

**“Promoting Higher Education”
Helping to Build the Next Generation of Leaders**

Martha Mason Hill
1911 – 1985

◀ **The Legacy** ▶

In 1998, the daughters of the late Martha Mason Hill of Chesterfield, Virginia, established the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation in her memory. Her story is that of many extraordinary African American women of her era who, in spite of their circumstances, managed to help their children rise to a better place in life. Many others were beneficiaries of her selflessness as well. She was usually heard singing one of her favorite songs, “This Little Light of Mine”, the words of which accurately described her life. *The Legacy continues on page 3.*



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

<p><i>MMHMF ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM "TENTH ANNIVERSARY" CELEBRATION Saturday, September 27, 2008 4:00 p.m. Matoaca High School 17700 Longhouse Lane Chesterfield, Virginia 23838</i></p>	<p>Congratulations to Loren Renee Murphy MMHMF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP 2008 RECIPIENT</p>  <p>MMHMF is proud to award this year’s scholarship to this very impressive young lady. Loren graduated with honors this Spring from Lloyd C. Byrd High School, Pre-Engineering Specialty Center, located in Chesterfield. She is currently pursuing a course of study in bio-medical engineering at the University of Virginia. <i>Read more about Loren on page 10.</i></p>
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MMHMF is a public all-volunteer organization, exempt from Federal taxes under IRS code sections 501(a), 01(C) (3)

From The Desk of The Chairman



This is a very important year in the history of the Foundation as we celebrate our tenth anniversary. Ten years of providing scholarships to students from Chesterfield County who attend a four-year accredited college or university, of providing supplies to selected schools in the county, of sending care packages to students of this community who are away at school, of providing workshops to parents, relatives, friends and students that help them negotiate the bureaucratic maze that must be traversed to secure financial aid, and ten years of identifying and recognizing those

in the Chesterfield County community who make a difference in all of our lives. All of this has been done in the name of and in honor of the Foundation's namesake, Martha Mason Hill, and I believe that she would have been proud of those accomplishments.

None of the above would have been possible without the outstanding and consistent support of many of you who are reading this message. You are the Army of volunteers who have given so generously of your time and resources so that the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation could make a difference in the lives of the youth of this community. When the family started down this path 10 years ago, we had a vision and a dream for what we might accomplish. You have helped us make significant progress on the road to fulfilling that dream, and on behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank you.

In many respects, 2008 will be seen as a year of change. Mrs. Hill was a woman of vision, but I wonder if even she could have imagined the change in the political landscape that November 2008 will bring. No matter which political party is victorious, this country will see a first. Either we will see the first African-American elected as the President or we will see the first woman elected as the Vice-President. No matter which of these events happens, a significant portion of the population will find joy and immense pride in the outcome. The victor will be seen as a highly visible role model who signifies what is possible if only we prepare ourselves and support each other. For those who support the candidate that is not elected, the non-election will be taken as a source of frustration and deep sorrow, an indication of our ability to come so close, only to again be turned away. Which will occur? Time will tell, but Mrs. Hill would encourage each of us to play our part in this political process. If we don't, we let ourselves down, we let our community down, but most of all, we let down all of those who gave their lives so that we have the right and opportunity to engage in the political process. I beseech you to cast your vote!

MMHMF is a foundation that has as its central mission the support of education. We believe, as Mrs. Hill did, that the future of this nation, and the future of people of color in this nation are inextricably tied to quality of the education that our children receive. We have seen great progress. We see people of color in leadership positions that we could only imagine 10 - 20 years ago. We see groups of people enjoying a standard of living that our forefathers and foremothers could only dream about. But the gaps and inequities persist. We still see the gap in test scores, the gap in income, and the gap in opportunity. The economic climate of the last eight years has vividly reminded us how tenuous the hold onto the status of middle class is for those that do not have a solid educational foundation. While we have the largest number of people of color earning degree, at all levels, that this nation has ever seen, we have a long way to go to achieve equity. The attainment of equity is what this foundation is all about, and I ask your continued support.

James H. Stith

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

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THE MARTHA MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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2007 Honoree - Mrs. Judith Warren, Retired Teacher



Mrs. Warren, a lifelong resident of Chesterfield County, Virginia, is the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. James Rowlette. She was the second born of three children. Her elementary education was completed at Matoaca Laboratory School, Virginia State University, and she graduated from Peabody High School, Petersburg, Virginia. She continued her education at Virginia State University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, and a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching History Teaching History. Further graduate studies were pursued at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Virginia, and she became certified as a School Social Worker.

Most of her career involved teaching on the middle and high school levels in Chesterfield County, where she retired as a School Social Worker (serving as an advocate for students and parents). She also served as an instructor in the Upward Bound Program, Virginia State University, and was an adjunct professor at John Tyler Community College.

Mrs. Warren is married to Mr. Howard Warren, Sr., and from this union are two children, Katherine Warren-Lewis and Howard Warren, Jr. They are blessed with four grandchildren.

Mrs. Warren is a dedicated member of Shiloh Baptist Church where she serves as chaplain on the Diaconate Ministry; on the sanctuary choir, past superintendent and teacher of the church school; teacher of the teen group for Vacation Bible School, as well as chair and/or service on numerous church committees. She is also a member of the Diaconate Union of Chesterfield County and Vicinity, where she serves on the Scholarship Committee.

Mrs. Warren has been quite busy since her retirement, serving as coordinator of The Achievers Plus Enrichment Program for middle school-aged students at the Children’s Home of Virginia Baptists. This is a tutorial program which reinforces English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Technology, Study and Social Skills. Also, during the summer of 2006, under Mrs. Warren’s leadership, a Junior Mentor’s Training Program was initiated, and four eighth grade students were trained to be tutors/mentors to fellow students in the program.

Mrs. Warren was affiliated with other civic and community service organizations which included: Member of Chesterfield County Community Services Board for nine years; member of the Jesse J. Mayes Airborne Memorial Bridge Chapter, 555th Parachute Infantry Association, Inc., where she served as secretary for five years; and she provided telephone counseling and referral services through the Contact Tri-Cities Program.

Mrs. Warren has received several honors and awards. On May 8, 1994, she was honored as Mother of the Year by her church; on May 24, 1996, she received the Community Services Award from the Civic and Progressive Action Association Matoaca Magisterial District (CAPAAMMD); and she received a Certificate of Meritorious Service as Charter Secretary/National Trooper of the Year, for services from January 2000-September 2005, from 555th Parachute Infantry Association.

Mrs. Warren’s favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

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

MMHMF thanks all who donated to the foundation in 2007. We apologize if any names were inadvertently omitted from or incorrectly posted on the donors list. Please contact the foundation and the corrections will appear in the next publication.

Contact: MMHMF, 2013 Clearwood Drive Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511, Phone (301) 390-5914 or (804) 590-1493. Email: ajhstith@msn.com.

The Legacy continued from cover

She was a native of Chesterfield County Virginia, the daughter of the late Beverly Archer Mason and Eva Haskins Mason and one of seven siblings, namely Robert L., Edward, Hortense, Henrietta, Anetta and B. Vernon. She was married to the late Thomas E. Hill with whom she had seven daughters, namely Delores, Doris, Sarah, Charlotte, Hilda, Shirley and Alberta. A devoted Christian, she was a life-long member of Union Grove Baptist Church where she was a member of the Usher and Auxiliary Board, the Pulpit Hospitality Society, and the Deaconess Ministry. She was also a member of the Union Grove King David Lodge #233.

She practiced her faith, and was a very nurturing person whose kindness and consideration towards others knew no bounds. We will never know the full extent of her philanthropic work, for she was not prone to publicize or boast about her good deeds. We do know, however, that her loving and caring ways had a lasting impact on many people. She was admired and respected by those who knew her.

Among her many fine qualities was her strong belief in the value of education. She was honored at Virginia State University for ensuring that all 7 of her daughters attended the University, where she worked for 40 years as a housekeeper. The two grandchildren she reared, Trudy and Judy Stephenson, are also alumni of VSU. Her family hopes to continue her legacy through the Foundation.

THE MMHMF ENDOWMENT FUND was created to continue the work of MMHMF indefinitely. By raising and investing a substantial sum of money, the interest income accrued can be used to provide scholarships and fund education programs in perpetuity.

 *Reflections Memories of Martha told by friends and family*

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

Doretha Gilliam Houston, granddaughter - "During the summer, our family would travel from Maryland to Petersburg to visit my grandmother, Momma. Since there was no air conditioning, when it was very hot outside, we would sit and play on the front screened-in porch. I would watch Momma sitting in her chair, holding a fly swatter loosely in her hand. I was amazed to see the way she could stun and then kill a fly with just one flip of her wrist. I was grateful for this skill of hers because I hated the Virginia insects that seemed to swarm in larger numbers. One day, while my parents were gone, I was playing on the porch and saw a very large, black wasp bouncing against the screen. I immediately called Momma because I was terrified of bees and wasps. I had never been stung, but I instinctively feared them. She came with the fly swatter in hand and casually hit and killed it. Only then did I come close enough to look at it motionless on the wood sill. Momma warned me not to touch it, but the fuzzy hairs on its underside intrigued me. I figured that since it was dead, it couldn't hurt me anymore. I watched Momma return inside the house and then, with my index finger stretched out, I touched the wasp. I saw the instant jerking reaction of the insect, as the stinging sensation leaped from my finger to my brain. Boy, did I scream and cry! Momma came running to see what had happened. She didn't scold me. I just remember her consoling me, taking out the stinger, and nursing the wound. It was wonderful to know the love and compassion of a grandmother...and it was a good listening lesson I would never forget."

**A THANK YOU LETTER
FROM ETRICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



ETTRICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

20910 Chesterfield Avenue • Ettrick, Virginia 23803
Office (804) 520-6005 • Fax (804) 520-0430

June 18, 2008

Mrs. Alberta Stith
Martha-Mason Hill Memorial Foundation
2013 Clearwood Drive
Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511

Reference: Books for Ettrick Elementary Fifth Graders

Dear Mrs. Stith:

What a special day we had on June 10th, 2008, when the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation, Outreach Committee, visited our fifth graders at Ettrick Elementary School. The children were excited that the school year was ending but they were absolutely delighted to receive the books you brought for them.

We encourage our students to read throughout the summer. Your gift of a book for each individual fifth grader gave them a sense of ownership and affirmed that reading is fun, adventurous and special. It also places reading material in their homes for family members to enjoy and discuss.

Thank you for supporting Ettrick Elementary School. We are very happy to work with you promoting reading with our students and their families.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Courtney
Principal

Cc: Annie D. Henderson, Chairperson

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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2007 Honoree – Ms. Magnolia L. Patron, Retired Teacher



Magnolia L. Patron, the youngest of ten children of the late Porter N. Patron and Mrs. Magnolia Robertson Patron, was born in the Beach Community of Chesterfield County. Her father died when she was a young child. During her tender years, it was her mother who instilled in her the importance of education and/or training, and inspired her to always give of her best in service to God and to mankind.

With mother’s blessings, Magnolia launched upon her educational journey, which began in a small frame building—Centralia Elementary School and finished in six years; then entered Armstrong High School of Richmond and graduated in three and a half years; and went on to Virginia Union University, where she earned the B.A. Degree (French/English major, Christian Education minor). At age 19, she began her teaching career. She did advanced studies at Howard University, Atlanta University, St. Mary’s of Notre Dame, Loyola of Canada and the University of Virginia, where she received the MEd Degree. She taught English and French at Carver High until the school phased out (1970) and English at John Tyler Community College in the evening for three quarters. After Carver, she continued her educational journey as guidance counselor; first at Matoaca High (3 years) and finally at Thomas Dale High (15 years). In every school she was highly respected by parents, co-workers and students alike.

Some of Ms. Patron’s community and fraternal affiliations include: life membership NAACP, Retired Education Associations on local and state levels, Order of Eastern Star (Past Matron), National Association of University Women (Richmond-President), National Association of Parliamentarians.

Encouraged by her grandmother, one of the Founders of First Baptist Church Centralia, Ms. Patron joined the church at a young age and began her Christian service there at age 12. She served as pianist of the Youth Choir, Assistant Church Organist, Youth Advisor, Sunday School Teacher, Trustee and provided leadership and support in numerous church ministries. Her service has been continuous and characterized by efficiency, love and devotion. She attended the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo, Japan, also Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Other travels include Continental United States and 10 Countries in Western Europe. Following her retirement from Thomas Dale, she became a licensed real estate salesperson and a parliamentarian and held seminars/workshop in high schools and community groups.

Magnolia L. Patron’s long years of untiring service as teacher/counselor and molder of character will ever be reflected in the lives of those whom she taught and influenced. She presently resides in Patrontdale, the planned residential community that she developed.

**A THANK YOU LETTER
FROM HARROWGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHESTERFIELD, VIRGINIA 23832**

HARROWGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
15501 Harrowgate Road
Chester, Virginia 23831
(804) 520-6015

September 12, 2008

The Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation
2013 Clearwood Drive
Mitchelville, Maryland 20721-2511

Dear Mrs. Stith and members of MMHMF,

Thank you for your so very generous donation of school supplies and \$100 to assist our neediest students with field trip costs. This year, we had the greatest number of requests for help with school supplies than we have ever had in the seventeen years that I have worked at Harrowgate. These difficult economic times are greatly impacting our families that live on a thin economic margin. The extra cost of food and fuel is using up all of their limited financial resources. Never has your help been more needed. And never has it been more appreciated.

Thank you for remembering and helping our students year after year. You are positively impacting their lives and helping them get off to the right start at the beginning of the year. Truly, every child deserves to get off to a good start.

In sincere gratitude,

Taffy Jones-Hayes

Taffy Jones-Hayes
Intervention Strategist

FRIENDS & FAMILY PAY TRIBUTE TO SAM



Samuel Alexander Gilliam was born on July 5, 1929 in Raleigh, North Carolina and reared in Chesterfield County, Virginia by loving parents, the late John T. and Mattie Gillam. He departed this life suddenly on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2007 at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, Bel Air, Maryland.

He was educated in Chesterfield County Public schools. Accepting Christ at an early age, he was baptized into the membership of Union Branch Baptist Church. After graduating from D. Webster Davis High School, he enlisted in the United States Army on February 19, 1948, where he served honorably for 30 years. On September 8, 1951, he married his high school sweetheart, Delores Colean Hill and they began a partnership that lasted 56 years.

In his rise from the rank of private to the highest enlisted rank of Sergeant Major, Sam served in a variety of leadership positions and assignments to include the Korean War. When he retired in 1978, Sam immediately enrolled in night school at Hartford Community College and received a degree in business administration. He transferred to the University of Maryland, getting a bachelors degree in business administration. He says he never forgot Mrs. Martha Hill's, his Mother-in-law, dedication, hard work and desire to educate her seven daughters. She inspired him to earn his college degrees.

Sam's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Hear, Army Commendation Medal, Legion of Merit, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Korean Service Medal with Silver Star, and numerous foreign and service awards. It was a tremendous honor when he was selected to be a member of the United States Delegation to the Presidential Mission to Korea, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. After his military retirement in February, 1978, he began his civil service career and eventually served as the Retirement Services Officer at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) for over 15 years until his retirement in 1996.

Sam was a faithful member of the Protestant Chapel Choir (a frequent soloist), Protestant Men of the Chapel, and served as an usher at the Post Chapel, APG. He devoted much of his personal time as an active volunteer in his community. For over 22 years, Sam was a volunteer for the APG Federal Credit Union (APGFCU). During that time, he was elected to the APGFCU Board of Directors and served as the Secretary of the Executive Committee. In addition, he was a member of numerous civic organizations including the Iota Alpha Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (former Chaplain), the V.F.W., the Lions Club and the Jessie Shanks Masonic Lodge Number 137 (attained the 32nd degree and was a former Chaplain).

He is remembered for his sense of humor, warm and caring disposition and his contagious smile. He loved to sing and audiences loved to hear him. He did not turn down opportunities to do so, even singing during a worship service on board a cruise ship touring the Mediterranean. A loyal member of the Virginia Birdies, he was an avid golfer. Fellow golfers will always remember his "hole in one." He and wife Delores were very frequent travelers, both nationally and internationally. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family. He would not play golf on Saturdays because that was the day he faithfully visited his pride and joy, his grandchildren.

Supporters in Maryland who anticipate a personal knock on their door or a phone call reminding them "it's time" – they know the story. Some have even gotten ahead of him, reminding him that it's time to get started!

tribute to Sam continued from page 13

Sam was a major contributor to MMHMF and raised funds for the Foundation every year. Asked why he does it, he remarked, "My Mother-in-law certainly had an impact on my life with regard to my obtaining a better education I am both happy and proud to contribute whatever I can. Soliciting donations is one of the ways I try to support the Foundation." So every August, our very own "Santa", Sam, gets out his list, "checks it twice" – adding/subtracting names before beginning his "rounds" Sam has been doing this for five or six years now. He has a loyal base of It is heartwarming to see the kind of continual support Sam, his family, friends, neighbors and associates provide MMHMF year after year. That is kindness and loyalty at its best! We cannot thank them enough for helping!

Sam was an exceptional role model and mentor and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. To know him was truly to love him, his spirit will live on in our hearts and minds.

The Gilliam Family requested donations to the Foundation in lieu of flowers.

MEMORIAM DONORS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Aberdeen Proving Ground FCU | Ms. Annie D. Henderson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Ray Barksdale | Ms. Anna Letscher |
| Ms. Shirley Baugh | Mr. David Love |
| Mr. & Mrs. George W. Blake | Mr. Monroe Manning |
| Drs. Harold & Loretta Braxton | Ms. Naomi Mayo |
| Mr. Frankie Brown | Ms. Agnes E. Minor |
| Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. Burr | Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Scott |
| LTC Eugene C. (RET) Chandler | Ms. Sarah E. Standiford |
| Mr. & Mrs. James Davis | Dr. & Mrs. James Stith& Family |
| Major Evans | Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Tann |
| Mr. & Mrs. Acie Fields | Mr. & Mrs. Clarence E. & Ruth S Vaughn |
| Mr. & Mrs. David Gilbert | Mr. & Mrs. Everette White |



MMHMF CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS SENT ►



Members of MMHMF Outreach Committee prepare and mail care packages to college students from Chesterfield County in February. Concern about retention and attrition rates in higher education have increased over the years. There are many factors that have been found to influence student retention and to be strongly associated with student persistence in college. These factors include: student commitment; student characteristics; **support from family, peers and others outside the institution**; student involvement in the institution's academic life; and frequency and quality of student interaction with faculty.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

2007 - 2008

Funds Given To Ettrick Elementary For Fifth Grade Reading Program (2007)



Outreach Committee (left to right: Gwendolyn Davis, Ann Henderson, Barbara Crews, Sarah Cheatham) presenting check to Michael Courtney, Principal (center).

Books Given To All 5th Graders At Ettrick Elementary Schools (2008)



At the end of the school year, for summer reading, high interest books were given to students

SECOND EDITION COOKBOOK

The anniversary edition of the Foundation's cookbook, **CHERISHED FAMILY RECIPES**, will be available at the end of September 2008. The book contains 1050 recipes from 124 contributors. The first edition, published in 2003, sold out quickly, so reserve your copies today.

Contact: **MMHMF**, 2013 Clearwood Drive Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511, Phone (301) 390-5914.or (804) 590-1493. Email: ajhstith@msn.com

FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2007 - Brittany Goodwyn Morgan State University Architecture, & Environmental Design	2006 - Brandon Brown James Madison University Business Management	2005 - Lee Trotter North Carolina AT&T Animal Science
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2004 - Latonya Bowles North Carolina A & T, Industrial Engineering	2003 - Alana Cooper Virginia Tech., Pre-Veterinary Medicine	2002 - JaVonda Tucker 2006 Honors Graduate, Virginia State University Criminal Justice, With Honors <i>Masters Degree, VCU, 2008</i>
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2001 - Travis L. Surley Virginia Commonwealth University	2000 - Chara Moore Virginia Tech., Pre-Veterinary Medicine	1999 - Dwight Brown, Jr. James Madison University Accounting
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Submitted Anne Henderson

In honor of the Tenth Anniversary of the Foundation

The Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation (MMHMF) is approaching its tenth (10th) anniversary and still holding fast to the guiding principles of its namesake, promoting the education of children. Foundation members understand that providing a quality education for all children is the responsibility of all citizens whether at the federal, state, or local level.

The Board of Directors, members, contributors, and friends of the Foundation have taken steps to ensure that area children have access to as many educational opportunities as possible. The Foundation is achieving its goals through its many school outreach programs and projects, academic scholarships given and monetary donations made for the benefit of parents and students in Chesterfield County.

Over the past decade numerous seminars, workshops, and activities have been implemented aimed at educating parents and students about the importance of remaining in school until graduation and afterwards attending college. At workshops and seminars, parents and guardians received informational packets designed to help their children achieve additional success in school. Financial aid, career choices, study skills, parenting skills are just a few other areas covered through the workshops and seminars sponsored by the Foundation.

This article appeared in the Progress Index in Spring, 2008.

Each year since 1999, the Foundation has awarded a scholarship to a local student attending college. Two scholarships will be available beginning in 2009. Annually, during the month of February “We Care” packages are sent to college students from the Chesterfield area as a means of encouragement.

For several years boxes of “Back to School” supplies have been presented to two or three elementary schools (Ettrick Elementary, Harrowgate Elementary, and Matoaca Elementary) in the county. These school supplies are to be used at teachers discretion.

Monetary contributions have been provided to elementary schools for field trips, and books have been donated for independent reading to be taken home by the students. In June 2008, fifth grade students at Ettrick Elementary School were given a book of their choice for summer reading. The books were gifts at the end of the school year. The children and teachers were delighted.

The Foundation has worked with Matoaca High School on a number of projects including a College Application Workshop and Career Day. Members of MMHMF volunteered in the guidance office, and with the Reality Store project for all freshmen. The purpose of that project was to give students a “taste of the real world” facing them as responsible adults. The intent was to enhance career

awareness and readiness through the structured and practical experiences provided by “Reality Store”.

In addition to assisting students and parents, each September the Foundation honors individuals in the community who exemplify the ideals of MMHMF. During the annual awards program a community service award is given and an educator in the County receives an award for his or her dedication to the field of education. The current year’s recipient of the MMHMF scholarship is also honored. The TENTH ANNIVERSARY AND ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at Matoaca High School, 17700 Longhouse Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838. The public is invited to attend.

A newsletter is published and distributed annually in September. The MMHMF maintains a website: mmhmf.org. The second anniversary edition of the Foundation’s cookbook, **CHERISHED FAMILY RECIPES**, will be available at the end of September, 2008. The book contains 1050 recipes from 124 contributors. The very popular first edition, published in 2003, sold out within a few months.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors and six standing committees meet twice a year in May and September (meetings are open to the public) and participate in community activities in order to better meet the educational needs of the children and parents of the community.

MMHMF SCHOLAR NEWS

2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

About Loren Renee Murphy, 2008 MMHMF Scholar

In her essay Loren said: "I want to become a biomedical engineer because it combines engineering disciplines with the medical field. This combination is perfect for me because I enjoy transforming a simple idea into a tangible device and learning about the human body." She described three experiences that contributed to her interest in the field.

The lectures of Dr. Gerald Miller, Chairman of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Virginia Commonwealth University, she heard were very interesting Loren said. She found the classes she took in the discipline fascinating, never boring.

Another inspiring experience was seeing the entire human nervous system on display in the "Body Worlds 2: The Anatomical Exhibit of Real Human Bodies exhibit at the Montreal Science Centre in Montreal, Canada." Loren wrote: "This exhibit caused me to gain a whole new appreciation for life and discovered that I had a passion for biomedical engineering. "Lastly, in her senior year Loren had the opportunity to interview two soldiers who had sustained the types of injuries in the Iraq war that a biomedical engineer would address.

Loren's list of school and community activities is extensive. In school, she played the clarinet in the marching band and was music officer, and tutored math and Spanish. She belonged to the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, Tri-M-National Music Honor Society, SCA (Student Council Association), Senior Advisory Council, Mentorship-Austin Brockenbrough & Associated Engineers, Junior Engineering (JETS) National Engineering Design Contest, and the J.V. Girl's Basketball Team.

She was Lloyd C. Bird Student of the year, 2007-2008. Her community involvements included: the Chesterfield County Youth Services Citizen Board, Youth Usher Board; Union Branch Baptist Church; World Changers Missions; and Chesterfield County Youth Forum. She was a judge for S.A.F.E. Band Festival and a Wives of Beaux-Twenty junior and senior debutante.



Thank You!

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Martha Mason-Hill Memorial Scholarship Foundation for awarding me a \$1,000 scholarship for my academic, extracurricular and community accomplishments. Special thanks to the Hill family for establishing the foundation in memory of Mrs. Martha Hill to help students like myself. It will be very helpful towards my college tuition. God Bless.

Loren Murphy

BRITTANY GOODWYN, 2007 SCHOLAR, WRITES:



It is with sincere heart felt thanks and gratitude that I write this letter to the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation. I am most appreciative for the financial support that you provided me to assist with my tuition for the 2007-2008 school year. I had an excellent freshman year and did not expect for it to end so soon. The confidence that you have placed in me is humbling, to say the least. I want you to know that your investment in my future will pay off in big dividends, because Morgan State University will ensure that I am prepared to take my rightful place in our global society.

I am also thankful to God for making my transition to college life a smooth one and for allowing me to deal successfully with the many challenges that confronted me, always staying focused with my eye on the prize.

This summer I am working as an Architecture Intern at the Virginia Department of Historical Resources. This organization is responsible for the restoration and preservation of all the historical buildings in the state of Virginia. Since I plan to concentrate my studies in the area of preservation and restoration of historical structures, this affords me an excellent opportunity to acquire some actual hands on experience and exposure in this area. I am concentrating my studies in this area because I believe that historical structures embody the character and strength of our communities. They transcend time and provide a bridge between the past and the present.

I am excited about continuing my studies at Morgan State University this fall. Please keep me in your prayers so that I can remain focused and committed to the task at hand.

I have enclosed a copy of my final grades for this past school year. In May, I was inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma, the Alpha Lambda Delta and the Grant-Brett Promethean Kappa Tau Freshman Honor Societies. God bless you for believing in me.

Sincerely,

Brittany D. Goodwyn



MMHMF RECIEVES A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION From Brittney D. Wilson, 2008 Graduate George Mason University

The certificate read, "This certificate is hereby conferred to honor and recognize the confidence, devotions, guidance and assistance freely given in helping me obtain this important milestone in my life."

Brittney was one of the many college students receiving the foundation's "We Care" package each year. We thank her for the thoughtful way she chose to show her appreciation for our support.

The MMHM Foundation

MMHMF is a public, charitable organization. MMHMF was incorporated in 1999 and is exempt from federal tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section **501 (C) (3)**.

MISSION—to carry on the legacy and spirit of the late Martha Mason Hill by providing academic scholarships to high school students, and conducting community outreach programs that create college awareness and encourage students to attend college. Currently the focus is on helping underrepresented minority students in Chesterfield County, Virginia, where she lived.

10th Anniversary Celebration September 27, 2008!

◀PUBLICATIONS▶

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER: Published in September

MINI-NEWSLETTERS: Provides timely information for students and parents throughout the year, including a listing of local scholarships.

MMHMF COOKBOOK: Published in 2003, contains over 600 recipes from family and friends. Proceeds from sales benefit scholarships and outreach programs **2nd Edition Coming in 2008**

WEBSITE: mmhmf.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO CONTRIBUTE: 2013 Clearwood Drive Mitchellville, MD 20721-2511; (301) 390-5914; ajhstith@msn.com.

100% of your contributions are used to provide college scholarships and to fund projects and programs that encourage students to achieve academic success.

GOVERNANCE - The Foundation is governed by a **Board of Directors** that meets biannually in May and September. Meetings are open to the public. The Board oversees six standing committees:

- Executive (Foundation officers)
- Scholarship
- Annual Awards Program
- Outreach
- Finance
- Hospitality

Dr. James H. Stith, Chairman, Board of Directors

◀MMHMF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS▶

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS: Two \$1,000 scholarships are available annually.

WORK WITH SCHOOLS: Participated in school programs such as Career Day, provided speakers, and sponsored a campus tour trip. Adopted two elementary schools: school supplies are provided for needy students; sponsored a book club for fifth graders to improve reading skills; sponsoring a scheduled field trip in 2009. Other projects are selected from lists provided by adopted schools that help promote academic success graders to improve reading skills; sponsoring a scheduled field trip in 2009.

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM: Community service awards are given to volunteers who exemplify Foundation ideals. MMHMF scholarships are presented to the current recipients.

SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Care packages and letters of encouragement are sent annually to students.

A TRIBUTE TO OLIVER WHITE HILL, CIVIL RIGHTS ICON 2004 Recipient, MMHMF Community Service Award

Oliver white Hill, one of America's premier civil rights attorneys and the first Black member of the Richmond, VA city Council since Reconstruction, died in his home on August 5, 2007. He was 100 years old. We are proud to include among the recipients of the MMHMF Community Service Award.

Pictured is Mr. Hill (center) receiving awards from: Richard "Dickie" King, Jr., (left) Supervisor, Bermuda Magisterial District (Chesterfield County Proclamation); and James H, Stith (right), Chairman of the MMHMF Board of Directors (MMHMF Community Service Award).

Mr. Hill was born in Richmond on May 1, 1907 and moved to Roanoke, VA, and then to Washington, DC with his family. He graduated from Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School and then Howard University. He was a close friend of the late Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, finishing second to him at the Howard University Law School in 1933.

As an attorney, Mr. Hill won cases such as equalizing the salaries of Black teachers in Norfolk, VA, and helping Black students protest their dilapidated school in Farmville, VA. The Farmville case, *Davis vs. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, became one of the five adjunct cases to *Brown vs. Board of Education*, which outlawed segregation in public schools in 1954. At one time, Mr. Hill was working on 75 cases fighting racial practices in Virginia. In 1948, Mr. Hill made national news when he was elected to the Richmond, VA City Council, the first Black since Reconstruction to do so. It would be years before another Black would serve on that body.

A courageous civil rights advocate, Mr. Hill was constantly threatened with obscene phone calls made to his home and a cross was burned on his front lawn. He remained steadfast in his convictions and commitment to change the status quo. It was his superior legal skills and total dedication to making a difference in the face of death threats that set him apart. Mr. Hill worked closely with the NAACP and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to fight for civil rights. He worked in his own law firm, *Hill, Tucker and Marsh*, until he retired in 1998.

In 1999, President Bill Clinton awarded Mr. Hill the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest honor. In 2000, he received the American Bar Association Medal, the organization's highest honor. In Richmond, a bronze bust of Mr. Hill's likeness is in the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia.

We owe him a great debt of gratitude for paving the way for us to have all the opportunities we have today. It is up to each of us to assume responsibility for carrying on Mr. Hill's legacy and spirit by taking advantage of opportunities before us and by helping others do the same. MMHMF is committed to building on his accomplishments.

HIS LEGACY WILL FOREVER CHALLENGE US!



MMHMF SALUTES

Previous Community and Education Service Awards Recipients

2003 First Community Service Award

Bessie Moorer Amigo Wade, Esq.

2004 Community Service

Oliver White Hill, Civil Rights Icon

2005 Community Service Award

Janice Johnson Janice M. Mack

2005 First Education Service Award

Margarette D. Fisher

2006 Education Service

*Rebecca Branch Marguerite Christian
Irma B. Mason*

2007 Education Service

Magnolia Patron Judith Warren

Guest Speakers

*Senator Henry L. March III, 2003
Dr. John C. Baskerville, Sr., 2005*

MMHMF LEGACY

The Foundation has held fast to the guiding principles of its namesake - promoting higher education – for ten years. Members understand that the key to success is education and that is the responsibility of citizens to help all children receive a quality education. Through its many outreach projects and scholarships and grants given, steps have been taken to ensure that area children take advantage of every opportunity to achieve academically.

The MMHMF Outreach Committee implements at least three projects each school year. Assisting the largest number of students and their parents or guardians is a top priority. Therefore, the Committee chose Title One schools to support – those situated in areas designated as Urban Renewal Zones for blighted areas by the Federal Government. The majority of students receive federally subsidized free/reduced lunch. Each “adopted” school provides a list of ways the Foundation can help. The Committee has only been able to choose limited projects due to limited finances and other commitments. When greater resources become available, more will be done.

School Supplies Are Donated Every Year – For several years several boxes of “Back to School” supplies have been given to two or three elementary schools (Ettrick, Matoaca and Harrowgate) for students in need of assistance. Below are pictures of Outreach Committee members delivering the supplies to Harrowgate.

Over the past decade numerous seminars, workshops, and activities have been implemented aimed at educating parents and students about the importance of remaining in school until graduation and afterwards attending college. At workshops and seminars parents and guardians received packets of information designed to help their children achieve additional success in school. Financial aid, career choices, study skills, parenting skills are just a few other areas covered through the workshops and seminars sponsored by the Foundation. For example, in October, 2006, a **PARENT-STUDENT WORKSHOP** for students in grades K-12 was held at Virginia State University. The primary topic was “Your Child’s Success in Public Schools.” The presenter was Mrs. Melloney Johnson, Guidance Counselor at Matoaca High School. Topics discussed were SOLs, promotion policies, homework, special services and special concerns of parents. There was an open discussion period. Handouts were available and the students enjoyed pizza and other snacks.

Monetary contributions have been provided to elementary schools for field trips and books have been donated for independent reading to be taken home by the students. In June 2008, fifth grade students at Ettrick Elementary School were given a book of their choice for summer reading. The books were gifts at the end of the school year. The children and teachers were delighted

The Foundation worked with Matoaca High School on projects including a College Application Workshop and Career Day. Members of MMHMF volunteered in the guidance office and with the Reality Store project for all freshmen. The purpose of that project was to give students a “taste of the real world” facing them as responsible adults to enhance career awareness and readiness through practical experiences.

“WE CARE” Packages Are Sent To College Students for Valentines Day every year

REFLECTIONS OF

Carrie Willis Johnson

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

VANESSA HARRIS BOND,
Matoaca High School Class of 1976 *

ODE TO MRS. CARRIE JOHNSON Mrs. Johnson was a teacher who was very hard on the students that she saw had potential. No matter what background they came from, she knew they were capable of doing the work. Sometimes things didn’t seem fair to us, but Mrs. Johnson was only preparing us for what was to come in the future. I just want to take this opportunity to thank her for imparting in me the respect and responsibility of becoming an adult. In closing, I say, Mrs. Johnson, thanks again, and know that I love you for the great inspirational person you are.

BRUCE H. BRANCH,
Matoaca High School Class of 1974

Mrs. Johnson made a lasting impression on the students she taught. She was a teacher, friend, mentor and a positive role model. She was instrumental in helping students reach their potential.

DAPHENE COOK EDWARDS,
Matoaca High School. Class of 1986

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

Your Daughter-in-law,
MRS. CHARON JOHNSON

**2008 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Brenda Briggs**

Brenda is an author. She has written a script book on the history of African-Americans in Chesterfield. It was used for the two African-American Rail Trail tours Brenda initiated and co-sponsored with the Martha Mason Hill Foundation and First Baptist Centralia, in 2005. She has written a history of the life of her late aunt, Marguerite Friend Christian, Educator and the first African-American supervisor in Chesterfield County. A school is named after Mrs. Christian in Chesterfield. She has also researched and documented the history of the Timothy Friend House which was built in 1906. She co-authored a family book on the life of Milton Friend, a freed slave. She also wrote “Before Court” and co-authored a textbook on administrative law procedures.

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

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

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

Reflections of Brenda Briggs, continues:

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

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

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

MAGARET A THOMPSON

**REFLECTIONS OF
BRENDA FRIEND BRIGGS**

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

SARAH J. GREGORY

A Person of Great Wisdom, Professionalism, Tenacity, Creativity

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

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

JANET JAMES, Esq.

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

SANDRA GORDON PETERSON,, Esq.

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

MAJOR GENERAL BRUCE E. ROBINSON, Esq.

**CONGRATULATIONS
CARRIE WILLIS JOHNSON**

2008 EDUCATION AWARD

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

Mrs. Johnson's teaching experiences began in 1960 with the Nottoway Public School System. Other school systems where she worked include the Spotsylvania Public Schools (John J. Wright), Prince Edward Free Schools, Prince Edward Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools (Matoaca Middle and Matoaca High Schools), Adjunct Professor at Virginia State, and Petersburg Public Schools (Peabody Middle School). During the forty-seven years of teaching, Carrie Johnson has contributed much to the success of children. She has been a role model for her students as well as her peers. To mention a few of her accomplishments or contributions: advisor for the Student Council Association; first Black teacher at Matoaca High; set up an after school tutoring program in Mathematics at Matoaca High (even taking the students home after tutoring); Mathematics Department Chairperson; and advisor to student teachers in the field of Mathematics from Virginia State College/University). In 1980, the Matoaca High year book was dedicated to her. In the Petersburg School System, she served as lead teacher for the eighth grade teachers and students; mentor to Mathematics teachers; Title One Mathematics teacher and the Virginia Middle School Teacher Corps.

Mrs. Johnson is a member of many community organizations that include The Links, Incorporated, Petersburg Chapter; The Moles, Incorporated, Petersburg Chapter; and The Wives of Beaux Twenty. She is a member of Gillfield Baptist Church where she sings in the Gospel Choir and is a teller. She is married to Dr. Norris J. Johnson. They were blessed with two children, Brenda Juacita (deceased) and Norris Dwayne; daughter-in-law, Charon and four grandchildren: James Bryant, Juacita, Chenteria and Arianna.

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