MARTHA MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024 ***Vol. 20 No. 1***

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE TO STUDENTS!

WHAT WE DO ANNUALLY

—FOUR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
—STUDENT VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD
—TAKE HOME BOOKS FOR STDUENTS & BOOKS FOR CLASSROOM LIBRBARIES!
— SUPPLIES FOR SCHOOLS & ACTIVITIES SPONSORED AS REQUESTED
— AWARDS BREAKFAST SPONORED AT ONE HIGH SCHOOL!
—GIFTS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS
—COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

MMHMF MEMBERS & OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Make It All Happen!

BELOW: MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM TO CELEBRATE!

Left to right: Shakita Stephenson, Dr. Willie Lewis, Arlene Moore, Marilyn West, Gwendolyn Davis, Nancy Ross, Dr. Cortez Dial, Wendell Stephenson, Trudy Stephenson, Alberta Stith, Judy Stephenson, Dr. Adrienne Stith, Denise Stevens, Arnold Baugh, Dr. Regina Knight-Mason, Glora Harris

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON 2024

DR. ANDREA L. STITH

26th Annual Awards Program and Anniversary Celebration Presentation

"Strength through Community"

Hello everyone! I'm sorry that I can't be there today, but I am happy to have this opportunity to say a few words. I promise I'll be brief! I'd like to acknowledge each of you in this room today and everyone who has, since our founding 26 years ago, done so much to help build the foundation from which we carry out our mission. We have accomplished so much and are grateful to you all.

The Foundation's mission and purpose is inspired by the strong conviction of our namesake and my grandmother, Martha Mason Hill. She believed that education is the key to the advancement of a community and to that of its individual members. By building on the strengths and resourcefulness of our community, the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation aims to help meet the current needs of our constituency and to celebrate your many accomplishments. As demonstrated through the recent feature in the Richmond Times, the contributions of our volunteers, the excellence of scholarship and award winners, and the accomplishments of our organization are noteworthy and commendable.

Taking stock, I'd summarize that the Foundation is on a stronger financial footing than ever. With nearly $1M in endowment funds, fiscal practices have enabled us to act today and save for tomorrow. As for governance, I would first like to thank our board members, our first Chairman, James Stith who served for 20 years, and Alberta Stith, who has served as president for all 26 years. I am grateful for your generosity, dedication, service, and stewardship.

Similarly, I want to spotlight the committees and volunteers who make up the heart of the Foundation. You are the critical actors who connect us to the community. Without you, we would not have cause to celebrate. Nor would we have today's program or the reception following (thank you Garrett!). We are so very proud of our programs around literacy that were launched through the dedicated efforts of the late Anne Henderson, and realized through the hard work of the outreach committee. Anne developed the standard that we ask schools what they want and need, which has enabled us to help so many young students. Of course our volunteers do so much more such as organizing trips and sending care packages. While I can't name everyone, we know who you are and acknowledge your contributions.

In addition to our volunteers and board members, we also are grateful to the past scholarship and award winners who haven't forgotten us! You are so critical to the well-being and future of our community. I want to point out that this year, we are recognizing student leaders for the first time! We are in awe of their ingenuity and dedication, and are so happy to recognize and eager to learn from them.

Finally, we thank our many donors, school and government representatives, churches and other organizations who have sustained, enabled, inspired, and collaborated with us. It goes without saying that Union Grove Baptist Church, where we are meeting today, has done so much to, literally and figuratively, make today possible. We know we can't do it alone and we wouldn't want to! So today, I am proud, thankful, and optimistic for our shared future. We have many milestones still ahead of us and many dreams to fulfill. The legacy of my grandmother still guides us, and our mission is not yet fully realized. With that said, we are in a strong position to ask, "what's next" for us, the community and our students? I welcome your thoughts and aim, as Anne Henderson has taught us, to engage you in this conversation!

Congratulations again to our scholarship and award recipients, and a special thank you to our organizers, presenters, and speakers. You've all made today special…thank you all for celebrating with us today and for bringing so much to this Foundation!

RANDOLPH (RJ) BROWN

2010 MMHMF Scholarship Recipient
Speaker, The 26th Annual Awards Program and Anniversary Celebration

Heartfelt thanks to RJ for traveling from his home in North Carolina to participate in the program. His very inspirational speech had a message for young students about "thinking outside the box," persevering and staying true to yourself. There was a lesson in his message for all!

Randolph Brown, better known as RJ, grew up in Chesterfield County, VA. He is a product of the Chesterfield County school system, and a graduate of LC Bird High School. Upon graduating from Bird, RJ attended, and graduated with honors, from North Carolina A&T State University, where he majored in accounting and was a member of several honor societies. While attending A&T, he served as president of the university's chapter of the National Association for Black Accountants (NABA) and was also a member of the university's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an international honor society for accounting, finance, and information systems students. Upon graduating from A&T, RJ went on to further his education by attending Michigan State University, where he earned his master's degree in accounting, with an emphasis in taxation.

RJ began his career in public accounting, as a tax accountant at EY, one of the 4 largest accounting firms in the world. Since then, he has transitioned into the financial advising field. He currently works as a financial advisor at Bank of America, where he helps provide both financial expertise and tax planning strategies to Bank of America's most senior level executives, consisting of about 100 clients.

RJ resides in Charlotte, NC with his wife, Lena, and their family dog, Charlie, who has become the star of the family. He is both a Certified Financial Planner™ professional and a Certified Public Accountant. He is a member of the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and is still a member of NABA. In his free time, he enjoys working out, watching sports, movies, plays, and travelling. RJ is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Brown, Sr. of Chesterfield, VA

The foundation is extremely proud of RJ, and we thank him for being a part of the awards program and for his words of wisdom not only for the 2024 MMHMF scholarship recipients. There was something in his message for everyone. But for our "rising stars" the advice to be true to yourself, not to be afraid of thinking and acting 'outside the box" and being persistent is sound and proven throughout history.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Amy Dotson, Dominque Stephenson and Brittany Stephenson!

The very talented sisters, daughters of Wendell and Rene' Stephenson and the great-granddaughters of Martha Mason Hill provided inspirational music for the awards program on September 28, 2024, standing in at the last minute for the scheduled musician. All three sang beautifully and Brittany played the keyboard during their performances and throughout the program. We can always count on the Stephenson family to step in when called upon.

MHMF 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ANGIE CASTRO

Angie graduated from Thomas Dale High School this Spring with a 5.03 GPA. She is attending Stanford University in California and majoring in Aerospace Engineering. In addition to excelling academically while at Thomas Dale, she was involved in several organizations and activities. She was Captain of the Marching Band Color Guard (2019-2024); Vice President of the French Club (2020-2023); member of the Indoor Color Guard (2022-2023); Weapon Line Captain; Class Officer (2020-2023); and President pf Model United Nations (2021-2024).

Angie was a Spanglish tutor (June-September 2023), an Ambassador; a member of Brickz4Kidz (June-August 2023); participated in Camp STEM Invention (June 2023); was a Tri-M Music Volunteer (2021-2024); and attended Private Pilot Ground School (August-September 2023). Angie plans to become an engineer. In her essay Angie spoke of growing with limited means and finding solace in the beauty of space and seeing "opportunities within the vastness of the universe, the constellations just being the beginning.". She was curious and passionate to learn how the world functioned". She was inspired to be ambitious, to "dream big, imagining the impact I could have on this world".

In conclusion, Angie stated: "My hope is that after my career as an engineer, I will be able to teach the youth. I hope my research inspires children around the world to look at the sky and dream big, for the stars will always be there for them. I will make sure of that!"

RYANN RICHARDSON

Ryann graduated from Thomas Dale High School in the Spring with a 3.8 GPA. She is currently enrolled at North Carolina A & T State and is majoring in animal science. In addition to her excellent performance academically, Ryann was very involved in a variety of clubs and activities at Thomas Dale and in the community. She was a basketball cheerleader (2020 – 2024), the Co-Captain in 9th and 10th grade; a football cheerleader (2020-2023, the captain in 12th grade; and a member of the Show Choir (Knightscene & Knightingales, 2020-2023). She was a member of the National Honor Society (2023-24); National English Honor Society(2023-24); the National Society of High School Scholars (2023-24); the National Music Honor Society (Tri-M), (2023-24); and the Key Club, (2022 -24).

Outside of school, Ryann was very busy as well! She was a Wives of Beaux Twenty Alumni Association Junior Debutante (2022-23, and 2023-24); a member of the Praise Dance Ministry, First Baptist Church of S. Richmond (2023-24) and a youth usher at the church;. Ryann was a tutor for Mrs. B. Manuel's class at Ecoff Elementary School (2022-24). She volunteered as a media specialist at 4-H camp (2023-24); for several food banks (VSU Multipurpose Center; at A.M Davis Elementary School, Buelah Elementary and Chester (2021-2024). She also volunteered at the Chesterfield County Animal Service (2024).. Ryann's hobbies include exploring nature, spending time with animals and baking desserts. Ryann as always been curious about things like animals and water. She developed a love for animals at a very young age! In her essay she said: "While the other children at my daycare ran from the spiders and other small insects, all I wanted was to spend my time with them." She liked to go with her dad on his fishing trips and then help him "gut" the fish to see what was inside them.

After her junior year, Ryann's curiosity and ambition led her to discover and enroll in the Veterinary Science and Anatomy program at the Chesterfield Technical Center. Ryann is grateful for this opportunity and her volunteer experiences at the local animal shelter that helped her decide to major is animal science at NC A&T

MMHMF 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

KEYONNA SCOTT
The VSU Endowed Scholarship

In recommending Keyonna for the scholarship, Matoaca High School Counselor, Rashad Ferebee wrote:

KEYONNA is a caring student with a good work ethic. Her dedication and determination allow her to be on track to graduate with Honors. As a student, Keyonna is involved in several extracurricular activities, even holding leadership roles within some of the student organizations. She is the current President of the Best Buds Club, she is a member of DECA and the Mental Health Club. She is a student leader in the Chic-fi-la Student Leadership Academy. Keyonna has a willingness to help others, and this is displayed by her participation as a Mentor to our special needs students in the Unified PE class as well as the Medford League sports program. In the past, she also served as a Student Mentor to incoming freshmen students, assisting them with a positive transition to high school. Her other community service commitments include helping to teach cheer at the middle school and participating as a usher and praise dancer at her church. Keyonna's heart for helping has led her into the career of education, as she will be matriculating to Virginia State University and studying early childhood education. Her kindness, helpfulness and honesty will be all great assets for her in college and beyond. I cheerfully recommend her to earn your award.

LAUREN WHITAKER

Lauren is a graduate of Thomas Dale High School where she attained a 3.7 GPA. She is attending Emerson College in Boston MA. She is receiving the Alyssa Joy Stith scholarship given by her family in her memory. Lauren plans to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)) degree, with a major in the performing arts. Her high school activities included: the school's theatre productions as an actor, stage manager and costume lead (2021-24); member and project leader of BAP (Black Appreciation Project), (2021-24); member of- Knightngales and Knightscene, (Summers 2022-2024); Girls And Mixed Show Choir; the Thespians Troupe 924, Secretary (Summer 2023—24); selected to participate in the Chesterfield All-County Chorus, (2018, 2019, 2022, 2023). In the community, Lauren participated in the Feeding America Program by distributing food (2023); and she distributed food as a volunteer with the Community Transformers, an organization that addresses health gaps in communities with limited access to quality healthcare (2023).

Lauren's interest in theatre is long-standing. In her essay recalls that the first play she ever saw was when the Richmond Shakespeare Company performed at her elementary school. She vividly remembers how much she longed to be on that stage! As she saw more plays over the years, she was keenly aware that there were no people of color on the stage. She decided to join the Richmond Community Theatre Company (SPARC) where she learned a lot about theatre, about performing and about herself! Her time with the Company was very beneficial to Lauren's growth and development in the field it seems. She was intuitive enough to look inward, to take advantage of the opportunity that SPARC presented, to look at her strengths and weaknesses and build on them to gain useful knowledge in a field that she has always loved! What stood out in her essay is her understanding that she has to continue to work hard, to keep learning and developing her talent.

2024 STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT
KENSLEE GRACE VIAR

The foundation is pleased to award its first Student Volunteer Service Award to Kenslee Viar. She is currently a junior at Matoaca High School, S. Chesterfield, VA, where she continues to excel in every way! She was selected in May 2024 to receive the foundation's first student award for volunteering because of her stellar record of service in her community, her church and as a student at Matoaca High.

Kenslee is described as "a passionate, hard-working individual, who will succeed in the workplace. She will work her hardest to make the work environment and the world a better place. She is a person of great integrity, she's very responsible, a problem solver and a team player".

SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES (26 in total):- She has participated in the following: the Thrive Club, the Environmental Club, the Chester Cotillion, and Little Feet Meet. She was a freshman student mentor and class Vice President. She has been a member of the F.B.L.A (Future Business Leaders of America), F.C.C.L.A (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), F.C.A (fellowship of Chrisitan Athletes), the Spanish Club, Cards Club , Book Club, Sources of Strength Club. and Girl STEM.

She is a member of SCA (Secretary, 2023 – 2025), the yearbook staff, girls' varsity tennis team (2024), Quill and Scroll National Honor Society, A.R.R.L (The American Radio Relay League), FCA President (2024), girls' JV field hockey team 2024, D.E.C.A (Distributive Education Club of America), T.S.A (Technology Student Association), W.B.N (Warrior Broadcast News) Staff.

IN HER CHURCH (8 total): Kenslee's volunteer work includes helping in the Matoaca Child Development Center, helping feed the homeless, Samaritan's Purse and CentriKid as a team assistant (TA) She participated in the Appalachia Service Project Mission trips. She has been a counselor at the church camp. She has attended the Women of Worth (WOW) Conference and YEC (Youth Evangelism Conference) team assistant (T.A).

OTHER VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (5 total): While at Matoaca Middle School, Kenslee was a member of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), she donated 70 American flags to Matoaca Middle School to commemorate Memorial Day, helped with Letters for Santa project, put together boxes for the kid's coat drive and was a speaker at the 2022 NJHS inductions ceremony. Kenslee completed 81 hours of volunteer service while in middle school.

As a member of the Junior Honor Society, Kenslee was selected the Alumnus of NJHS 2021-2022. She decorated school for Homecoming 2022, donated over 70 flags to Matoaca Middle School for Memorial Day, helped with Letters For Santa project, put together boxes for kids coat drive, and spoke at the NJHS inductee ceremony 2022.

Kenslee is the daughter of Kenneth and Heather Viar of Chesterfield, the granddaughter of Randy and Gloria Simmons of Sutherland and of Nancy Viar and the late Wayne Viar of Chester.

Congratulations to Kenslee, her parents, grandparents and all those in her "village" who have contributed to her life and amazing achievements! She truly exemplifies the spirit of Martha Mason Hill!

IN MEMORIAM
SANDRA JEAN JOHNSON MASON
December 26, 1943 – February 15, 2024

Sandra was a faithful volunteer with the Martha ason Hill Foundation Outreach Committee. Her warm and welcoming smile, her cheerful and friendly personality were tremendous assets to the foundation's outreach work with schools. Her ever presence is greatly missed!

2024 SERVICE AWARD

JOYCE M. H. DIAL

Educator, Mentor, Community and Political Activist, Journalist, Motivational Speaker, Author, Chautauqua Institute Children's Theater Assist. Director, Freelance Documents and Literary Editor

Joyce M. H. Dial is a woman of faith, a life-long learner, community volunteer, and political activist, lover of The Arts, motivational speaker, journalist, and educator with over 55 years of diverse classroom and administrative teaching experience in civilian, military, public and private elementary, middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across the United States and globally in Europe and Asia. When this Chesterfield County resident walks into local businesses, schools, churches, sporting events, social events, community and government events, she is welcomed and recognized for her professionalism, positive attitude, her words of encouragement, her respect for each individual, and for her unselfish generosity. Businesses, her former and current private students, colleagues, neighbors, family, and friends call her: "The Yes, How Can I Help You Little Bald Lady", "Mz. Dial", "Professor Dial", "Momma Dial", "Auntie" and "That little lady with a warm smile, and a warm hug who wants to cook you a meal."

One of 13 children reared on a working farm in rural Southern Louisiana, and the first female in her family to graduate college, Joyce values and is passionate about education, believing that every child and every student (no matter how old) has value, promise and potential, and will grow and flourish when placed in a nurturing environment where they can be seen, heard and encouraged to "dream big and dream in color"

During COVID, Mrs. Dial personally prepared PPE's and full boxed meals throughout 2020, 2021, and 2022 for local UPS workers, Post Office workers, and staff of 2 local nursing homes. Those meals contained personalized inspirational messages, and even today, she remembers holidays, and special events in the lives of these dedicated public servants and delivers cards, letters, and small packages to brighten their lives.

When the Martha Mason Foundation needed a family to sponsor a newly arrived Chesterfield family in need, for almost 2 years, Mrs. Dial and her husband came to the assistance of a 32-year-old mother of 8 children (ages 4 to 17) and took family members on numerous shopping monthly trips to purchase food, clothing, school supplies, as well as providing transportation to doctor's appointments, registering children in various elementary, middle and high schools, doing tutoring, researching and encouraging job searches, and assisting the family financially when it became difficult for them to manage.

As a professor with the VSU English Department and the Mass Communications Departments, Joyce and the "DIAL VILLAGE" have a long established "open-door policy" of welcoming into their home out-of-state VSU students when those students cannot afford to go home for school breaks or holidays. Along with that open door, comes mentoring, life-lessons, free tutoring, and time management sessions.

Joyce Dial is a seasoned English professor and educator with diverse civilian and military teaching experience having taught at 18 different colleges and universities at the undergraduate and graduate levels throughout the United States and globally. In addition to English, she has taught Mass Communication Masters and Doctoral students at VSU, has been a GS Education Specialist, specializes in ESL, Reading, Business Writing, Tutoring, College and Graduate Prep, and is currently a Freelance Documents and Literary Editor

Always believing in the need for community and academic collaborations, Joyce fosters relationships with local businesses including them as part of her Speaker's Bureau where local business owners speak to students and provide qualified students with internships and job placements.

2024 SERVICE AWARD

JOYCE M. H. DIAL cont'd

As a servant-leader, volunteerism remains essential to her commitment of "caring for, growing, and sustaining community action." She continues to serve and empower individuals through her participation in diverse school programs to include: Chesterfield County Public Schools as Reading, Writing, and ESL volunteer; Chesterfield PTO and Prom Chaperone, long after her 2 children graduated; Chesterfield Library System's "Storytelling and Reading to Children Program; " Mega Mentor's Program (Meadowbrook, Thomas Dale, Carver Academy); reading to students at Harrogate Middle School; delivering books to middle schools as part of Martha Mason's Middle School "New Book Loan and Read Program;" buying and donating books from her home library to underserved county school and church programs; providing FREE private tutoring for students in reading, ESL, writing, math, history, and science; conducting student community workshops and seminars on educational opportunities, job searches with schools, churches, and businesses; conducting classes on college prep, placement, scholarship, and internship opportunities; Middle School Arts Program (Music and Symphony); and has served as a Girl Scouts Crafts Resource Assistant.

Mrs. Dial's entire life reflects her dedication to recognizing, empowering, and reminding young minds and senior citizens that they make a difference and have treasures and experiences worth sharing. Joyce is active in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc with its breakfast bags, school back-packs, sneaker, new coats, gloves, hats, and socks programs as well as being active in the Red Hat Chapter's back to school back-pack drive.

Mrs. Dial has volunteered with the Christmas Mother Program; Chesterfield Food Pantry; Home Meal Delivery to the Homebound; Homeless Shelter Volunteer; Job Search Advocate and Resource; Big Brothers, Big Sisters volunteer; Special Olympics volunteer; YMCA Resource; Youth Sports Program (VSU); Ride Share for Seniors; Retired Military Wives Support Group; volunteered with McGuire Veteran's Hospital (reading and storytelling, recording their stories); Habitat for Humanity volunteer; she is a Soles4Souls Virginia Ambassador, providing shoes for families in need; she serves as job search and internship consultant with youth, Teen, HS, College, and Senior Citizens; Conducts LGBTQIA+ workshops as a motivational speaker, and is a dedicated political volunteer, poll watcher, door-to-door, and phone canvasser.

Mrs. Joyce M.H. Dial provides a nurturing, living and learning environment where all members of "Joyce's Village" are not only welcomed, but know that they are valued. She is a dedicated member of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Petersburg, Virginia.

Mrs. Dial is a graduate of Spelman College, University of Michigan, and centered her earlier doctoral studies at University of Chicago on "Post Modernism and the Need for Cultural Relevance in Children's Literature and Storytelling." In 2021, Joyce received the Women of Excellence Award for Community Leadership, Academic Achievement, Volunteerism, and Entrepreneurialism from Spelman College's Louisiana Alumni Association.

A seasoned military spouse, Joyce has been married for over 50 years to Colonel (R), Dr. Cortez K. Dial, and is mother of two children: daughter, Dr. Shaashawn Shawndra Dial, Vice-President of Education, The Virginia League for Planned Parenthood, and son, Dr. Nathan Eugene Dial, U.S. Airforce Pilot, Major (P).

SCHOLAR NEWS

Congratulations to
KRYSTAL PEERMAN

2021 Scholar Graduates in THREE Years

rystal continues to work hard and excel. She graduated from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA on May 11th, 2024, a year ahead of schedule! She earned a BA degree in social work. Currently she is a graduate school student at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) working on a master's degree in social work, with a concentration in Administration, Policy, and Practice. She has an internship and works as a supervised visitation coach for a foster care agency. Best wishes to Krystal for continuing success!

MIA NEAL
2023 MMHMF Scholarship Recipient

In March 2024 Mia wrote:

I just wanted to send a quick email saying thank you for the scholarship and I just received my box of sweets! I just ran out of chips in the dorm so it came at the perfect time. College is going well, housing is stressful but I'm making my way through it.

In April: I hope all is well with you all and I'm sorry it's taken a while to send this email but it's been a little stressful. I finished the first semester with a 3.8 GPA. I've been adjusting to college life pretty well and I'm happy with my choice of school.

In September: First, I would like to thank the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation for choosing me to receive this scholarship and the care package I received my freshman year. During my first year I was able to meet a lot of new people and participate in several organizations. I joined the NAACP chapter at Hampton University, joined Black Girls in Law, as well as participated in the community service team for the campus ministry. Also, towards the end of the year I participated in the Freshman Fashion Show which really put me outside my comfort zone and allowed me to express myself in a different way. Last April I applied to be a part of the Greer Dawson Wilson Student Leadership training program and I was accepted which has me very excited for my sophomore year. Coming up soon I have my inauguration into the 79th Transformative Administration on campus where I will be serving as a senator hoping to make change on the Hampton University campus. Being able to be a part of my organizations and maintaining a **3.7** GPA has been hard but I continue to push through. Lastly, I would like to state again thank you for the check up and aiding me in the opportunity to attend a university.

TOGETHER!

We Can Preserve YOUR Legacy
and
Help Young Students for Generations to Come!

MAKE A GIFT TO MMHMF IN YOUR WILL.
OR
NON-CASH GIFTS (SUCH AS LIFE INSURANCE OR IRA DISTRIBUTION).

For further information and to join us, contact Doretha Houston at **manspidr7@yahoo.com**, or 410-521-0402. 100% of your tax-deductible donation supports Foundation scholarships and outreach projects.

THANK YOU!

2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

IMANI BLOWE

Imani is a 2024 graduate of Matoaca High School, in Chesterfield Virginia. Imani is the daughter of Ian Blowe and Nicole Haze. She is the great granddaughter of Irma B. Mason and B. V. Mason, and the great great niece of Martha Mason Hill. Imani was the Vice President of International Thespian Society, and a nation honor thespian. She plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University, majoring in the arts and possibly double majoring in psychology. Imani is glad to have this opportunity to graduate and plans to do many great things in the future.

CAMDEN ADONIS BROWN

Camden Adonis Brown graduated with honors from Aberdeen High School, Bel Air, Maryland on May 28,2024. He was a dual enrolled student at Harford Community College graduating with an engineering certificate. He is the son of William Brown and Kellie Silver, the grandson of William Brown, Sr. and Arlene Moore, and the great nephew of Martha Mason Hill. He plans to continue his studies at North Carolina A & T to become an astrophysicist

MAYA ELISE BUTLER

Maya graduated with honors from Elizabeth Seton Catholic High School in Bladensburg, MD. She was in the film club, art club, and international club. Maya loves museums and travel, most recently touring several cities in Germany, the UK, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. She is an avid reader and enjoys philosophy, autobiographical and historical novels. She is studying architecture at Howard University and hopes to use sustainable housing to help people who are dealing with housing insecurity gain access to affordable housing in ways that do not compromise the environment. Maya is the daughter of Adrienne Stith Butler, the granddaughter of James and Alberta Stith, and the great granddaughter of Martha Mason Hill.

AARON WINSTON DOTSON

Aaron Winston Dotson, the son of Amy and Anthony Dotson, grandson of Wendell and Renee Dotson, great grandson of Wendell and Doris Stephenson and great great-grandson of Martha Mason Hill graduated from Mallard Creek High School Charlotte, North Carolina in June 2024. He graduated as a CMS Academic Scholar with a 3.58 GPA. Aaron also received endorsements from NC Global Language and NC College/UNC. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree at North Carolina Central University Durham, North Carolina where he will major in Information Technology with a focus of Cybersecurity

DELORES COLEAN HILL GILLIAM

(September 10, 1928 – September 24, 2024)

Eldest Daughter of Martha Mason Hill, and MMHMF Co-Founder

Delores Colean Hill Gilliam, affectionately known as "Lois," peacefully transitioned into the presence of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, while in hospice at Symphony Manor Assisted Living, Baltimore, Maryland, at the age of 96.

Delores was born on September 10, 1928, in Chesterfield, Virginia, the first of seven daughters of the late Thomas E. Hill and Martha Mason Hill. She was educated in the public school system in Chesterfield County. She accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized into the membership of Union Grove Baptist Church. After graduating from D. Webster Davis High School, which was located on the campus of Virginia State College, now known as Virginia State University, she began her post-secondary education at the college. Meanwhile, her high school sweetheart, Samuel (Sam) Gilliam, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948. The two began their 56 year union in marriage on September 8, 1951, followed by the birth of their two daughters, Serelda and Doretha, while they were stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. Delores was a devoted wife and mother who supported her husband's military career and achievements, as he attained the highest enlisted rank of Sergeant Major during his 30 year career. Although Sam performed his duties at various military installations in the U.S. and abroad, the couple managed to maintain a stable family home in Aberdeen, Maryland, filled with faith, love and an unwavering commitment for their daughters to pursue higher education.

Delores was an excellent typist and stenographer who worked for the Civil Service as a secretary, usually at the same Army base where Sam was stationed. By the time their daughters were well on their way to earning college degrees, both Sam and Delores decided to set their own academic goals. Sam's military and civilian schooling culminated with his receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland in College Park (UMCP), Maryland. Not to be outdone, Delores completed her associate's degree from Harford Community College in 1979, followed by a bachelor's in accounting from UMCP in 1985. She was a dedicated and often honored employee of the Department of the Army Cost Accounting Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) for many years before her retirement in 1998 at the age of 70.

Throughout their lives together, Delores and Sam shared a great love for traveling around the world by vehicle, aircraft, train or ship. They especially enjoyed traveling with their daughters, grandchildren, other family members and friends. One memorable trip they shared was when Sam was selected as a member of the United States Delegation to the Presidential Mission to Korea in 2000, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. Wherever they traveled, in the U.S. or abroad, family members often received mementos and gifts when they returned.

Delores' interests included maintaining a healthy lifestyle through her diet and commitment to physical exercise. In the mornings, at least three times a week, Delores could be found at the local gym, even into her early 90s. Just as often, in the evenings, she enjoyed playing bingo with friends. She was a faithful member of the APG Post Chapel, Protestant congregation and volunteered for the APG Credit Union, serving on the Credit Committee for ten years. She was also a Board member of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation, faithfully and generously supporting its mission of increasing educational opportunities for students in Chesterfield County.

In addition to her parents and husband Sam, Delores was preceded in death by her sisters Charlotte Johnson, Doris Stephenson, and Euletta Hatchette, all of Chesterfield, Virginia. Left to cherish her memory are her loving and devoted daughters, Serelda Matthews and Doretha Houston, both of Baltimore, Maryland; one son-in-law, James Houston III, Baltimore, Maryland; five grandchildren, Alecia Amoo, Knightdale, North Carolina, James Houston, IV (Kike), Chicago, Illinois, Michael Houston, Baltimore, Maryland, Daniel Houston, Silver Spring, Maryland, and Natalie Houston, Baltimore, Maryland; two great grandchildren, Olivia Amoo, Knightdale, North Carolina and London Houston, Chicago, Illinois; three sisters, Sarah Cheatham, Chesterfield, Virginia, Shirley Baugh, Croton-on-Hudson, New York, and Alberta Stith, Mitchellville, Maryland; one brother-in-law, Dr. James Stith, Mitchellville, Maryland; special nieces, Trudy and Judy Stephenson, Chesterfield, Virginia; and a host of other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

HAPPY RETIREMENT DR. DAUGHERTY

MMHMF is forever grateful for your unwavering support of the foundation and the students we serve in Chesterfield County Virginia Public Schools.

You NEVER missed our Annual Awards Program!

We will never forget the immeasurable impact you had on the students, the schools, Foundation and the community!

Wishing you a much deserved long, restful and enjoyable retirement. You will be missed!

CCPS Superintendent
2019 - 2024

Special Thanks to Volunteer

JOHN DALIANI

Owner/Operator, Coastal Graphics LLC

MMHMF Website Host and Manager Since 2014

The late Alyssa Stith contacted John in early 2014. He spent untold hours working with her to design our website and he got it up and running later that year. What came through then and remains true today is that John is a professional. He is incredibly patient, generous, thoughtful, kind and supportive! When Alyssa passed, John took over managing the site and has done so ever since! He does verything! We simply send him files and he does the rest!

If you haven't visited the site, we invite you to do so soon– mmhmf.org. John has created videos, event photo albums, preserved all newsletters, and records of foundation scholarship and awards recipients and more! His creative skills are evident throughout the website**. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GREAT WEBSITE HELP, JOHN IS YOUR MAN – www.coastalgraphics.com!** You may contact him for more information and a **FREE** evaluation**.**

John is currently President of the Dover Colonial Rotary Club. Servicing others is a core value for John. His invaluable assistance is critical to our success, and we are forever grateful to him for his tremendous support.

2024 MMHMF
SAMUEL A. GILLIAM MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Above: Ashley Hall (lower left), speaker, and the participating golfers

TEAMS

MMHMF BD MEMBER Cortez Dial, Bob Diggs, Edward Thompson

TABERNACLE BAPTIST TEAM

1ST Leslie Speight, Aaron Bryant, Thomas Kieser, Domald Walls

MD GOLF-2-GO & BLK HERITAGE TOUR (BHT)

2ND Sandy Milligan (organizer), Carl Granderson, Mike Holmes, Matthew Taylor

3RD Rich Frazier, Stan George, Jimi Minor, Don Walter
Tic Hebron, John Purgason
Bill Robinson, Don Washington

Donnie Oliver, Brent Thompson
****

Chapman, Eggleston, Martin, Wyatt
****

VA BIRDIES

AJ Starke, P Johnson, Kevin Lassitter.
Mike Nicholas, Norm Edwards, Emile Dyson
Fred Middleton, Chico Doley, Robert Briggs

VSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TEAM

Willis Walter, Benn Houck, Treacy Matthew William Walter

SPONSORS AND DONORS

Shirley Baugh Wilbert Briggs, Sr. Sarah Cheatham
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Felecia Mason, Photographer Garrett & Vanessa Mason, Meals
Sandy Milligan – Golf -2-Go, BHT James & Alberta Stith
Judy Stephenson & Trudy Stephenson Darius & Shakita Stephenson
Andrea L. Stith & Adrienne Stith Butler Rob Thompson, Eggs Up Grill

VOLUNTEERS

Cortez Dial Willie Lewis Felecia Mason
Garrett Mason Catering Staff Sandy Milligan Floyd Robinson, Jr.
Ronald Stephenson Judy Stephenson Darius Stephenson DJ Stephenson
Paris Stephenson Shakita Stephenson Denise Stevens
Alberta Stith Samantha Thibodeaux Marilyn West

SINCERE THANKS TO:

♥♥Golfers, Sponsors & Donors, & Volunteers for all your support!
♥♥Ashley Hall, CCPS Director Of Communities in Schools, Speaker!
♥♥Tim White & the Lake Chesdin Golf Club for your support & warm hospitality!

2024 OUTREACH PROJECTS

HUNDREDS Of Books for students to own and to build classroom libraries were purchased and some were secured from the Children's Museum of Richmond Book Bank. Foundation Outreach Committee members ordered the lists of books schools submitted by schools to be purchased, labelled and delivered to the elementary and middle schools we support. Below are Committee members - Felecia Mason and Marilyn West (left photo); Cortez Gloria Harris (middle photo); and Cortez Dial (right photo) delivering books to schools.

BOOKS FOR VENDING MACHINES

These machines are a fun way to get books in the hands of students! They only accept coins awarded to students by their teachers for achieving set goals. Schools send us a list of high interest books to purchase. They select titles that students would want to read. Pictured below on the left: Ettrick Elementary School Principal (far left) with members Nancy Ross, Doug and Gloria Harris and Regina Knight Mason and husband Earl who delivered the books for the vending machine and the ones for 4th and 5th graders to take home. Pictured on the right are a student and teacher in front of the Carver Middle School book machine containing books supplied by the foundation.

TAKE HOME BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING FOR ETTRICK ELEMENTARY

All the fourth and fifth grade students received a book to take home for summer **reading.** Teachers for each grade selected "**Percy Jackson and the Olympians"** for fifth graders and **"Wish Tree"** for fourth graders.

The Outreach Committee members mentioned above who delivered the books for the vending machine also delivered these books to Ettrick Elementary School.

2024 OUTREACH PROJECTS cont'd

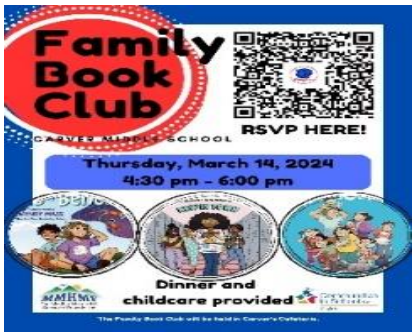
TAKE HOME BOOKS TO CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MAY 2024

Outreach Committee member Gloria Harris and husband Doug picked up the books from the Richmond Children's Museum Book Bank, labelled and delivered them.

BOOKS FOR MATOACA MIDDLE SCHOOL'S SUMMER READING WINNERS!

Pictured are nine of the ten winners (with our Associate Principal, Mr. Boarman). We had 65 students submit at least one book entry and 44 submitted enough to be entered into our raffle! In total, our students read 49,235 pages this summer! Students were able to fill a gift bag with prizes that included books donated by MMHMF! Additional books donated by the foundation are on hand to give to students during the year.

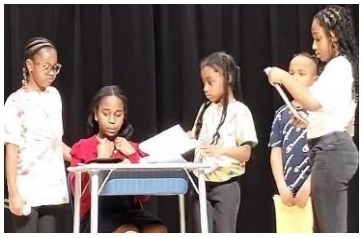
BOOKS WERE PURCHASED FOR CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL, FAMILY BOOK CLUB AND FOR CLASSROOM LIBRARIES



The club was created to improve the reading skills of a target group of students. Their parents were included. The foundation donated a book for every student and parent. Foundation member, Garrett Mason catered the pasta dinner! Rebecca Hayes, Communities in Schools (CIS) Coordinator, submitted a list of books teachers requested for their classrooms. Outreach Committee member Cortez Dial picked the books up from Barnes & Noble, labelled and delivered them in time for the first day of classes after the Christmas break.

2024 OUTREACH PROJECTS cont'd

The Matoaca Senior Awards Breakfast is catered by Garrett Mason



Ettrick Elementary Black History Month Celebration meal sponsored

The outreach team at newspaper interview at Carver Middle

GIFTS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

Outreah Committee and Board member Sarah Cheathan sent boxes of treats for Vatentines Day! Gifts of cash were sent for birthdays and graduations this year!

CARVER MIDDLE BOOK CLUB BOOKS DELIVERED MARCH 8, 3024
MEMBERS WERE INTERVIEWED BY THE RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

Reporter Thad Greene interviewed members Alberta Stith, James Stith, Cortez Dial, Nancey Ross, Gloria Harris & husband Doug Harris. Principal Bryan Hicks, CIS Coord. Rebecca Hayes and Stephanie Smith, Instructional Design also participated. All plus some students appear in the above photo. The interview continued at Union Grove Baptist Church, where Martha Mason Hill, her father and family worshipped and where the MMHMF Annual Awards Program is held. Foundation members Trudy Stephenson, Judy Stephenson and Arlene Morre joined the group in discussion with Mr. Green. Lunch was served.

MMHMF PARTNERSHIP WITH CONCERNED CITIZENS OF ETTRICK (CCE) AND THE VA STATE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (VSUFCU)!

Outreach Committee members Nancy Ross and Katrina Hayes-Peerman, also members of Concerned Citizens of Ettrick (CCE), worked with Ettrick Elementary School on behalf of the Foundation. CCE and the VA State Federal Credit Union (VSFCU) contributed funds to co-sponsor projects at the school. Katrina is the VSUFCU Chief Executive Officer.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sarah Chatham Dr. Cortez Dial Gloria Harris
Dr. Willie Lewis, Jr. Felecia Mason Dr. Regina Knight-Mason
Katrina Hayes-Peerman Nancy Ross Denise Stevens Alberta Stith

MMHMH 26TH ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The awards program was held at Union Grove Baptist Church, South Chesterfield, VA on September 28, 2024. Programs are held here annually. Martha Mason Hill was born and lived her entire life in the County. Her father, Deacon Beverly A. Mason and she were along with other family members dedicated Christians who practiced their faith, serving in this church and helping their fellowman. Many of their descendents worship and serve in this church today, and in other churches in this area and beyond.

Rev. Dr. Melissa Freeman, Mistress of Ceremonies Shiloh Baptist, Chesterfield

Arnold Baugh, Welcome Address

Denise Stevens Statement of Purpose

Trudy & Judy Stephenson, Program Co-Chairs

Rev. Douglas Harris, Prayer & Benediction

Dr. Adrienne Stith-Butler, Scholarship Committee

Angie's Castro's Mother, Dr. Stith, Rebecca Hayes, Interpreter

Lauren Whitaker's Dad, Dr. Stith-Butler

Dr. Stith Butler, Ryann Sichardson, Nicholas Butler, Assisting

Joyce Dial, President Alberta Stith, Nicholas Butler

Dr. S. Dial, Joyce Dial. Dr. Cortez Dial

Dr. John Murray, CCPS Superintendent

Kenslee Viar, Wendell Stephenson, Award Chair

Dr. Murray, Kenslee Viar, & Heather Viar

Kenslee Viar & Parents

RJ Brown, Speaker, 2010 MMHMF Scholar

Mr. & Mrs. R J Brown (center), & Family

Mrs. Viar, Wendell & Dominque Stephenson

Dr. Murray, Rayann Richardson and parents

Keyonna Scott (2nd from left, front row) & family

Lauren Whitaker's Father & Dr. Murray

2023 DONATIONS

Up to $24.00

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Mr. Marvin Coleman	Mr. Floyd Robinson
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Ms. Patricia Jackson	Ms. Carlissa Stephenson
Ms. Patricia Lewis	Ms. Samantha Stephenson

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Amazon Smile	Minister Uthai Harris
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Mrs. Barbara Crews	UnKnown, Awards Program
Mrs. Ernestine Goode	Unknown, Golf Tournament
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ray (Joyce) P. Prather	

$100.00 to $199.00

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2023 DONATIONS

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Mr. Robert Catlett	Mr. & Mrs. James (Doretha) Houston, III

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Ms. Jan Hatchette	Dr. James Stith
Ms. Judy Stephenson	

Above $3000.00

Mrs. Delores Gilliam	PGA Tour Charities
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**Mr. Garrett Mason	Mrs. Alberta Stith

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Ms. Jan Hatchette	

IN MEMORY OF ALYSSA JOY STITH

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Dr. Adrienne Stith Butler & Family	Dr. Laurell L. Wiersma
Dr. Andrea Stith	

IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL A. GILLIAM

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union	Mrs. Doretha Houston
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Mrs. Delores Gilliam	

"" Indicates "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.