camp is funded by Mr. Williams. FOHTA's approach and priority is to nurture the importance of education with tools and resources so that our children will begin their future technologically advanced, academically centered, globally focused and socially aware. Some of the experiences of the summer camp have included a trip to NASA Langley to speak with an astronaut on board the International Space Station, visits to Radio One, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. Students have also been engaged in developing their own businesses and participated in a mock *Shark Tank* . Business owners from our community judged the students. The students ages ranged from 7-10 years old (grades 2 – 5). They have also worked to develop public service announcements that deal with relevant social issues. As an added gift to the FOHTA students, Mr. Williams partnered with Leeesa Mattress Company and donated a twin mattress to every student attending camp this summer. The mattresses were delivered to Bensley Elementary with distribution to parents and students. The August 2018 culminating activity included parents, students and staff.

Mrs. Edwards most fulfilling and enjoyable experience is when she sees a former student and they have gone to or completed college. They often say, "It is because you pushed me and told me that I could be whatever I wanted to be". One of her former students recently earned and received her doctorate degree.

Since 2001, Mrs. Edwards has served as a Deaconess at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA. She is a member of the Dr. Wesley K. McLaughlin Educational Scholarship Foundation and Christian Education Department since 2005. Mrs. Edwards is a Certified Christian Counselor; member of the Christian Education Ministry and teaches Sunday School. She is often a guest soloist for community, political and educational ceremonies and events.

Mrs. Edwards is the daughter of Richard S. Billips and Floristine Billips as well as the late Virginia Ann Pulliam. She is married to Mr. Martin C. Edwards, Sr. who is a teacher in the Richmond Public School System. They have three children, Tiffany, Roderick, and Martin, Jr. Tiffany is a graduate of Henrico High School; Roderick is a graduate of Matoaca High and Virginia State University and is a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. Martin, Jr. will be a junior at Matoaca High this fall and is in the honors / dual enrollment program taking college level courses.

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UP to $24.99

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$25 to $49

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Carver High Class Reunion 1956	Chester, VA	Ms. Rosa Manson	Petersburg, VA
Ms. Christine Clark	S. Chesterfield, VA	Ms. Robin O'Neal	Fort Washington, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Clark	Bowie, MD	Ms. Laureen. Penn	Baltimore, MD
Mrs. Vivian Clark	S. Chesterfield, VA	Mr. Paul R. & Mrs. Joyce Prather	Laurel, MD
Mr. Marvin Coleman	S. Chesterfield, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Robinson, Sr.	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mr.& Mrs. John Coleman	Dinwiddie, VA	Mr. Charles Speelman	Lanham, MD
Mr. Lorenza & Mrs. Helen Collier	Dinwiddie, VA	Dr. & Mrs. Dwight Springer	Keller, TX
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Collins	Aberdeen, MD	Mr. Ronald Stephenson	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mrs. Joyce Cosby	Colonial Heights, VA	Mr. Dudley & Mrs. Audrey Tademy	Great Falls, VA
Ms. Barbara Crews	Chesterfield, VA	Mrs. Judith Warren	S. Chesterfield
Mrs. Vickie Randall. Davis,	Chester, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Wildy	Glen Allen, VA
Ms. Veida Evans		Mr. & Mrs. John Wilkerson	S. Chesterfield, VA
Ms. Kimberly B. Monroe		Mr. Vagio Wooten	VA
Ms. Stephanie P. Moore			

$100 to $199

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Barksdale	Perryville, MD	Ms. Isabelle Hilliard	Richmond, VA
Mr. Tyrone Baugh	Centreville, VA	Mr. Leonard & Mrs. Carolyn Johnson	Bowie, MD
Mr. Paul Bellamy, Jr.	Vienna, VA	Mrs. Canta Johnson	Fort Washington, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Brown	Chester, VA	Ms. Linda Kirschten	Chevy Chase, MD
Miss Maya Butler	Laurel, MD	Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Lane	Petersburg, VA
Master Nicholas Butler	Laurel, MD	Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Manning	Aberdeen, MD
Mrs. Janice Burton	Silver Springs, MD	Mrs. Joyce A. R Mason	Chesterfield, VA
Mr. Richard Cary	Joppa, MD	Ms. Sonya F. Mason	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mr. Lawrence Carpenter	Randallstown, MD	Mrs. Naomi Mayo	Aberdeen, MD
Carver's Reunion Group	Chester, VA	Mr. & Mrs. F.L. & V.J. Mitchell	Harve de Grace, MD
Ms. Sandra Castagner	Glen Arm, MD	Dr. Samuel. Person	Petersburg, VA
Ms. Teresa Czarski	Glen Arm, MD	Ms. Sherrita Powell	Fort Washington, MD
Ms. Mabel Chavis	Richmond, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Claiborne Richardson	Springfield, VA
BG (Ret) & Mrs. Wendell Childs	Cullman, AL	Ms. Cheryl Richardson	Springfield, VA
Mr.& Mrs. Norman (Evelyn) Cooley	S. Chesterfield. VA	Ms. Esther M. Smith	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mr. & Mrs. John (Otelia) Ellis, Jr.	S. Chesterfield, VA	Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Stephenson	Fayetteville, NC
Mr. Bruce S. Foster,	Colonial Heights, VA	Ms. Gayle Sutton	Richmond, VA
Mr. Everette & Mrs. Sharon Gray	Herndon, VA	Union Grove Finance Ministry	S. Chesterfield, VA
Rev. Douglas & Mrs..Gloria Harris	Chester, VA	Union Grove Missionary Ministry	S. Chesterfield, VA
Mr. Seth Harris	Chesterfield, VA	Mr. Howard Warren	S. Chesterfield, VA
Dr. Jack Hehn	Laurel, MD	Mrs. Katie Whitfield	S. Chesterfield, VA
Ms. Angie Hemingway	Alexandria, VA		

2018 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

DEACON JOHN W. ELLIS, JR.

2018 Service Award Recipient

The Foundation is pleased to honor Deacon Ellis, a long-time resident of Chesterfield County, who has served the community and his church for decades. Today, he is still active in both.

Deacon Ellis has been a member of Union Grove Baptist Church (UGBC) – South Chesterfield, for over 70 years and is one of the oldest members in the church family. His favorite scriptures are:

"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

As a very active member of UGBC, he faithfully serves with a high level of commitment. The following represents his service record:

- Deacons Ministry where he is the oldest Deacon and served 50 plus years; during this time, he served as Chairman for five years;
- Church Treasurer for 28 years;
- Teacher of the Young Adult Sunday School Class;
- Music Ministry participant where he began singing in the Junior Choir decades ago. God has given Deacon Ellis the gift of reading music and playing the piano. He sings bass in the New Covenant Choir, Male Chorus, and the Harold E. Braxton Memorial Choir. He is well known for his lead role in selections like "Seeking for a City", "When I Rose this Morning", and other choral selections. He has the ability to "line music" (a black history music concept) for selections such as "Amazing Grace";
- Member of the Music Committee;
- Member of Men's Ministry;
- Member of the Revival Committee;
- Support member for Trustee's Ministry.

In the community, Deacon Ellis works with the Civic and Progressive Action Association of the Matoaca Magisterial District (CAPAAMMD) and was honored by the group for his community service.

Deacon Ellis sings in the Community Choir that performs for various services and events.

He assists with the Downtown Churches Feeding Program in Petersburg;

He continues to help others by providing lawn service and doing auto mechanic work.

Deacon Ellis has supported the youth in Union Grove as well as those in the community. For example, he attends their high school football and basketball games, and he has sponsored several young people on church trips to Baltimore, Kings Dominion and Hershey Park. For Christmas, he purchased bicycles for children in need.

Deacon Ellis' motto is "If I can help somebody as I travel along, then my living shall not be in vain."

2017 -2018 FAMILY NEWS

ALECIA HOUSTON AMOO started a new job in July as a community economic development attorney for Legal Aid in Wilson, NC. She will join a team of fair housing, legal aid lawyers who work on community economic development issues related to housing segregation, gentrification, health access and unfair housing practices in eastern NC. She is excited because it is her first attorney position. I think her boss liked the fact that in addition to being a member of the NC bar, she has been an auditor for Durham County for the past two years, plus has a master's degree in urban and regional planning. Alecia is the daughter of James and Doretha Houston, granddaughter of Delores Hill Gilliam and the late Samuel Gilliam, and great-granddaughter of Martha Mason Hill and Thomas Hill..

JOSEPH AMOO, husband of Alecia Houston Amoo, earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in spring 2018 and passed both the NAPLEX (North American Pharmacy Licensure Examination) and MPJE (Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination). Dr. Amoo is employed by CVS Pharmacy, Raleigh, NC.

MICHAEL HOUSTON earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) in spring 2018. He is currently employed as a government account executive for AT&T in Washington, DC. Michael is the son of James and Doretha Houston, grandson of Delores Hill Gilliam and the late Samuel Gilliam, and great-grandson of Martha Mason Hill and Thomas Hill.

JAMES HOUSTON, IV completed his Master of Business Administration from Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois in summer 2018. James is employed as a licensed professional engineer for Gewalt Hamilton Associates in Vernon Hills, IL. James is the son of James and Doretha Houston, grandson of Delores Hill Gilliam and the late Samuel Gilliam, and great-grandson of Martha Mason Hill and Thomas Hill.

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COMING EVENT

THE 7th ANNUAL SAMUEL A. GILLIAM MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

8:30 am, Saturday, September 22, 2018 Registration at 7:30 am

Lake Chesdin Golf Course, Chesterfield, VA 23838

MEMORIALS

MARTHANN OTELIA LEWIS BROWN WOODLEY ADAMS

2009 MMHMF Community Service Award Recipient

Marthann was such a blessing as a member of the Mason Family and to MMHMF since its' beginning twenty years ago. She attended the annual programs regularly and supported the Outreach programs both spiritually and financially.

Her willingness to serve, unceasing dedication, tireless efforts and support was such an inspiration to us and contributed much to the success of the Foundation. When she could no longer serve with the Outreach Committee she contacted someone else in her church to continue her work.

We were pleased that we had the opportunity to show our appreciation for her services in 2009. She was the recipient of the MMHMF Community Services Award at the Annual Awards Program for her numerous contributions.

DWIGHT R. BROWN, JR.

1999 MMHMF Scholarship Recipient

The Foundation was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Dwight R. Brown Jr. on June 2. 2018. He was the first recipient of our scholarship and the grandson of our loyal supporter and recipient of the MMHMF 2009 Community Service Award, Marthann Adams.

Dwight graduated with honors from Matoaca High School in May of 1999. He entered James Madison University (JMU) that Fall. He received the only scholarship the Foundation awarded that year.

May of 2010 was a very busy month for Dwight. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English, with a minor in Secondary Education from James Madison University. Seven days later, Dwight married Michelle Huey at Pocahontas State Park in front of family and friends. He began graduate school at JMU, working on a Master of Arts Degree in Education.

Dwight was raised in church and was a very active member of Brown Grove Baptist Church in Midlothian, VA, serving in numerous capacities for over the years. He was passionate about helping youth. His last position held was at James Solomon Russell Middle School in Brunswick County, VA as an English teacher.

THERESA ALEASE BROWN

MMHMF Community Outreach Volunteer

Theresa was a dedicated volunteer of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation for approximately ten years. When Teresa was asked to serve for the MMHMF's Outreach Program as a representative from her church, Community Independent Methodist, she did not hesitate to say "yes". Despite her physical challenges, other obligations and commitments, she graciously accepted. Her unselfish love and desire to help others, especially young people, exemplified the ideals of this organization.

The MMHMF was truly blessed to be the beneficiary of Theresa's Christian spirit of giving to her church and community. We thank God for the love she shared, the inspiration she gave, and the tremendous impact she had on this Foundation.

THE MMHMF LEGACY CIRCLE

We are seeds of the future - for those who succeed us. We dream and envision and set things in motion. The fruition of our decisions will be known only to others whom we will not meet. We are called upon to partner in faith with those who have gone before us and to offer the best that we have to give to those who will follow.

Presbyterian Church (no author listed)

The Foundation is grateful to all those who have become partners in advancing the mission of MMHMF by continuing to donate. Together we have made tremendous progress toward achieving the Foundation goals since we began operating in 1998. The generosity of donors is vital as we continue our efforts to help our youth prepare for their futures.

PLEASE JOIN US!

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP YOUTH FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

And Preserve Your Legacy of Supporting Deserving Students.

You don't have to be wealthy to leave a legacy to

HAVE A *LASTING IMPACT* ON THE FUTURE EDUCATION OF YOUNG STUDENTS.

MAKE A GIFT TO MMHMF IN OUR WILL.

Become a

CHARTER LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBER TODAY!

For more information and to join, contact us at: manspidr7@yahoo.com

MMHMF
The Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation

FORMER SCHOLAR NEWS

DEVEN IRBY

2017 Scholarship Recipient

Hello, my name is Deven Irby and I was the 2017 recipient of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Scholarship. I was honored to receive this scholarship and extremely grateful for the opportunities it provided for me. This particular scholarship was a huge blessing for me and my family. So once again I would like to give a huge thank you to the Martha Mason Hill Foundation.

I am currently a sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. I am a Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science major with a concentration in Health Sciences on the Pre-Physician Assistant track. That's a mouth full there! My freshman year of college was without a doubt an amazing year. The summer before my freshman year I received an invitation to join a selective program offered here at VCU, the Emerging Leaders Program. I applied to the program and was accepted about a month later. During my freshman year I served as a mentee being guided by a sophomore mentor. As well as attending regularly scheduled meetings I also had to take courses pertaining to leadership and complete community service hours. If someone would have told me this program was going to impact my life the way it has I would have never believed it. The Emerging Leaders Program has helped me enhance my preexisting leadership skills as well as form lifelong connections. I have built friendships with people from all over the world because of this program.

Of course, college is not always about going to class, studying, and doing homework. It is important to make time for things that you enjoy as well. Personally, I am a huge sports fan so I decided to join a club called the Rowdy Rams. Rowdy Rams is similar to a pep squad. We cheer on all the sports teams such as women's soccer and men's basketball. This organization has been so much fun and has also helped me meet wonderful new people.

This year I have been blessed with the amazing opportunity to be a mentor for the program I was once I mentee for, the Emerging Leaders Program. Being chosen for this position was so exciting for me because it allowed me to share the love I have for this program with others. This year I have also decided to join more organization geared towards empowering minorities, specifically African Americans. The Black Student Union and Sisters with Stethoscopes are a couple of organizations that I have joined this current semester.

There are so many beautiful things in store for me and I want to thank the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation for believing in my abilities. This foundation gives minorities the opportunity to dream bigger than the limitations some try to set upon us. Education is truly important, and you should never stop wanting to gain more knowledge. An important takeaway I always like to remind people is, if you believe you can do something, you can do it. Hold fast and trust God because he always provides.

BRYTTANI WOOTEN

2017 Recipient

This past year was really great on campus! While some classes were hard, overall I think I did well academically with getting a 3.72 as my final GPA at the end of my first year. I learned more about myself and my strengths and weaknesses when it comes to studying and classes and I think those skills and knowledge will be so useful and critical as I continue throughout my undergraduate career. I became involved with the creation of a new organization on campus called Environ Mentors which works to introduce underrepresented students to STEM and undergraduate research at Penn State. I also joined a professor to start doing research with him this school year! I want to thank the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation so much for the scholarship and the opportunities it was able to afford me here on Penn State's campus.

ALEASIA MARIE RICHARDSON

2014 Scholarship Recipient

All is well down in Norfolk! I am currently working at the YMCA as a program leader for their summer camp along with completing some classes. I started my final semester of my undergraduate work in August and will complete an internship with a local agency that focuses on homelessness and childhood poverty in the Hampton Roads area. Additionally, I'll still be working as both a certified nurse assistant and a program leader at the YMCA during the school year. Come December, I'll be a graduating from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services and Counseling.

2017-2018 OUTREACH PROJECTS

The Outreach Committee implements several projects each school year that focus on four schools, Ettrick Elementary, Harrowgate Elementary, Matoaca Middle, and Matoaca High Schools. We also provided services to the before and after school program held at the Children's Home of Virginia Baptists and the Concerned Citizens of Ettrick Early Learning Center. The following 9 activities happened in 2017 and 2018.

THE SIX STANDARD PROJECTS

1. COLLECT, SORT AND DELIVER SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Items are collected from Foundation members, the community and friends. The Union Grove Missionary Ministry donates funds, and the Residents of Central Parke at Victoria Falls in Laurel, MD donate supplies annually. Long-time friends of MMHMF and residence of Victoria Falls, Bernie & Maria Elena Khoury (left photo) initiated this project many years ago. MMHMF members and other volunteers gather at Union Grove Baptist to undertake the huge task of sorting the items and filling laundry baskets of supplies that are then delivered by members to the schools and programs we support.

Nearly 30 laundry baskets of supplies were filled by outreach members and volunteers for delivery to 3 schools and a before and after school program to begin the new school year. The far right photo shows outreach members with Harrowgate Elementary students and personnel receiving the 11 laundry baskets of supplies.

Left Photo: The car is loaded with 11 baskets of supplies is bound for Ettrick Elementary. Outreach members say: "**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED"!**
Right Photo: 40 + backpacks were donated to Union Grove's Community Back to School Day for distribution.

2. READ TO STUDENTS AT HARROWGATE ("FIRST BOOK" READING PROGRAM)

Each reader is assigned a small group of students. Every student is given book to keep. The objective is to engage the students as the book is read, encouraging their participation. An activity related to the book is conducted at the end. The idea is to motivate children to read and encourage them to build a home library. Pictured is Outreach Committee member, Pat Woodfolk, reads to a group of students. Pat has read every year since we began the project. She is great with the students!

2017-2018 OUTREACH PROJECTS

3. DISTRIBUTE BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

Outreach member, George Henderson, travels to Richmond every year to pick up hundreds of books from the Central Virginia Book Bank in Richmond. Members and other volunteers gather at Union Grove Baptist Church to sort and label the books. Members purchase bookmarks for each book and re-box them before delivering them to Ettrick Elementary, Harrowgate Elementary and the before- and after- school program for students to take home.

4. SPONSOR COLLEGE CAMPUS TOURS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Accompanied by Gayle Sutton, MMHMF Outreach Committee member and event coordinator, approximately 140 seventh grade students from Matoaca Middle School visited Virginia State University (VSU) on March 12th and 15th. Students received campus tours which included visits to the School of Engineering, the Multi-Purpose Center, the School of Business and the cafeteria. A VSU student informed the middle school students of the importance of making good grades, especially in English and Math. In the future, the Matoaca students would like to be able to visit college classes, dorms and to have lunch in Jones Hall.

5. SPONSOR THE MATOACA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AWARDS BREAKFAST

In May, the Committee and other foundation volunteers hosed a breakfast for graduating seniors, parents, and staff. The event was catered by MMHMF Board member, Garratt Mason, who donated the food, and it was served by his staff. Dr. Willie Lewis, Board member, presented a certificate to Anthony Anderson, who received one of the three 2018 MMHMF scholarships (far right photo below).

Left to right: Ronnie Stephenson, Server and Garrett Mason, Caterer and MMHMF Board member.

Graduates enjoying breakfast. Ann & George Henderson greet the graduates.

Dr. John Murray, Principal with Ann & George Henderson on right. conversing.

Dr. Lewis, MMHMF Board, Presented MMHMF Scholarship to A. Anderson.

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2017-2018 OUTREACH PROJECTS

6. SEND CARE PACKAGES TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

In February, Ann Henderson and Sarah Cheatham shopped for items that included food and supplies useful to college students. Photo on the left shows outreach members (left to right) Gloria Harris and Barbara Crews as they pack and seal boxes WITH LOVE! Notes of encouragement are included.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AS REQUESTED

1. **CUSTOMIZED KITS FOR ONE ETTRICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS**
   In the spring outreach member, George Henderson, purchased and delivered items for the "de-stressor kits" for a class at Ettrick Elementary, as requested by a teacher.

2. **SUPPORT FOR THE SOAR SUMMER PROGRAM AT HARROWGATE ELEMENTARY**
   Outreach Co-Chair, Barbara Crews, purchased and delivered all the food requested for the students. The afterschool program that extends into the summer is for 3rd through 5th grade students who need extra academic assistance, social skills training and enrichment activities than runs during the school year and in the summer. A great program!

MMHMF IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT
THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF ETTRICK EARLY LEARNING CENTER
A FREE PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT STARTED IN 2017

Nancy Ross and others worked tirelessly to start this pre-school program after realizing that there were many children who were eligible to enroll in pre-K and Head Start at Ettrick Elementary but could not because of limited space. Parents or caregivers remain with their child and team with the staff to help prepare the children for kindergarten (photo on the left shows a working group).

Outreach member, George Henderson, purchased and set up a computer, printer and supplies for the Center. MMHMF is committed to continuing its support of this much needed service for the residence of Ettrick.

There are five learning centers set up, and the following areas are covered: science, technology, math, technology, art and literacy. A variety of community volunteers are invited to participate. For example, in the photo to the left, a local policeman in uniform is shown reading to students.

Left Photo: The letter **Hh** and the **number 8** and **Health** were explored. **Middle Photo:** The puppet "Organ Annie" helped the children understand about healthy foods containing calcium for strong bones and teeth! **Right Photo:** Chef and his assistant prepare a meal. For more information, write to **friendsofettrick@gmail.com**.

CELL PHONE USE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

by Adrienne Stith Butler
Senior Project Officer and Associate Board Director, Board on Behavioral, Cognitive and Sensory Sciences, National Academies

Smartphones have revolutionized our ability to access information and interact with world around us. While a form of the smart phone has been around since 1993 (but not marketed to general consumers), the release of the first Apple iPhone in 2007 changed the way people interacted with computers and gave us access to the internet 24 hours per day, every day.

Technology is an integral part of our lives and the lives of kids, teens in particular. Most teens have access to a smartphone and 45 percent are online almost constantly (1). The trend of increased use has sparked debate about the benefits of access to technology versus the negative effects too much exposure. The effect of cell phone use on academic performance is a particularly important issue. While access to phones can be helpful as a resource to supplement learning, it can also be a distraction. A recent survey of teens found that 54 percent are worried that they send too much time on their phones and 31 percent reported that they sometimes or often lose focus in class because they are checking their cell phones (1). Recent research among college students reveal interesting information about the relationship between cell phone use and academic performance (2). The researchers found that increased cell phone use (how much time per day students spent on their phones) was related to decreased academic performance (as measured by the student's grade point average [GPA]). This relationship held up even after accounting for other things that might predict college GPA (such as high school GPA). In a related study, the same authors found that increased cell phone use was also related to increased anxiety and decreased satisfaction with life (3). While studies like these cannot say for certain that cell phone use cause students to have lower GPAs and more mental health issues, the results are cause for attention by educators, administrators, health and mental health professionals, and parents.

Professionals, including pediatricians and psychologists, have encouraged parents to establish guidelines for technology use, starting when kids are young (4,5). In addition to setting limits on screen time, other recommendations include:

- Parents protecting bedtime
- Parents and other adults paying addition to what kids are doing online
- Adults teaching good online behavior
- Parents fostering real-life friendships
- Parents not overacting (setting overly restrictive limits)
- School boards and administrators learning the evidence about the risks of unsupervised media access and use by children and adolescents

More information on promoting health technology use can be found at the following sites.
American Psychological Association http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/digital-guidelines.aspx
American Academy of Pediatrics http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/132/5/958.full.pdf

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