

# MARTHA MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

Helping Young Students Succeed For 25 Years!!

Vol. 19 No. 1

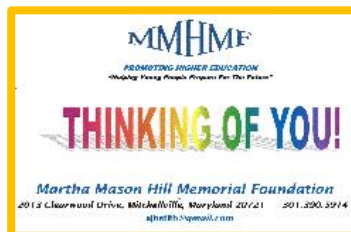
**Outreach Programs Support Two Elementary Schools, Two Middle Schools and One High School. Four Scholarships Offered to Qualifying Chesterfield, VA Students!**

**Nearly 2,000 BOOKS PROVIDED** for classroom libraries and for students to take home!

**— SUPPLIES PROVIDED** as requested by schools!

**— HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' AWARDS BREAKFAST SPONORED!**

**OUTREACH TO COLLEGE STUDENTS** includes gifts and notes of encouragement!



### CONGRATUALTIONS MMHMF SCHOLARS!!

**2023 Recipients (pp 4 – 5)**

**2019 Recipients Earn BS Degrees (pp 3, 6, 7)**



**Anaiya Winfield, Mia Neal, Gavin Pride**



**Jonathan Coleman**  
Awards Program Speaker



**Laila Ampy Thomas**

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Email address for MMHMF: [mmhmfoundation@mail.com](mailto:mmhmfoundation@mail.com); website [mmhmf.org](http://mmhmf.org)

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

**In times like these...**



For 25 years, the Foundation has sought to improve the lives of Chesterfield County youths by supporting their education and by providing them with opportunities and support. By many measures, we've achieved a lot, thanks to the vital assistance given by our many donors and volunteers. As you will read in this newsletter, your support has enabled us to provide scholarships, care packages, school supplies, books and other items requested by teachers. Moreover, we are inspired and hearted by the accomplishments of the many students that we have directly supported. Pausing to assess and appreciate past accomplishments can be satisfying—over the past quarter century, we have grown, maintained a persistent presence and expanded our efforts. Much has occurred since our founding that we never could have imagined.

Over the past few years so many of our fellow citizens have faced challenges to their health, well-being and social stability and economic security. The members of our community are no exception. I am proud of the ways our Foundation has responded to these challenges and found ways to meet new and immediate needs. While fundraising has not been as robust as we had hoped, it is encouraging to know that we, as a small private family foundation, have been able to shift our limited resources to where they are needed most.

To provide the financial resources necessary to support students indefinitely, the Foundation is growing two endowment funds, one of which is for students attending Virginia State University where our namesake worked for 40 years. Supporting this University and the students who go there is important to continuing the legacy of Martha Mason Hill who, while a housekeeper there, helped the seven daughters and the two granddaughters she raised get a college education. The second fund provides scholarships, care packages, school supplies, books, and other items as requested by teachers to K-12 students in the Chesterfield County school district and to college students who hail from Chesterfield.

As times and circumstances are certain to change in the future, we will find new ways to reach out and carry out our mission. We aim to carry on the legacy of Martha Mason Hill, who always responded with urgency, generosity, and thoughtfulness to the needs of others. I am proud that our Foundation strives to do the same.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Stith".

Andrea Stith

## 2019 MMHMF STELLAR SCHOLARS GRADUATE

### CONGRATULATIONS TO JONATHAN COLEMAN II

December 2022 Honors Graduate, East Carolina University (ECU), BS in Business Administration - Management Information Systems; ECU Inaugural Copeland Diversity & Inclusion Fellow and MBA Student

#### THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM SPEAKER



Jonathan is a graduate of Matoaca High School where he was a “stand out” student and person. He continues to excel! Currently he is pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the ECU Arthur School and is employed as a teller at Towne Bank, Greenville, NC.

Jonathan graduated from ECU in three and a half years. This is noteworthy because in addition to carrying a full load and achieving an overall 3.5 GPA, Jonathan: 1). has been employed since his freshman year; 2). was a Division I football player (four-time All-Academic Team and Vice President of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee 2019-23); 3). was a top 10 finalist for Captain of the Ship-Homecoming (2022); 4). served on the Chancellor’s Student Advisory Board (2021); 5). was an ECU Representative for UNC System Strategic Planning Committee (2021-23); 6). joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc at ECU (manages chapter budget and funds, organizes and facilitates chapter meetings, Spring 2022 – Present); 7). And is a member of the Inaugural Copeland Diversity & Inclusion Fellow Class (2021-Present). Jonathan earned the following scholarships during his undergraduate years: Danny R. Scott Scholarship; Stan and Laurie Eakins Scholarship; Comcast Future Business Leaders scholarship.

Jonathan is God-fearing. He believes strongly in his faith, his family and his friendships. He is an active member of First Baptist Church of South Richmond and away from home is an active member of Koinonia Christian Center, Greenville, NC. On his LINKEDIN page Jonathan writes: “Creativity drives me each and every morning”. The following sub-caption appears under his name: “Believer in Christ, Visionary, Entrepreneur, Environmentalist, Athlete and East Carolina University Immersive MBA Student.”

As a Copeland Fellow, Jonathan developed a project called “Brother In Me.” He has mentored several students in a middle school in Greenville since August 2023. MMHMF is extremely proud of Jonathan! We commend his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan (Traci) Coleman Sr. for a job well done in raising Jonathan, such an amazing young man. They also have three other terrific young people: Jessica, a graduate of Hampton University and works for ESPN in NYC; Jacob, a junior football player majoring in criminal justice at East Tennessee University; and Jada who is a freshman majoring in environmental science at Hampton. We are pleased to acknowledge and celebrate this wonderful family!

In his remarks during his awards program, Jonathan said to the three scholarship recipients “never give up!. Just keep trying!”

#### THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Dr. Adrienne Stith Butler, and Jan Hatchette, Co-Chairs

Dr. Woodrow Knight, Cheryl Nash

## 2023 MMHMF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### MIA NEAL



Mia is an honors graduate of Matoaca High School. She is majoring in psychology at Hampton University. At Matoaca High she was a member of the Key Club (2022-23); the National Honor Society(2021-23) ; Minorities in Power (President, 2022); the Varsity Volleyball team (2021-23, captain 2022-23); Friends Against Bullying (2021-22). Her community volunteer service included: Chesterfield Food Bank; the 5K Bubble Run; TSA; Special Olympics; Chesterfield Quarterback League (CQL) Super Bowl.

In her essay Mia shared that since early adolescence how the mind works and why people do what they do have greatly interested her. She remembers quite vividly watching the TV show Criminal Minds with her grandmother who would cover Mia's eyes when gory scenes appeared. None the less, Mia's interest did not falter. Of particular interest to her is why some people take advantage of others, specifically why all too often the African American community has been subjected to receiving unfair, unequal treatment. She wants to become a lawyer to give back to her community that has always supported her. Her long-term goal is to start her law firm that is accessible to the minorities in the United States. She says: "I know that majoring in psychology will give me a leg up in becoming the person my younger self could look up to".

### GAVIN PRIDE

#### 2023 MMHMF Virginia State University (VSU) Endowed Scholarship



This scholarship was established in 2011 in memory of Martha Mason Hill who worked in housekeeping at the University (then college) for 40 years. She was honored there for ensuring that her seven daughters and the two grandchildren she raised attended the then college. In keeping with the legacy and spirit of our namesake, Gavin was recommended for this scholarship by the Mataoca High School Counseling Department:

The recommendation reads:

"It is an honor to write a recommendation letter for Gavin Pride. I have been Gavin's school counselor for three years and have enjoyed working with him during that time. Gavin currently has a 4.37 GPA and is ranked #40 in his class of 342 students.

Gavin enjoys challenging himself academically. He has successfully taken a variety of advanced placement and dual enrollment classes while in high school. He has also been involved in a range of extracurricular activities, showing that he is highly organized and able to balance his school and home life. Some of the extracurricular activities that Gavin has been involved in include National Honor Society, varsity lacrosse, after-school math tutoring services, and part-time work since the fall of 2021. Additionally, Gavin volunteers his time aiding in lawn care services at a local farm and for the elderly.

Gavin is not only an excellent student, but also a personable and caring person. His family faced a significant loss this year and Gavin's resiliency is evident in his continued work ethic and drive to be successful in school. Gavin puts 100% effort into everything he does. He does not shy away from a challenge and has shown his leadership abilities through his role as our varsity lacrosse captain this year. Many students look up to him and he is viewed as a role-model for other students by our faculty and staff. Gavin would like to major in Psychology in order to be a mental health professional. I believe Gavin will be able to help many individuals that need mental health support.

Gavin is a well-rounded and motivated student. I believe Gavin has a bright future ahead to look forward to and will be able to help many individuals that are in need of mental health support. Gavin will thrive in any college or university setting. He deserves any scholarship that will help him meet his academic and career goals.

## 2023 MMHMF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

### ANAIYA WINFIELD



**Anaiya** is an honors graduate of Matoaca High School and is pursuing a degree in exercise science at Old Dominion University. At Matoaca High she was President/Founder Minorities in Powe; member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club (the goal is to provide members with opportunities to serve, build character, and develop leadership. Members learn how to lead and stand for what's right through service and volunteerism); DECA (an organization that gives high school students hands-on experience in marketing, business, and entrepreneurship; and the National Spanish Honor Society.+

She has been a volunteer at Bubble Run, her church and a food bank in her community.

When she was a child, she loved hanging out with my mother and grandmother who both worked in the geriatric healthcare field. After hearing their stories and how much they loved working with older patients she began doing research. Physical Therapy sounded interesting to her as a way to provide a good quality of life for the elderly. During her junior year, she attended **Chesterfield Technical Center for physical therapy**. While completing this program, she obtained a **Certified Physical Therapy Aide License, Workplace Readiness, and CPR certificates**. She was grateful for having the opportunity because it helped her determine exactly what field of student she wanted to pursue in college.

## UPDATES: 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### JAYDEN PIERRE

**Jayden wrote:**



"I would also like to thank you for the greetings card and gift card I received in the mail.

My first year at U Va (University of Virginia) was a great one. I made a lot of friends and gained many new experiences. One of my favorite moments was attending an Alpha probate and seeing one of my hallmates being revealed. I also enjoyed going to play basketball or uno with my roommate. Most importantly I had a successful academic year passing my classes with As & high Bs, and I hope to continue that in the next semester. This summer I've been cutting grass and doing outdoor work for my business, JAPOS. I've also been working on my Java skills for the upcoming semester. Then spending time with my little brother as much as I can before it's time to go back to school. Lastly, some of my future plans involve getting tech certifications and doing an internship to get myself in the right direction for post-graduation."

### NOAH SATTERWHITE

**From Noah:**



"I would like to take the time to thank you as well as i everyone else at the MMHMF for the birthday gift. I also wanted to let you know that I have received it. Thank you so much!

I would like to thank you for your contribution to my academic success. It was an honor to be **selected for such a scholarship. This past year at Norfolk State went very well as I was able to** enjoy my college experience and obtain a GPA of about 3.6. Coming into the semester I didn't feel too nervous as I had a similar experience with the STARS Summer Bridge Program earlier in the summer. I was lucky enough to have met my roommate and many friends in this program as well getting acclimated to the campus. It was different to not have my parents with me close by like they always had been before, but not necessarily difficult, as they raised me with morals, integrity, and allowed me the freedom I needed to be able to think on my own. It is my hope that with the help of your scholarship, I will be able to increase my average as well as become more involved in campus life as I would like to participate in other clubs/organizations other than DNIMAS. Your scholarship allowed me to focus on my academics without having the burden of financial worries. The fall semester will be challenging as I am taking physics, organic chemistry, and calculus, but I know with hard work and perseverance, I will succeed!"



## UPDATES: 2019 MMHMF STELLAR SCHOLARS GRADUATE!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO LAILA AMPY-THOMAS

BS Degree with Honors, VA Tech, May 2023

#### Laila wrote:

“Thank you so much! I know you all don't have to do what you do for me or anyone, so I as well as my family are always extremely grateful. Thank you for your compliments; you are too kind. I will be sure to tell my mother and father. Thank you very much. I will be looking forward to seeing the newsletter. I always love getting emails and checking the new recipients. Have a blessed weekend.”

“On Fri, May 26, 2023, Laila wrote: “I had an article done on me by Virginia Tech for being an outstanding senior. I am working this summer in my field; I am currently a 4-H liaison with the hopes of a position here or elsewhere becoming permanent. I would then like to start my master's in the fall of 2024. I am always so grateful for all the items and snacks you have sent over the years; they are always right on time when I need some encouragement. Thank you so much for all of your kindness.”

*Below is the article appearing in the Virginia Tech NEWS newspaper, by Marya Barlow, 27 April 2023*

#### ***“Class of 2023: Laila Ampy-Thomas finds a future in 4-H”***



An internship with Virginia Cooperative Extension introduced Ampy-Thomas to a career path that combined her passions for working with animals and kids.

When Laila Ampy-Thomas applied for an internship with [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#), she imagined she would work with livestock. Instead, she was introduced to [Henrico County 4-H](#) youth development and a career opportunity that blended her passions for working with children and animals.

“As soon as I finished my first lesson with elementary school kids about dairy and saw their excitement about making ice cream, I realized this was something I could see myself doing forever,” she said.

The internship experience inspired Ampy-Thomas to make it the focus of her senior capstone project and to pursue a career in 4-H. After graduating in May with a bachelor's degree in [animal and poultry sciences](#), she has a job lined up to lead 4-H camps for the City of Richmond. In the future, she hopes to

earn her master's degree and find a position as a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent.

“I was unaware of 4-H in my school growing up, and it would have been such a great fit for me,” she said. “I want to ensure that more people living in urban and underdeveloped areas are aware of the amazing opportunities that exist in 4-H.

Ampy-Thomas traces her love for animals back to kindergarten in Chesterfield, where she helped the teacher care for several ducks, snakes, and mice that were classroom pets. In high school at Chesterfield Career and Technical Center, she fell in love with veterinary science courses and decided to pursue her passion in the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#).

“I knew Virginia Tech had the best animal science program and the best hands-on experience and professors,” she said. “My classes showed me so many paths for doing what I loved, from being a veterinarian to managing a barn or animal shelter to being a professor or Extension agent.”

While at Virginia Tech, Ampy-Thomas was active in Minorities in Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program and was president of Sheep and Goat Club. She also volunteered at the swine barn, caring for sows, and with Hokie High Five, welcoming and mentoring first-year students.

After landing her paid internship with Virginia Cooperative Extension in the summer of 2022, Ampy-Thomas worked alongside 4-H Extension agents, leading activities for kids in local schools. With the encouragement of her supervisors, she developed and led a week-long day camp for kids ages 8 to 13. Ampy-Thomas called the camp Making Tracks and filled it with fun activities and lessons on the care of reptiles, companion animals, and livestock.

As she stood in front of a room full of campers on her own for the first time, Ampy-Thomas was grateful she had seven years of experience as a youth cheerleading coach to guide her.

Cont'd on page 7

## 2019 MMHMF STELLAR SCHOLARS GRADUATE! (cont'd from pg 6)

### CONGRATULATIONS TO LAILA AMPY-THOMAS

"I've been coaching cheerleading since I was in ninth grade and I love it," she said. "My experience in cheer really helps me with 4-H. I've already worked a lot with this age group, so I understand how to communicate with and entertain them."

To help teach campers about companion animals, Ampy-Thomas brought in her bearded dragon, Hiccup, and her dog, Blue, and made dog treats and washcloth puppies with the children. "There are several more bearded dragon owners now because of me," she joked. The week culminated in a visit to Hidden Triple Oak Farm, where the kids got to see and learn about horses, chickens, pigs, and cows up close.

Ampy-Thomas also helped run Henrico County's Junior 4-H Camp, a week-long sleepaway camp held at Jamestown 4-H Educational Center. When tasked with planning and leading a class for the students, Ampy-Thomas said there was no question it would be about cheerleading. She taught the kids jumps, tumbling, stunts, and a full cheer routine, and made them all cheer bows for their hair.

"Many of them told me it was the highlight of their day," she said. "One camper made me cry by saying that Miss Laila always made him feel comfortable and heard. Seeing that what I was doing had an impact on each child really cemented that this is something I want to do for life."

Associate Extension Agent Carter Humphries '14, M.S. '16, who helped supervise Ampy-Thomas during the internship, said many kids are asking if "Miss Laila" will be returning to camp this summer.

"The future of 4-H is bright with Laila in it," Humphries said. "The youth absolutely loved her. She was extremely creative and showed great leadership skills among the youth she worked with but also among our Henrico staff, high school interns, and teen counselors. We felt like a colleague was leaving us at the end of her internship. I look forward to having her join us as a fellow 4-H agent one day."

## UPDATE: THE 2022 MMHMF SCHOLARS

### AYANNA OTEY

#### VSU Endowed Scholarship Recipient



#### Letter from Ayanna:

"Greetings! Throughout my freshman 2022-2023 academic year I have had some struggles and a lot of tricks and turns. In the beginning I was trying to fit in and find what best fits for me but there was so many distractions in my path of success. I am not going to lie I did have a lot of fun but the fun got to my head to the point where I was not focused on any school work so my grades started to slip by the end of my freshman semesters I finished out with a 1.4 but I was offered a second chance during the summer. So during my summer I took 5 classes and set goals for each and every one of them. My summer my goals were to finish with 3 A's and 2 Bs that would put my GPA up to 3.2. I was also under another scholarship that required me to have a 2.5, and so I fought for it during the summer. At the end of the summer, I finished with 2 As 2 Bs and 1 C that raised my GPA from 1.4 to now a 3.0. I have also been introduced and honored by organizations on campus and have attended other schools as a representative of VCAN (Virginia College Affordability Network) to share my story. At the end of the day, I now know what I need to focus on and what goals I need to set to make my sophomore year even better. I did a lot of praying and tried to stay in a positive environment. Keeping God in my corner at all times is what got me through my summer. I give my biggest thanks to the man above. I would also like to thank the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation for the support and effort you put in for me including the time that has been wasted. Throughout the rest of my years, I, Ayanna Otey, will promise to make the best of everything.

## 2023 MMHMF COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

### LAYMETHA GUY

**Singer, Songwriter, Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Author, Actress and Mentor**



Laymetha, nicknamed “Lay,” always expressed a desire to sing and play the piano. Her early childhood years demonstrated that she had a natural vocal ability and a strong will to achieve in the field of music.

Laymetha grew up in Middlesex County Virginia and graduated with honors from Middlesex High School in 1981 and completed studies at Old Dominion University in 1987 in the field of Marketing and at George Washington University receiving her certification as a Business Analyst. She then moved to Hampton Virginia to take a position in IT Services for 10 years until deciding to move to Richmond to work for Altria, Inc. as an Associate Technology Analyst. Laymetha remained employed with Altria until 2009. After taking an early retirement from the IT field, she decided in 2013 to move into a totally different career, Aflac. While still keeping singing as her first love, in February and November of 2011 Laymetha appeared on the television show Bobby Jones Presents. She has shared the stage with legends in the music industry. You can also hear Laymetha’s music via iTunes, Amazon and CD Baby and Spotify!

Laymetha completed her first self-help book entitled “Preserving The Gift” and is founder of The Promise Academy of Virginia for girls ages 10 – 18. She also completed an off-Broadway run of the production "God's Trombone" and was cast as a part of the ensemble for the Firehouse theatre stage play "Dessa Rose" which won the 2012 People's Choice Award by the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle.

Laymetha gives of her time and talent to help non-profit organizations and has for the past three years held fundraising events to support persons suffering from ALS, as well performing the National Anthem since 2018 for the annual DC, Maryland and Richmond ALS Walk.

Laymetha is the owner of Laydsing Productions and Memories in Song and she released her 5<sup>th</sup> CD project and very first Christmas CD entitled “Season Of Joy,” which is available today! Laymetha is married to Linwood Guy, they have one daughter, Shaunelle.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ◀ COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS (OCT 2022 – SEPT 2023) ▶

**Heartfelt thanks to the following volunteers who supported Our Outreach and Hospitality Committees' activities, the golf tournament and the Brunswick Stew sales (sponsored by Garrett Mason)**

**Taylor Anderson   Tasha Brown   Rev. Douglas Harris   Bernard Jones   Alfred Mason Jr.  
Paris Stephenson   Ronald Stephenson   Darius Stephenson Jr.   Darius Stephenson Sr.  
Samantha Thibodeaux   Cherese Vaughan**

**John Daliani, Website Host & Manager (see page 16)**



## FAMILY AND MEMBER NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JAMES H. STITH,

#### MMHMF Board Chairman Emeritus



**Penn State University (PSU) Distinguish Graduate Award (2023), Guest Speaker for the 2020 Graduate School Graduation (2020), Wall of Fame (2023) and More!**

**Dr. James H. Stith, MMHMF Board Chairman Emeritus received the “Distinguished Graduate,”** award during a ceremony at The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) in June, the highest award given to a graduate by the PSU Board of Trustees. He was named an “Alumnus Fellow,” the highest award given by the PSU Alumni Association. Dr. Stith was the guest speaker for the University’s graduate school graduation ceremony for the 2020 graduates.

Also added to his extensive list of honors, in 2023 was being listed on the James Solomon Russell-Saint Paul’s College “Wall of Fame,” and the PSU “Wall of Honor.”

Dr. James H. Stith is a product of Brunswick County, Virginia. The son of tobacco farmers, he obtained his early education at the three-room Oak Grove Elementary School. Stith earned his BS and MS degrees in physics from Virginia State College in 1963 and 1965, respectively. His Doctorate in Physics Education was earned at The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) in 1972. He was the first African American to earn tenure at the United States Military Academy and the first African American elected president of the American Association of Physics Teachers, then an 11,000 international society of physics educators. Dr. Stith received the Doctor of Humane Letters from Virginia State University and received the Presidential Citation from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in recognition of exemplary experiences that honored VSU. He was recognized as “One of the 50 most important Blacks in Research Science” and named a “Science Spectrum Trailblazer” by Science Spectrum Magazine. He was named an “Alumni Fellow,” the highest award given by the PSU Alumni Association, and a “Distinguished Graduate,” the highest award given to a graduate by the PSU Board of Trustees. He was elevated to “Fellow” status by the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Society of Black Physicists, and the African Scientific Institute. He is a life member of VSUAA and the VSU Military Alumni Chapter and served as the Prince George’s County Maryland Alumni Chapter president for two years (Named Large Chapter President of the Year). Stith is featured on the VSU Military “Wall of Fame,” the James Solomon Russell-Saint Paul’s College “Wall of Fame,” and the PSU “Wall of Honor.” He was cited by the Urban Education Institute: African American Males in the Stem Professions for his “...numerous and inspirational contributions to raising the achievement and performance levels of African American males in the STEM fields.” Throughout his career, Dr. Stith has been an advocate for programs that ensure ethnic and gender diversity in the sciences. An internationally known physicist and leading authority on physics education, Stith has served on numerous National and International Advisory Boards. He has conducted workshops in Canada, China, Columbia, Ghana, Venezuela, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Italy, South Africa, and Cuba. His vita lists over one hundred invited talks and publications. His work with the National Research Council resulted in Science Standards (K-12) for the Nation. For the first time, the Standards document established national guidelines by which exemplary teaching, effective assessment, and student knowledge can be measured. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. Dr. Stith retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel and was named “Vice President Emeritus” upon his retirement from the American Institute of Physics.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### ***Every School Year, We Ask Schools to TELL US HOW WE CAN HELP!***

The MMHMF outreach program continues to be tremendously successful because of our generous donors and the remarkable members of the Outreach Committee, other foundation members and community volunteers, who devote their time, energy and money to conduct foundation projects for students every single year!

Schools are contacted at the beginning of each year to determine what help schools wish to receive. We do our best to honor all their wishes! Foundation POCs are designated for the schools to stay in touch with them throughout the year.

MMHMF accepts designated funds. The Missionary Ministry of Union Grove Baptist Church has designated its annual donation for school supplies for several years.. We appreciate having the added funds to add to our outreach budget!

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS DONATED EVERY YEAR SINCE 2002!**

Outreach Committee reps contact each school at the beginning of the year to determine if and what supplies are needed and when. Rather than purchasing supplies from the lists posted on the school's website, we let them know that they can contact us during the year when needs arise.

### **"WE CARE" GIFTS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS DURING THE YEAR**



This program is very popular with students and their parents! Outreach Committee and Board member Sarah Cheathan sent out 56 WE CARE cards and gifts to students! We celebrate birthdays, graduations and sometimes we just say "hi, how are you"! A special social media is set up to communicate with students to share useful information



and to allow them to reach out to us.



### **THE 2023 MATOACA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AWARDS BREAKFAST**



Every Spring since 2012, caterer and foundation member, Garrett Mason, has prepared and served the meal. He donates the food and beverages on behalf of the foundation. Felecia Mason, MMHMF photographer and Hospitality and Outreach Committees member, takes pictures during the breakfast as well as the entire awards ceremony. Dr. Willie Lewis, Jr., right photo, member of the Board of Directors, Executive and Hospitality Committees presented the foundation's scholarship awards to the students during the ceremony. The left photo shows school faculty and staff and students, their parents and other guests attending the breakfast.



## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### TWO LITERACY PROGRAMS

#### BOOKS FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE HOME AND FOR CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

The foundation began providing books for students to take home in 2009. We are diligently working to expand these programs as our target schools are asking for more books! The schools (two elementary and two middle) we have chosen to support have significant numbers of students reading below grade level. The COVID epidemic caused a greater decline in student reading achievement, and so the foundation decided to expand these programs and all support to these schools. We understand the importance of reading competency in student academic success and so we are exploring ways to get greater numbers of books in the hands of students!

During the last school year, nearly **2,000 books** were provided to students and our target schools! 1,465 were obtained from the Richmond Children's Museum Book Bank. The books were at no cost, but we made a substantial donation to them. The books were picked up from the museum by Outreach Committee members Barbara Crews and Gloria Harris and her husband Rev. Douglas Harris. Barbara Crews made all the labels and bookmarks that were inserted in every book by committee members and friends and families of MMHMF. Books were then packed up and delivered to schools!

For the Christmas Holiday last year every Matoaca Middle School student received a book of their choosing to take home! The books were provided by the Richmond Children's Museum Book Bank. In June, for their summer reading enjoyment, we purchased a copy of the award-winning book **THE CROSSOVER** for every fourth-grade student at Ettrick Elementary School. Every fifth-grade student at the school received a copy of **DON'T CHECK OUT THIS BOOK**. MMHMF purchased 431 books during the 2022-23 school year. School staff and teachers always determine which books we buy!



Left photo: from left to right – Outreach Committee member Nancy Ross, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, and Kevin Pierce, Dean of Students. Right photo: from left to right – Kevin Pierce, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and Nancy Ross (far right). Collectively, the teachers for each grade selected the book for students purchased by the foundation.

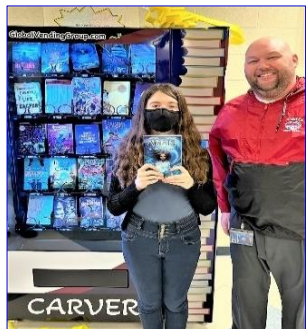


The books are displayed on tables for students to view and to select at least one for their personal libraries! Outreach members enjoy this just as much as the students! We hope to increase the number of books we give to students in all the elementary and middle schools we adopted!

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### WHY GIVE CHILDREN BOOKS TO TAKE HOME?

Someone asked this question. Ms. Stephanie Smith, the Instructional Designer at Carver Middle School, responded.



*“If students do not have books at home there is zero chance they are reading or being read to. If they have books, there is a chance. While we cannot go home with students and make sure they are reading, just like we can't make sure they are doing homework or getting nutritious meals, we still can provide them and their guardians the tools and information about the importance of reading. We can't deny the tools just because we think they might not use them. I truly believe if kids have books at home they will read. If students are reading or being read to at home*

*teachers will, over time, see a change in students' school performance. They will have an increased vocabulary, increased background knowledge, improved reading comprehension, usually better reading stamina, and heightened confidence in their academic abilities. There is a ton of research that supports the need for books in the home. Here is one brief article to support the practice.”*

**Student literacy is a major priority at Carver Middle School!** The left photo above shows Outreach Committee member **Dr. Cortez Dial** on the left with a Carver Middle School staff member. He delivered 80 books last Spring for Carver's book vending machine, shown in the right photo above with a student and staff member. It was generously gifted to us by the Superintendent of County schools. Students can receive a coin to get a free book to keep, or read and trade-in for a new book by winning book trivia questions, earning **PBIS** points, recording a book talk to be shared during morning announcements, attending school events, etc. We are brainstorming additional ways for students to win a book.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS:

#### We Help Schools Address Problem Areas That Harm Student Success!

**AN EXAMPLE:** Excessive absences can cause poor student performance. It is a serious problem in some schools. To help address the issue, one school asked that we purchase alarm clocks for their students with poor attendance records. A school staff member selected the clock and we promptly ordered them. Outreach Committee member, Nancy Ross, on the left in the photo, presented the clocks to school staff members. She and Committee member Katrina Hayes-Peerman are currently working with the school Communities in Schools (CIS) Director to develop other ways we can help address the problem.

Another time the foundation purchased “calm down





## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### 1,000 TAKE-HOME BOOKS DELIVERED TO MATOACA MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Outreach Committee Member GLORIA HARRIS & Husband REV DOUGLAS HARRIS Picked up the Books From the Richmond Children's Museum Book Bank! And Transferred Them to Union Grove Baptist Church. There, Other Committee and Foundation Members and Community Volunteers Helped With the Process. All the books were Checked, Labelled and Bookmarks were Inserted in each book and books were Taken to the School Where Students and Staff helped take them inside.! A LABOR OF LOVE!!

**Pictured Below: BARBARA CREWS, REV. DOUGLAS HARRIS, GLORIA HARRIS, GILDA HARRIS, DR. WILLIE LEWIS JR., SANDRA MASON, FELECIA MASON (PHOTOGRAPHER), DR. REGINA KNIGHT MASON, NANCY ROSS, DEC. JUDY STEPHENSON, STUDENTS & SCHOOL STAFF**



**— STUDENT LITERACY,  
A PRIORITY! —**

### 2022-2023 Outreach Committee Members

Sarah Cheatham

Dr. Regina Knight Mason

Barbara Crews

Katrina Hayes-Peerman

Dr. Cortez Dial

Nancy Ross

Gloria Harris

Denise Stevens

Dr. Willie Lewis, Jr.

Felecia Mason,  
Alberta Stith, Acting Chair



**“THANK YOU” FROM THOSE WE SERVE**  
**FROM HARROWGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*“Dear Members,*

*Our staff and students would like to thank The Martha Mason Foundation for all wonderful books they brought to give our children. We had so much fun taking pictures and meeting the representatives of your organization! We would like to recognize the loving people with caring hearts, people that are essential for our children’s success, and a blessing for our children here at Harrowgate Elementary!*

*A special thank you to Barbara Crews for her caring ways, the love and kindness she spreads everywhere she goes. We are so proud to be remembered and a part of your world.*

*God Bless your foundation and the people that give their time to make this world a better place!”*

Sincerely, Harrowgate Elementary School/ Staff

July 18, 2023

Thank you so much for the wonderful donation of books! Because of your generosity, each student of Harrowgate Summer School was able to take home a book of their own. Thank you for encouraging young readers!

That was totally cool of you!

Hope Harrell,  
Summer School  
Principal

**FROM MATOACA MIDDLE SCHOOL**



Matoaca Middle School received books for every student in the school to take home! In addition, Every english classroom received four copies of four different books for their classroom libraries!

Above is the “thank you” we received from the school.

**FROM CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Ms. Smith wrote:

*“I truly cannot thank you enough for all your support of Carver MS. Our students and staff are so grateful for all the books you provide to make Carver a community of readers. I will share photos with you soon.”*

Stephanie Smith, Instructional Designer, Carver Middle School, Chester, VA

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

**The program was held on September 30, 2023, at Union Grove Baptist Church,  
S. Chesterfield, VA, the church of our namesake, Martha Mason Hill**

The late Martha Mason Hill grew up in this church under the tutelage of her father, Deacon Beverly Mason, and in turn, she raised her family here!

The three 2023 scholarship recipients (write-ups on pages 4 and 5 and pictured below) and the 2023 Service Award recipient, Laymetha Guy (pictured below, write-up on page 8) received their awards during the program. Remarks were given by the 2019 scholarship recipient Jonathan E. Coleman II (write-up on page 3, pictured below) who was introduced by his mom, Traci Coleman. Musical selections were provided by Brittany and Dominique Stephenson and Alberta Stith. We applaud and thank Dr. Mervin Daugherty, Chesterfield County Public Schools Superintendent, for attending the program every year in support of the students and the foundation. Thanks also to former scholarship and service award recipients and their families, and Matoaca High counselor Emily Pond and husband for joining us.

The foundation expresses sincere appreciation to Rev. Dr. William E. Johnson III, Rev. Douglas Harris, Assis. Pastor and the officers and members of Union Grove Baptist Church for their warm hospitality They have supported the foundation since 1998. Heartfelt thanks to the following program volunteers: Mistress of Ceremonies (MC), Marilyn Mason Ibin West; prayers, Rev. Douglas Harris; Welcome, Maya Butler; Statement of Purpose, Presentations and Remarks, Board Chair Emeritus Dr. James Stith; Scholarship Presentations, Jan Hatchette and Dr. Adrienne Stith-Butler; Music, Brittany and Dominique Stephenson, Alberta Stith; Linwood Guy; Traci Coleman; Garrett Mason for donating the Meals-2-Go and his servers (Shirley Barksdale, Sheila Harris and Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Vaughan); Union Grove Ushers (Deacon Marvin Coleman and Rosetta Harris and Carolyn Turner); photographer, Patricia Lewis; and media technician, Felecia Mason.



Marilyn Ibin-West,  
MC



Rev. Douglas Harris, Sr.,  
Prayers



Maya Butler,  
Welcome Address



Dr. James Stith,  
Presenter, Remarks



Presenters: Jan Hatchette  
& Dr. Adrienne Butler



Jonathan E. Coleman II  
Speaker



Dr. Daugherty, Mia Neal & Family, Dr.  
Stith, Emily Pond, Counselor,



Supt. Dr. Daugherty, Emily Pond, Counselor,  
Gavin Pride & Family, Dr. Stith



Supt. Dr. Daugherty, Anaiya Winfield & Mia Neal's  
Parents, Dr. Stith, Emily Pond, Counselor



Laymetha Guy,  
Honoree



Linwood Guy,  
Presenter



Traci Coleman, Presenter



Brittany & Dominques Stephenson,  
Two Musical Selections



Alberta Stith, Prelude

### THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Deacon Judy Stephenson and Deacon Trudy Stephenson, Co-Chairs, Arnold Baugh, Arlene Moore Denise Stevens

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM TRIBUTE TO OUR NAMESAKE

In her welcome address, Maya Butler, the great granddaughter of Mrs. Hill said:

“It is more than fitting that the foundation’s annual awards program is held here, the church where my great grandmother worshipped and served diligently in many capacities all her life. Great grandma Martha’s father, Deacon Beverly Archer Mason, also a devoted Christian, raised her and her siblings here at Union Grove; and as a person much like her father in spirit, sentiment and in deeds, she too was a very active member and raised her children and two of her grandchildren in this church. Those two grandchildren, Deacons Trudy and Judy Stephenson, the co-chairs of the Annual Awards Program are here today! They and many other Mason family descendants are continuing that legacy here at Union Grove and beyond.

There are a couple of light-hearted and very telling stories I want to share about my great-grandma and her dad that relates to this church: ◀ great-great grandpa Beverly had the only car in the community and, being the person he was, he decided that he would pick up the elderly members and drive them to church, and thus his children had to walk! ◀ the other story is that when great-grandma Martha was married with children, she didn’t have a car, but she didn’t have a license anyway. This did not deter her from going to church, her second home. She secured a red wagon that she put her children in and walked to the church! Thankfully, in both cases, the church was only a few miles away! Their lives were about church, family and service, lives well worth emulating! And so, with the memory of the legacy and spirit of my great grandma Martha and her role model, my great-great grandpa Beverly surrounding us here today, I invite everyone to whole-heartedly join in celebrating the 2023 MMHMF scholarship recipients, the 2019 scholarship recipient and the 2023 service award recipient!

### 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 man aging the site and has

done so ever since! He does everything! 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](http://mmhmf.org). On the very inviting opening page you’ll see the magnificent video John created for our golf tournament on October 27, 2023! His creative skills are evident throughout the website. **IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR WEBSITE HELP, JOHN IS YOUR MAN – [www.coastalgraphics.com](http://www.coastalgraphics.com)!** Read more about John and Coastal Graphics below. You can contact him for more information and a FREE evaluation. **\*John is President of the Dover Colonial Rotary Club.**

*“Coastal Graphics provides friendly, effective and affordable creative and technical services that help businesses grow, including web design and web site programming, website help and website repair, graphic design, advertising design and more. No job is too big or too small. We are located in Dover, Delaware, and serve a nationwide clientele.”*

*“I am the owner and operator of Coastal Graphics LLC, which is headquartered in Dover, Delaware, and serves a nationwide clientele. Coastal Graphics provides professional website design, expert help with existing websites, fast website repair, discount website programming, reliable website management and much more! We know that your web presence IS your business! More than any other business tool, your web presence is what generates interest in products and services, defines your business identity, validates your professional status, and speaks to your overall competence. Coastal Graphics can help you leverage the power of the web to your existing business model, as well as help you to take advantage of the web’s newest technologies, applications, and services. Contact me today to find out how I can help you achieve YOUR business goals! I help you get the most out of your most important business asset, your web presence!”*

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and**

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For further information and to join us, contact Doretha Houston at manspidr7@yahoo.com, or  
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