

MARTHA MASON HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025

Vol 21 No 1

Helping Young Students Succeed For 27 Years!!

**CONGRATUALTIONS 2025 & 2021 MMHM SCHOLARS,
2025 SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS!**



DEMARCUS FOWLER
Virginia State University



MARTINA RIBERA
University of Virginia



JASMINE A. SMITH
Hampton Virginia



ALLYIAH BARBER
Radford University



KRYSTAL PEERMAN
Christopher Newport U,
MSW VA Commonwealth U



JADA WIGGINS
VA State U



MAYA WILSON
VA Commonwealth U.



GEORGE HENDERSON,
VA State University, Ret.



COACH EUGENE THOMPSON
VA State University, Ret.



LOREN PAUL, 2008 Scholar,
Speaker, 2025 Awards Program

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*MMHMF is a public all-volunteer organization, exempt from Federal taxes under IRS code sections 501 (C) (3).
Email address for MMHMF: mmhmfoundation@mail.com; website mmhmf.org*

FROM THE DESK OF THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON 2024

DR. ANDREA L. STITH

A Legacy of Progress: Together We Rise!

For more than 27 years, the Foundation has sought to improve the lives of Chesterfield County youths by supporting their education and by achieved a lot by providing scholarships, care packages, school supplies, books and other items as requested by teachers. Given where we find ourselves today, it is fair to ask: how can we build upon the platform we have established to better advocate for our community?

Looking back at my letter from 2023, I quoted the brilliant Toni Morrison who said, "if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else." This statement

feels truer today than ever. Not only are we facing the same educational and economic challenges that we are accustomed to addressing, but we are doing so under some increasingly real and deliberate threats to educational access and social equity.

But as always, there are reasons to hope, aspire and feel assured. Our work, together, over the past 25 years has made this possible, and I believe that we have reason for cautious celebration. In this context, I'm happy to share, on behalf of our board, the extraordinary news that in addition to continuously expanding its support for students now, MMHMF has built an Endowment Fund that is over \$1 million, and has met its fundraising goals several years ahead of schedule. This milestone places us in a position to help students in perpetuity and to start thinking about how we can provide greater support to K-20 students—supporting learners from kindergarten through college—and expand our capacity to respond to emerging needs.

We are also at the early stages of reconsidering the Foundation's goals and strategic plans in both the short and long term. Our VSU Internship Program is showing great potential as we collaborate with other organizations to create pathways for student success. We are expanding our support network, working with Virginia State University, local golf organizations, and community partners to multiply our impact and reach more students who need our assistance. We are also revisiting our scholarship program—how can we best provide more support?

While the landscape of challenges has evolved since our founding, our core mission remains unchanged. We continue to find innovative ways to reach out and carry out our work, always guided by the urgent, generous, and thoughtful spirit that our namesake, Martha Mason Hill, would have brought to these circumstances.

I want to thank everyone for your invaluable contributions and unwavering faith in the Foundation. Your support has made our achievements possible, and your trust inspires us to reach even higher. I invite you to stay with us on this journey as we work to ensure that Chesterfield County students are supported and equipped to thrive and succeed in whatever life and professional journeys they choose, carrying out the legacy of Martha Mason Hill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Stith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrea Stith

Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation, Inc. 27th Annual Awards Program

The Program was Held on September 27, 2025r at
Union Grove Baptist Church, S. Chesterfield, VA

THE 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS AND SERVICE AWARDS WERE AWARDED

THE 2021 MMHF SCHOLARS, 2025 COLLEGE GRADUATES WERE RECOGNIZED



**ALLYIAH BARBER, BS in
Nursing Radford University**

Allyiah received her degree in Nursing and accepted a position on the Neuro-ICU at Radford U. She started her new journey in July



**KRYSTAL PEERMAN, BSW, 2024,
Christopher Newport U.. MSW,
2025, VA Commonwealth U.**

Krystal received her bachelor's degree in social in 2024, in three years! She earned her master's degree in social on May, 2025. She plans to work as an advocate for foster children



**JADA WIGGINS, B Ed
Virginia State U. (VSU)**

Jada is teaching first grade at Pleasants Lane Elementary School in Petersburg, VA. She plans to continue teaching first grade students



**MAYA WILSON, BS,
VA Commonwealth U.
Alyssa Joy Stith Memorial
Scholarship**

Maya earned a BS degree in Psychology and plans to pursue post-grad work that would "make Ms. Alyssa proud!"

Speaker, LOREN MURPHY PAUL, 2008 MMHF Scholar



Loren Paul is a Data Platform Account Executive at IBM where she is responsible for healthcare and state and local government accounts across the Mid-Atlantic region. She helps organizations better access, govern and secure data to accelerate their adoption of Artificial Intelligence to improve productivity and the citizen experience.

Prior to her current role, Loren was the Worldwide Data & AI Sales Leader for IBM's Hybrid Data Management business, a Worldwide Enablement Leader, and a Technical Specialist. Loren began her career with GE where she served in design and software development roles to improve medical imaging devices and hospital operations.

Loren has a passion for mentoring and developing the next generation of STEM leaders. In 2018, Loren cofounded **STEAM Ahead**, a Boston-based non-profit organization that aims to uplift historically underrepresented communities by delivering transformative Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs to close the education gap.

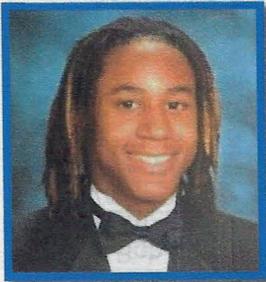
Loren holds a Master of Science in Computing from Marquette University and a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia. She currently resides in Leesburg, Virginia with her husband and son

2025 MMHMF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

DEMARCUS A. FOWLER

Virginia State University Endowed Scholarship

DeMarcus graduated from Matoaca High School with an advanced studies diploma and a GPA of 3.74. He is majoring in mass communications at Virginia State University with plans to pursue a profession that will enable him to creatively utilize his skills in photography and videography.



At Matoaca High, DeMarcus was enrolled in honors and advanced placement courses each of the four years. He was on the A and B honor roll and a member of the National Honor Society.

He was a volunteer for the Matoaca High tennis team, the Chesterfield Metro Area National Council of Negro Women, Matoaca media personnel, and for the Matoaca High School Little Feet Meet 2023 – 2024 (event for elementary school children with developmental disabilities).

In addition to his photography/videography talents and a variety of computer skills, DeMarcus attained the W!SE Financial Literacy Certification and the Workplace Readiness Industry Credential while in high school. He also worked as a clerk at a

Publix Grocery Store. His resume describes DeMarcus as having a good work ethic as well as being a fast learner, responsible and creative. DeMarcus says his hobbies and interests are photography, videography, basketball, video games, sports cars and shopping

JASMINE ALEXIS SMITH



Jasmine graduated with an advanced studies diploma and a 4.0 GPA from Matoaca High School in May of this year. She was in the dual enrollment program and took a variety of honors classes there. Jasmine is a freshman majoring in Architectural Engineering at Hampton University.

Her high school activities included: the JV Varsity Cheer Squad, Captain; the Track Team; DECA; the Spanish Club; Leadership of Success Representative; and the National Honors Society.

In the community Jasmine served as a volunteer for the Congresswoman McClellan Youth Advisory Council; the Delta G.E.M.S. Mentorship Program; the Chesterfield Food Bank; Youth Doorkeeper-First Baptist Church of South Richmond. She participated in the Jr. National Society of Black Engineers; and the Richmond FBI Teen Academy, Summer 2023. Jasmine enjoys gardening and reading. She is certified in CPR and Autodesk AutoCAD.

In her letter of recommendation, one of Jasmine's teachers said that Jasmine has: "that combination of a positive attitude and the belief that she can always improve, which is rare in a high school student, but so essential to the learning processes. She would report to Warrior Time (study hall) to develop a better understanding of what she learned. I feel confident in saying that she is capable of handling any situation with thoughtfulness and maturity."

2025 MMHMF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

MARTINA RIBERA



Martina is a high honors graduate, 4.7 GPA, of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School (MLWGS), where she was in the gifted program and the school's dual enrollment program with VA Commonwealth University (VCU). Her performance in all disciplines - English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Languages, Arts, and Advanced College Courses Program – was stellar! She is majoring in biomedical engineering at the University of VA.

Martina's high school activities included: MLWGS Girl's Varsity Tennis, 2 times Captain and 3 times #1 seed; 2024 Richmond All-Metro Girls Tennis Player of the Year; Student Council Association; Junior and Senior Class Co-President; VCU Dept of Orthopedic Surgery Research Mentee for Head of the Dept;

Self-Employed Entrepreneur r (owner of tennis business, work 5+ hours per week); Italian National Honor Society, President 2024-2025; MLWGS Varsity Field Hockey Team, left-mid starter.

Other activities: MLWGS Student Ambassador Organizations; Co-Coordinator, lead 90+ students in school volunteering program; MLWGS Environmental Club; President Junior and Senior Year; coordinated groups of 25+ students to collect trash from school grounds; Chesterfield Food Bank (major Spanish translator between volunteers and patrons); St Francis Hospital (General Services Volunteer; Spanish translator when necessary; earned award for volunteering 75 hours).

Playing the piano which she has done since kindergarten, traveling to Colombia or Argentina each year to visit family, spending time in the kitchen baking with her brother, and playing tennis, which she has done for 12 years, are very important and meaningful occurrences in Martina's life. She has been a very thoughtful leader in her community. She is fluent in English and Spanish and has frequently been a translator at her local food bank and hospital.

An entrepreneur, Martina values independence. While in high school, she started her own tennis business.

Martina is passionate about the field of Biomedical Engineering (BME). Her most exciting experience was being a volunteer in the lab of the head of biomedical research for orthopedic nerve recovery.

Martina is grateful for the example set by her two hard-working immigrant parents, who were a tremendous source of encouragement for her during many difficult times. She learned to "No te rindas," meaning "never give up!"

Join the MMHMF LEGACY CIRCLE

TOGETHER WE CAN PRESERVE YOUR LEGACY
and

HELP YOUNG STUDENTS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

MAKE A GIFT TO MMHMF IN YOUR WILL.

or

NON-CASH GIFTS (SUCH AS LIFE INSURANCE OR IRA DISTRIBUTION).

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

MMHMF2024 MMHMF SCHOLARS UPDATE**ANGIE CASTRO****2024 Scholarship Recipient**

Angie wrote:



My first year at Stanford University has been incredible. As a first generation low income student, education truly is a privilege and I'm very grateful to attend a university that creates opportunities for students. From the beautiful campus to being a part of silicone valley, I cannot express my gratitude enough. It was difficult adjusting at first as Stanford is on the west coast, across the country from everyone and everything I know, but my ambition pushes me to make the best of all situations.

Currently, I am working towards a degree in aeronautics and astronautics engineering with a potential double major in international relations on a pre-law track!

In both of these fields, I am incredibly interested in the sustainability aspects. Last summer and this school year, I had the honor of interning for the Virginia Department of Energy as a research analyst. This summer, I'm a research assistant for the Stanford University School of Sustainability, working on carbon dioxide removal strategies. My hope is to continue on a successful track for the upcoming school year!

RYANN ELYSE RICHARDSON**2024 Scholarship Recipient**

Ryann Wrote:



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to report that I completed my freshman year at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University in May, 2025. My first year at NCAT, where I am an Animal Science Major was challenging yet, quite enjoyable. My classes went well and through much study and persistence, I was able to remain on the Dean's List for both semesters. My social life was also great in that I met students from within and without my major, and with some I have developed friendships that have come about because each of us has established goals - realistic goals that we hope will enable us to successfully fulfill our lifetime aspirations.

Last year, I was a member of the Dairy Science Organization, Sisters Outreach, Kingdom of Youth, and the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Association. I served as the Donations Chair of Sisters Outreach. I campaigned for positions in other organizations within my major as well, though, as a Freshman, I was not successful. The encouragement I received, however, has allowed me to want to try again. Prior to college, I was what one would call an "all around high school student." The experiences gained while in high school - most especially belonging to organizations that required community service (Key Club and NHS) were most beneficial. Learning through my Dance and Show Choir preparations and performances enabled me to work with and yes, even learn and enjoy a diverse group of people. This diversity was more than color - personalities are often so much more important. During the summer of 2025, I had an opportunity to work as a Veterinary Assistant at Crater Animal Hospital in Petersburg. This job helped to confirm that I have chosen wisely for me and I have been invited back to work there during this year's Christmas Break and next summer as well.

2024 MMHMF SCHOLARS UPDATE**KEYONNA SCOTT****2024 Scholarship Recipient**

Keyonna wrote

: Hello,



My name is Keyonna Scott currently attending Virginia State University (VSU) majoring in Elementary Education. I have enjoyed my first year at VSU completing field experience, observing teachers, visiting other schools and mainly focusing on my studies. During the break I had the opportunity to serve as a substitute teacher at a middle school which influenced me to change my major to middle school education. I like the environment of the middle school, staff, teachers and students. I begin as a regular substitute; however, after two months I became a long-term substitute for the 7th grade. My freshman year went by so fast, and I enjoyed every

at Virginia State, I was very nervous to start my first year of college. While living on campus I experienced being independent. There were challenges to make decisions, maintain self-control and focus on being an excellent student. I learned to balance my responsibilities and maintain my mental health. The transition from high school to college was challenging. At first, I tried to complete assignments before they were due so I wouldn't be stressed when it was time to submit my assignments. I struggled to keep up with having multiple deadlines and difficult assignments. However, I met or emailed my professors whenever I needed help. One of my favorite courses was Government taught by Professor Jackson who was very dedicated to her job and understood each student's point of view. She let us know what was right and wrong and let us say our true feelings on how we felt about the world. Reflecting on my freshman year, I am proud of the progress I have made but also know where I can make improvement in different areas. I met new friends and experienced new things at VSU and everything was blessed. I have started my sophomore year of college on August 18, 2025. As I continue my journey, I am excited to build on these experiences and the opportunities that lie ahead. Thank you very much for supporting me on this journey of life.

May the Lord continue to bless you for serving the community and supporting education

LAUREN WHITAKER**2024 Scholarship Recipient**

Lauren wrote:

My first year has been truly rewarding, growing in knowledge and life experiences. Emerson College has given me the ability to do what I love while also learning other base subjects. Growing in my theatre knowledge and liberal arts knowledge at the same time. Having the ability to do both and even attending college is a dream come true. I want to thank the MMHMF scholarship committee for considering me for the scholarship and awarding me a lifetime of knowledge and experience.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE W. HENDERSON

Awarded the MMHMF Community Service Award Posthumously



Like his wife, Ann, Goerge was among the most dedicated members of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation ever. Ever present, without question, you knew that George could always be counted on to provide his full support for everything related to the Foundation. He and Ann would show up to all the Foundation events, even those held in Maryland!

From 2002 when Ann became Chair of the MMHMF Outreach Committee until his failing health prevented him from helping, George was an integral part of the tremendous work of the Outreach Committee each and every year. As Chair, Ann led the way and George was **always**

by her side, participating in projects and providing Ann with computer and any other kind of support she needed. Their work is archived in annual newsletters located on our website.

Ann and George were a true team in every way and their generosity knew no bounds! Though they were volunteers in numerous other organizations and groups and did a lot with and for their families, the Hendersons devoted countless hours to MMHMF activities and were very generous donors. When Ann passed, George volunteered to Chair the Outreach Committee and did so until he could no longer serve due to health challenges. The great success the Foundation enjoys today is in large part due to the tremendous work of Ann and George for two decades!

We thank God for George! His work and deeds reflect the remarkable person he was. His inner beauty shone brightly, bringing much joy into the lives of many. His spirit will live on, for we know that the impact he had on the lives of so many is indelible.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (Taken from his obituary)

George was born on June 11, 1938, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Sadly, George left us peacefully at his home on February 24, 2025. He left an extraordinary legacy of unwavering and selfless service to his family and countless others in his community and beyond.

After graduating at the top of his high school class, in 1957, George entered North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. He continued his education at The College of Advanced Science in Canaan, New Hampshire, graduating with a Master of Science degree in Physics.

While at NCCU, two important events happened in George's life. On December 4, 1958, he became a member of the Gamma Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He continued his service to all mankind upon moving to the Tri-City area and became a member of the Nu Omicron Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. located at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia (formerly Fort Lee), and in December of 2024, he celebrated 66 years of active membership in the fraternity.

The second important event that happened at NCCU was George met the love of his life, Annie M. Dickens, and they married on December 20, 1961. They often enjoyed time together traveling, volunteering for organizations and caring and helping people. From their loving union, three children were beautifully reared and made him proud in so many ways. He took great care of his family and was a wonderful provider and protector. Along with his wife, he provided many trips to local parks, amusement parks, theme parks, and vacations to locations within and outside

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W. HENDERSON

Biographical Sketch (Taken from his obituary) cont'd

the borders of the United States. He was present for every important moment of his children's lives, Attending family functions and supporting events of friends were other moments of enjoyment for George.

George's career began with a teaching fellowship in Canaan, New Hampshire, followed by a 42-year tenure as a professor in the Physics Department at Virginia State University (VSU), formerly Virginia State College. He was known to weave life lessons into his courses and labs and became a "father" and mentor to many students throughout the years. Passionate about education, he often spent summers teaching and leading research projects outside of Virginia, most notably in Ithaca, New York, Livermore, California, and Boulder, Colorado.

George was also passionate about community involvement and service. He was confirmed at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and became an active member until his health declined. He faithfully served in the Men's Club and Vestry. He was also an active member of and served in many different capacities in several community organizations. Among many, he was a member of the Petersburg Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Richmond-Petersburg Chapter of NCCU Alumni Association, Inc., and Petersburg/Prince George Chapter of the Retired Teachers Association. He was a member of the Beaux-Twenty Club for over 40 years and served in several leadership capacities over the years. He also served on the Outreach Committee of the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation, and was a Connecting Link of the Petersburg Chapter of the Links, Inc. He was a Scoutmaster of Cub Scout Pack #144, and coached baseball for the Ettrick Youth Sports Association. His community involvement and service allowed him to receive several awards and honors. In 1985, he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chesterfield County School Board for his services as a Book Club Volunteer in the Friendly's Reading Incentive Program. In 1989, he received a Certificate of Recognition from NASA and the American Society for Engineering Education for his research contributions made during the Summer Faculty Fellowship Program. In 1991, he received a Certificate of Special Recognition from the VSU Summer Academy for serving as a Fourth through Seventh grade Physical Science Teacher. In 1998, he received the NTA Member Service Award for his outstanding contributions towards the success of the National Technical Association's National Student Symposia. In 2010, he received the Healthy Minds Award from Pathways. In 2019, he received an award for his dedicated service to the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation

George leaves to cherish his precious memories one daughter, Dr. Tonya L. Henderson of S. Chesterfield, VA; two sons, Jabril A. Muhammad (Kaileen) of Hopewell, VA, and Dr. Brandon B. Kimble (To'Shera) of Colonial Heights, VA; grandchildren, Lauren Smith of Chester, VA, Deshawn Delane of Richmond, VA, Braylon, Bellamy, and Breslon Kimble of Colonial Heights, VA; great-grandchildren, Quincy, Jr., Amir, Luna, and Skylar; brothers, Donald Henderson of Huntersville, NC, and Rev. Wardell Henderson, Jr. (Myrtle) of Concord, NC; sisters-in-law, Edith Henderson of Huntersville, NC, Alberta D. Humes of Washington, DC, Novella D. Carpenter (Rev. Lawrence) of Randallstown, MD, Mary D. Jones (John) of Fayetteville, NC, and Minnie D. Wallace of Petersburg, VA; brothers-in-law, Joseph P. Dickens (Mary) and Clifton Dickens, Sr. (Sarah) both of Petersburg, VA; and a host of adored nieces, nephews and godchildren, other beloved relatives and devoted friends too numerous to name.

His Homegoing Service was held March 15, 2025, at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Petersburg, VA, The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Omega service was held on March 14, 2025, followed by The Links, Inc. Connecting Link service in the Chapel of J. M. Wilkerson Funeral Establishment, Petersburg, VA.

COACH EUGENE “GENE” THOMPSON

2025 MMHMF EDUCATION SERVICE AWARD Recipient



Coach Eugene “Gene” Thompson embodies the spirit of the MMHMF Education Service Award through more than five decades of unwavering dedication to education, athletics, and community service. His career as both an educator and coach reflects a life devoted to excellence, mentorship, and service—touching thousands of students and athletes along the way, by going above and beyond the call of duty.

Coach Thompson began his journey in 1966 as the Athletic Director and Boys Basketball Coach at Southwestern High School in Windsor, N.C. His early years laid the foundation for a coaching philosophy rooted in love, discipline, and mentorship. From there, he went on to lead programs at Douglas High School (Leesburg), and most notably, a 23-year tenure at Wilmington High School in Delaware. At Wilmington, he transformed the program into a national powerhouse, capturing three state basketball championships (1978, 1983, 1988), achieving an overall record of 427–176, and earning State Coach of the Year honors in Basketball, Track & Field, and Tennis.

Throughout his distinguished career, Coach Thompson has been more than a coach—he has been a true educator. With over 20 years of service at Virginia State University, he has played pivotal roles as Head Men’s Tennis Coach, Interim Men’s Basketball Coach, Fitness Coordinator, and Adjunct Professor within the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. He is respected by colleagues, admired by students, and celebrated in the community for his relentless passion for teaching and mentoring. His contributions extend beyond wins and losses—he has built programs, cultivated opportunities, and ensured students had access to experiences that enriched their lives both on and off the field.

Coach Thompson’s impact reaches far beyond the classroom. He has spearheaded camps, workshops, and youth programs that provide underserved populations with access to sports and mentorship. He worked over 30 summers at the prestigious Five Star Basketball Camp, coaching future legends such as Christian Laettner, Grant Hill, Monte Williams, and Vince Carter, while also sharing the sidelines with coaching icons like Hubie Brown, Rick Pitino, and John Calipari. Locally, he has invested in programs such as Friends Helping Friends Basketball Camp (a free camp for inner-city youth in Richmond), Petersburg’s “Tennis in the Streets” initiative, and the creation of city-wide basketball and tennis camps in Delaware.

Even in recent years, his innovative spirit remains evident. At VSU, Coach Thompson played a key role in bringing state-of-the-art golf simulators to campus through partnerships with the PGA and White House HBCU Golf Consortium—broadening students’ exposure to new career paths in the golf industry. His vision for educational opportunities consistently prioritizes inclusion, access, and community engagement.

The respect and recognition he has earned throughout his career are unparalleled. Coach Thompson is a member of multiple Hall of Fames, including the Delaware Afro-American Hall of Fame, Delaware Interscholastic Basketball Hall of Fame, USTA Middle States Tennis Hall of Fame, VIA Heritage Association Hall of Fame, Delaware Sports Museum Hall of Fame, and the Elizabeth City State University Hall of Fame. Nationally, he has been recognized with prestigious honors such as the NABC Achievement Award (1978), the USTA Eve Kraft Community Service Award (1998), and the NCAA Division III National Community Service Award (1998).

Despite such accolades, Coach Thompson remains grounded, with a simple philosophy: as long as coaching is fun and continues to inspire, he will continue to serve. His lifelong devotion to education, athletics, and mentorship has left an indelible mark on generations of students, athletes, and community members.

For his decades of distinguished service, his unwavering commitment to students, his remarkable professional accomplishments, and his enduring impact on the community, I am honored to nominate Coach Eugene “Gene” Thompson for the MMHMF Education Service Award.

Coach Thompson serves as Honorary Chair of the 2025 MMHMF Samuel A. Gilliam Memorial Charity Golf Tournament. He is also helping the Foundation secure funding to pay for student internships in golf management in the Health and Physical Education Dept. Interns will work on all aspects of the tournament. He is a member of the committee established to work on applying to the MAKE GOLF YOUR THING organization established by the golf industry to increase the presence of underrepresented minorities in all aspects of the golf industry. The committee will also work to promote junior golf.

MEMBER AND FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JAMES H. STITH,

MMHMF Board Chairman Emeritus Honored

Posted Thursday May 15, 2025***By West Point Association of Graduates******Black & African American Alumni Organization***

US Teachers Appreciation Day

**Honoring Dr.
James H. Stith**DO MORE
TOGETHERPhysicist.
History Maker.
Inspiring
Generations.In 1976, Dr. Stith
became the first African
American to earn tenure
as a professor at
West Point.Teacher Appreciation
Day

In 1976, Dr. Stith became the first African American to earn tenure as a professor at West Point. As a physicist and educator, he brought excellence, integrity, and vision to every classroom he entered.

His presence at the academy wasn't just historic—it was transformative. Through his work, he expanded access, inspired generations, and showed what's possible when knowledge meets purpose.

Thank you, Dr. Stith, for your lasting impact on West Point and beyond

CONGRATULATIONS!**SAMANTHA THIBODEAUX, MBA**

Virginia Commonwealth University



Samantha Thibodeaux, the daughter of Doris Thibodeaux, granddaughter of Wendell and Doris Stephenson, and great-granddaughter of Martha Mason Hill, graduated this past May. She attended Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and earned her Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Business Analytics. While earning her graduate degree, she also worked full-time at VCU in the Division of Student Affairs as a Budget Analyst. She is grateful for the opportunity VCU has provided to grow professionally, both in her career and in the classroom. Her immediate plans are to continue working at VCU where she is excited to put some of her new skills to use in her current role and beyond.

MMHMF 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR OUTREACH

A "THANK YOU" FROM THOSE WE SERVE

From the desk of **Rebecca Hayes**,
Communities in Schools (CIS) Site Coordinator



The Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation (MMHMF) has been a committed and generous partner to Carver Middle School, working to support literacy, academic achievement, and student engagement. Through a variety of thoughtful initiatives, MMHF has made a meaningful impact on the lives of Carver students and the broader school community.

One of the foundation's key contributions has been to strengthen classroom literacy. MMHMF has provided hundreds of new, high-quality books to help teachers build and refresh their classroom libraries, ensuring that students have access to engaging and diverse reading materials throughout the school year.

In addition, the Foundation has supported special literacy events at Carver, including the school's Literacy Night and student book clubs during lunch. By donating a wide range of books for these events, MMHMF has helped to foster a love of reading and encourage family involvement in students' literacy development.

Understanding the importance of summer learning, MMHMF in collaboration with the Richmond Children's Museum Book Bank, has also donated over 400 books each year for the past 2 years. This allowed us to ensure that every 6th grade student can take home a new book at the end of the school year, helping to prevent summer slide and promote independent reading during the break.

Beyond literacy, the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation has shown its commitment to student success by providing incentives for students striving to meet academic and attendance goals. These rewards have served as powerful motivation for students to stay engaged, work hard, and take pride in their progress.

Carver Middle School is deeply grateful for the continued partnership with the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation. Their support has not only enriched our school environment, but has also empowered our students to grow as learners and individuals

GLORIA & REV. DOUGLAS HARRIS REPRESENTED THE FOUNDATION AT THE CIS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT BREAKFAST IN MAY



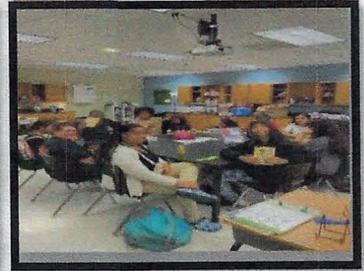
An annual breakfast has been held each year to thank the community for supporting Chesterfield County public schools. This year it included the **inaugural Community Partnership Summit** to bring the community together to celebrate our collective impact, explore deeper ways to engage in supporting students, and strengthen our shared commitment to helping every child succeed. Communities in Schools (CIS) shared information about all of its projects and programs for all schools in the County. Community groups and individuals are invited to participate

MMHMF 2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR OUTREACH PROGRAM

— STUDENT LITERACY A PRIORITY! —

LITERACY NIGHT AT CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

To encourage students to read, Carver Middle School set up the "Family Book Club. The Foundation purchased the books for the event held on March 14th at the school. Students attended with their parents. Each received a copy of the same book. Dinner was served. Outreach Committee members Nancy Ross and Katrina Hayes=Peerman inserted labels and delivered them to the school.



BOOKS FOR CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

Teachers and staff chose over 140 high interest books for classroom libraries that the Foundation purchased to support the school's ongoing effort to expand libraries in classrooms. This is a part of the focus on improving student literacy. Teachers submitted book titles of interest to students. Outreach Committee member Denise Stevens picked up the books MMHMF ordered from Barnes & Noble and delivered them to the school where she and member Gloria Harris and her husband Rev. Doug, labelled and put them on display after the Christmas break for teachers select from for their classrooms.



END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR PARTY SNACKS PROVIDED



The Foundation sent bags of **snack candies**, **potato chips** and **bottles of water** to feed **300** for Carver Middle School end of the school year party for 7th grade students.

2024 – 2025 SCHOOL YEAR MMHMF OUTREACH PROGRAM

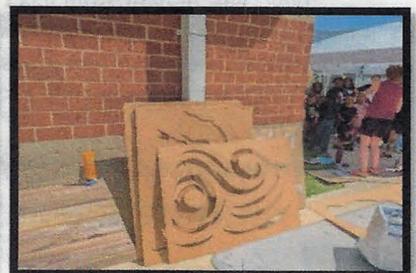
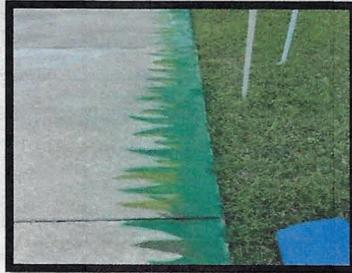
SPECIAL PROJECT SPONSORED AT ETRICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE SENSORY PATH PROJECT

Thanks to the generosity of the Martha Mason Hill Foundation and the guidance of Art on Wheels, staff and students started work on a Sensory Walking Path aimed at creating an engaging and interactive walking path to enhance the outdoor classroom and garden area at Ettrick ES. The project gave students the opportunity to experience working collaboratively with peers and a community partner to enhance the school environment while also creating a memorable experience that ensures a long-term investment and legacy for these students at Ettrick ES. We still have more work to do, but Day 1 was a lot of fun!

NOTE: The above article and pictures below appeared in August 2025 edition of the Ettrick Elementary School Family and Community Newsletter published by Communities in Schools (CIS), Christopher Lee, Ettrick Elementary School Coordinator.

Below are pictures of the project that was worked on in August by Kathy of Art on Wheels and kindergarten, first and third grade students. An example of how it works: Kathy cut the outlined shape of the rocks and the kids spray inside with three different shades of color. Plans are for the work to continue in September. The foundation's logo will be at the beginning and ending of the path.



2024 – 2025 SCHOOL YEAR MMHMF OUTREACH PROGRAM

WE HELP SCHOOLS ADDRESS PROBLEM AREAS THAT INTERFEREWITH STUDENT SUCCESS!

PROJECTS SPONSORED AT CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

INCENTIVES FOR STUDENTS PROVIDED

“Beyond literacy, the Martha Mason Hill Memorial Foundation has shown its commitment to student success by providing incentives for students striving to meet academic and attendance goals. These rewards have served as powerful motivation for students to stay engaged, work hard, and take pride in their progress.” Quote from the enclosed article by Rebecca Hyawa, School CIS Coordinator

The Foundation sent **50 gift cards from Amazon, Chick-fil-A, WaWa and Walmart** to be given to students as rewards for making progress towards goals set to improve their academic performance, behavior or attendance. The school identifies students needing the most help to improve attendance, behavior and academics.



The pictures below are just of few of the many Carver Middle School students who received gift cards during the 2024 – 2025 school year! Incentives work!!



MMHMF 2024 – 2025 SCHOOL YEAR OUTREACH PROGRAM

BOOKS FOR EVERY CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS!

400 – 500 Take-Home Books Delivered

The foundation began providing books for students to take home in 2009! Pictured below are the books picked up in May 2025 from the Richmond Children’s Museum Book Bank by Outreach Committee member Gloria Harris and husband Rev. Doug. They inserted Foundation labels and delivered them to the school. The books were at no cost, but we make a substantial donation to the book bank every year.



BOOKS WERE PURCHASED FOR MATOACA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

School staff sent a list of books with authors that students were interested in reading. Plans were to distribute them at September's Back to School night. Pictured on the left is Gloria Harris, Outreach Committee member and school staff



2024 DONATIONS**Up to \$24.00**

Belton, Isaac	Milligan, Sandy
Brown, Ronald	Oliver, Donnie
Bryant, Aaron	Peerman, Shunta
Edwards, Dorothy	Person, Dr. Samuel
Garlick, Gloria	Smith, Stephanie
Gilliam-Robinson, Erna	Stephenson, Carlisa
Harris, Rosetta	Stephenson, Darius Sr
Harris, Uthai	Treacy, Matt
Johnson, Pernel Golfer VA Birdies	Walker, Dr. Torrie
Mason, Joyce A. R	Winbush, Barbara

\$25.00 to \$49.99

Clark, Vivian J	
Collins, Lindsey Cabell	Johnson, Stella
Coleman, Marvin	Manson, Brenda
Dial, Dr. Shaashaun	Moore, Arlene
Diggs, Rev. Dr. Robert Sr.	Speight, Leslie
Goode, Christabelle	Tyler, Gail
Harris, Jacqueline	Unknown - Golf Tournament
Harris, Joyace A. & Alonza	Walker, David
Harris, Willie	Wilkerson, B. A.

\$50.00 to \$99.99

Bellamy, Paul	Mason, Dr. Regina Knight
Blake George & Linda A.	Robinson, Mildred & Floyd
Cheivas, Virginia & Robert	Prather, Joyce P & Paul Ray
Crawley, Mildred	Scott, Keyonna
Crews, Barbara	Turner, Carolyn
Edwards, Martin & Tammy	Viar, Keith & Heather
Evans, Frankie	Walters, Donald C.
Gillfield Baptist Church	Whitfield, Mrs. Katie G.
Johnson, Carrie W.	Wildy, Vernon L. & Margaret H.
Knight-Mason, Dr. Regina	Willis, Deborah
Marshall, Deacon Mary Kay	

\$100.00 to \$199.00

Bowles, Kathy	Martin, Randel
Briggs, Joe & Sue	Mason, Mozelle T.
Briggs, Robert T	Mason, Sonya Felecia
Brown, Randolph M & Charry	Middleton, Fred
Chapman, Liam	Minor, James
Clark, Christine B.	Mitchell, F.L. & V.J.
Crawley, Dr. Vernon O & Betty W	Nicholas, Michael
Custom Embroidery & Designs (Cindy Partin)	Penn, William & Leticia
Davis, Gwendolyn M	Person, Dr. Samuel - F & Frances
Dolly, Alexander	Purgason, John
Dyson, Emile	Springer, Dr. Dwight S & Mary Lee
Edwards, Norman	Starke, Antinio

2024 DONATIONS
\$100.00 to \$199.00 cont'd

Eggleton, James	Stevens Eric
Frazier, Rich	Tademy, Dudley & Audrey
George, Stan	Taylor, Matthew
Granderson, Carl	Thompson, Brent
Hebron, Pennington C	Turner, Dr. Robert L.
Hesson, Mrs. Colleen	Wilson, Ernestine G.
Holmes, Michael	WTVR CBS, Channel 6
Lubey, Tom V. & Lynn A	Wyatt, Sebastian
Lane, Leory	Wynne, Brenda

\$200.00 to \$499.00

Anderson, R Joseph & Katherine	Lassiter, Kevin
Baugh, Arnold (Bruce)	Massey, Loretta H.
Butler, Maya	McHenry, Oscar F.
Butler, Nicholas	Nanna, Randy
Campbell, Vera	Paul, Loren Murphy
Collins, Edgar C. & Dorothy C.	Redmond, Walter & Linda
Concerned Citizens of Ettrick	Robinson, William
Cross Frederick	Ross, Nancy S.
Dial, Dr. Cortez & Joyce	Smith, Raye E.
Foster, Bruce S.	Stephenson, Wendell & Renee
Greg & Libby Robertson Family Charitable Fund	Stith-Finch, Brenda
Harris, Rev. Douglas & Gloria	Tabernacle Baptist Church
Johnson, Canta	Unknown Donation, PayPal
Khoury, Dr. Bernie & Maria Elena	Walter, Dr. William
Knight, Dr. Woodrow & Alice	Ward, Gen)William ("Kip") & Joyce

\$500.00 to \$899.00

Aberdeen Proving Ground FCU	Moore, Dinah S.
Catlett, Bob	Penn, Lawrence & Rachel
Cheatham, Sarah	Ray, Dorothy
Judith Ann Brown Ransom Charitable Fund	Thompson, Rob
Lewis, Dr. Willie H. Jr.	Wiersma, Dr. Laurell L
Moore, Dinah S. & Melvin L.	

\$900.00 to 1999.00

Baugh, Shirley	George, Yolanda
Briggs, Wilbert J. Sr.	Houston, Doretha C. & James
Cooley, Norman & Evelyn	Union Grove Baptist Church

2024 DONATIONS**\$900.00 to 1999.00**

Baugh, Shirley	George, Yolanda
Briggs, Wilbert J. Sr.	Houston, Doretha C. & James E. III
Cooley, Norman & Evelyn	Union Grove Baptist Church

\$2000.00 to \$3000.00

Hatchette, Jan	Stephenson, Trudy
Stephenson, Darius & Shakita	Stith Butler, Dr. Adrienne
Stephenson, Judy C.	Stith, Dr. Andrea
Stephenson, Shakita	Stith, Dr. James

Above \$3000.00

Gilliam, Delores	Matthews, Serelda.
Hatchette, Joy	PGA Tour Charities
Mason, Garrett	Stith, Alberta

2024 MEMORIAL DONATIONS**IN MEMORY OF HILDA EULETTA HATCHETTE**

Baugh, Shirley	Hatchette, Joy
Hatchette, Jan	Stith, Alberta & Family

IN MEMORY OF ALYSSA JOY STITH

Baugh, Shirley	Stith, Dr. James & Alberta
Stith, Dr. Adrienne & Family	Wiersma, Dr. Laurell
Stith, Dr. Andrea	

IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL A. GILLIAM

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union	Houston, Doretha
Blake, George & Linda	Matthews Serelda
Collins, Edgar & Dorothy	Mitchell, F.L. & V.J.
Gilliam, Delores	

IN MEMORY OF ERNESTINE GREGORY

Wilson, Ernestine G.	
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WE APOLOGIZE if any names were inadvertently omitted. Please contact the Foundation, and your donation will be acknowledged in the next publication

