MEGA MENTORS™
MENTORS EXPECTING GREATER ACHIEVEMENT

THE 7TH ANNUAL FINE ART BENEFIT AND SALE

2018
Altria's companies are proud to support organizations that prepare young people for a bright future, and help prevent risky behaviors, like underage tobacco use.

From improving academic performance to succeeding at extracurricular activities, Altria aims to support the development of positive life skills in today's youth.

Altria salutes MEGA Mentors.

Congratulations on celebrating your 7th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale.
Dear Supporters and Friends,

On behalf of the young men and women whom MEGA Mentors serve, thank you for supporting our 7th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale at the Hippodrome Theater. Each year the proceeds from this event are used to support our efforts to improve the lives, hope and academic performance of underrepresented students in Chesterfield County Public Schools. Because of your support over the years, MEGA has grown from seven founding members in 2009 mentoring at one school to over 150 members at the end of 2017 who serve over 500 young men and women at eight schools.

Most people have heard the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." MEGA strives to achieve this goal by providing dedicated mentors who teach our core values of: RESPECT for self and others + taking RESPONSIBILITY for your actions + giving maximum EFFORT, which = ACHIEVEMENT. Because of these mentors’ efforts, our students have shown year after year a high level of hope, increased level of self-efficacy and improved self-regulation.

With your continuing support, our vision for this year is to continue improving and expanding our current programs, increase our services to our current schools, continue recruiting mentors to expand to more Chesterfield County schools and explore how we can provide mentoring services from elementary through high school. We also plan to increase our scholarship endowment fund and continue our consulting services to school systems that want to start their own mentoring programs.

To raise the money needed to support these efforts, we present to you tonight the works of dozens of artists for your viewing and purchase. Our featured artist, Mr. Willie Earl Robinson, is a world-renowned self-taught artist who will discuss his works and concepts with you tonight. We thank him profoundly for taking time from his busy schedule and traveling from his home in Clarksdale, Mississippi to help us raise money for our worthy cause.

Besides art work, we also have more than 60 items donated by local businesses and individuals up for bidding during the silent auction. Remember, all donations are tax deductible, and 91 percent of all monies raised go toward MEGA’s programs to help underrepresented children.

If you want to know more about MEGA Mentors, please visit our website at: www.MEGAmaleorgs.org.

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Please enjoy the atmosphere of the Hippodrome, the artwork, the auction and the music of Keith Anderson. Again, on behalf of the students we serve and MEGA’s membership, thank you for your past, present and future support!

Howard Corey
President, MEGA Mentors
The 2018 Fine Art Benefit and Sale (FABS) marks the 7th annual fundraising event for MEGA Mentors. Once again hosted by Ron Stallings and his fantastic staff at the historic Hippodrome Theater in Jackson Ward. Held in conjunction with the Freedom Classic Festival, FABS is the signature Friday evening event that includes a weekend of festivities that culminate Sunday afternoon with a basketball clash between CIAA rivals Virginia State (Trojans) and Virginia Union (Panthers) at the Richmond Coliseum.

The array of traditional, contemporary, abstract, original and printed art provide options for the novice art enthusiasts to the most sophisticated collectors seeking to expand their portfolio. Once again we will feature a Silent Auction with original art and a diverse assortment of fabulous items available for bidding. The event also features live musical entertainment, great food and refreshments.

By supporting FABS, you will directly impact the future of students in Chesterfield County Public Schools that participate in the MEGA program.

A special thank you to our generous sponsors, patrons, volunteer mentors, school coordinators and administrators, who make this event possible every year. And of course, we thank WaterKolours Fine Art (Danny Jenkins, Owner) for bringing this great selection of art to Richmond.
MEGA LINE-UP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

Fine Art Benefit and Sale
The Hippodrome Theater, 7pm

Master of Ceremonies, Phil Daniel

Featured Artist and Guest Speaker, Willie Earl Robinson
Willie Earl Robinson was born in Yazoo City, MS in 1950 and currently lives in Clarksdale, MS. His unique artistic vision and collection of work have been celebrated in many galleries, put into permanent collections in Cottonlandia Museum and Delta Blues Museum and captured in Hollywood cinema. Recently a movie character was inspired by Mr. Robinson and his art in Christine Swanson’s romantic drama, All About Us, with Boris Kodjoe, Academy Award nominee Ruby Dee and Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman, a proud collector of Mr. Robinson’s art.

All art is coordinated by WaterKolours Fine Art Gallery.

Silent Auction
Electronic bidding via smartphone on a diverse collection of unique gifts, electronics, original art, sports packages and memorabilia, travel and leisure options will be offered.

Musical Guest, Cloud 9 Band
Cloud 9 Band hails from Richmond, Virginia and although they’ve only been together for a little over seven years, the core members represent decades of performances across many musical genres. Cloud 9 performs regularly at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts ‘Jazz Cafe’ and has performed for masses at the Richmond Jazz Festival, Capital Jazz Festival and 2nd Street Festival. Cloud 9 has gained notoriety for the breadth of its musical offerings ranging from jazz standards to the latest R&B.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018

Freedom Classic Festival
Richmond Coliseum, Doors Open at 4pm
In commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, the Freedom Classic Festival returns to the Richmond Coliseum on Sunday, January 14th with the marquee match-up between Virginia State University and Virginia Union University men’s basketball teams. This event is filled with tons of activities for the entire family, including a high school drumline competition, a gospel choir showcase, and a special halftime performance featuring VSU and VUU’s marching bands. It’s more than just a game. It’s a celebration!

MEGA students and parents will experience the college activities and game compliments of the Freedom Classic.
The 7th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale

7:00 PM, Friday, January 12, 2018
at The Hippodrome Theater

Join Us For An Evening
Of Fine Art & Fun

Such Artists As

- Woodrow Nash
- Heather Moss
- Lee White
- Mark Richardson
- Phyllis Stephens
- Lobyn Hamilton
- Charly Palmer
- Richard Mayhew
- Elizabeth Catlett
- William Tolliver
& Many More

Visit Our Showroom

7948 Winchester Rd. #109  Memphis Tn 38125
www.watercoloursfineart.com
MEGA Mentors would like to thank Danny Jenkins and WaterKolours Fine Art for 5 years of fundraising partnership to support the initiatives of our organization.
THE ART OF WILLIE EARL ROBINSON

Willie Earl Robinson is a visual historian.
Mind you. He is a painter and artist extraordinaire, but his body of work is his history, his family’s history, his village’s history or . . . his tribe’s.
Some, if not most of it is ours, we of America’s Diasporas.
Case in point, Robinson’s oil painting A Mother’s Joy takes you from Africa’s Okavango delta to Thirsty Days on the Mississippi delta.
His paintings, stylized illustrations of a southern culture, would be a better description, tell vivid stories all visually documented masterfully on a piece of canvas.
Robinson renders love and emotion in Baby Hold Your Head Still and Family Time in the acrylic homage to love. His themes are those of the work ethic, faith and family that is a part of his artistic genome. He is a griot with a brush,
His imagery is unavoidably cultural, possessing a two dimensional reflection of life witnessed, and life learned from generations of elders. Survivors!
Perhaps it is the leather beret he wears at a rakish ankle that symbolizes his confidence as a folk artist. Here is my work. Here are my values and aesthetics to see. Everything I paint I am. Everything I paint is what I see. Could easily be the song of his Muse or Robinson’s acclamation of artistic truth.
His hues are dynamic embellishments of basic tones. Blue is blue, brown is brown. There is little attention given to shadow, cast shadow and self-shadow on his palette.
Robinson paints with an honest eye. The sun of the delta is high. Color in the delta can visually seem loud. Without shadow, as some of his work records in his uncompromising style, his images evoke a range of emotions from indignation to tranquility. A subtle hint of if this is what it is Robinson finds in the depth of the color in it. Or, as it were, the beauty in it others miss if not take for granted.
He has been quoted saying he is, “gifted and endowed by God, coupled with hard work, brought me to
where I am as an artist. Art illuminates my world. My artistic vision is to create images that reveal the beauty within and beyond myself. What I feel, see, and hear, somehow come together in a multidimensional way. I love the creative ability that God has given me, and I give Him all the glory. I feel most alive when I paint.

"All of my senses are engaged, and I respond to, and I feel moved by, and into something larger than myself. I received no academic training in art, therefore I take the creative approach exclusively, which results in a vital individualistic style of expression."

Mr. Robinson, and his art, inspired a character in Christine Swanson’s romantic drama All About Us starring Boris Kodjoe. Academy Award nominee Ruby Dee and Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman. Freeman, who is from LeFleur County, MS just outside of Greenwood, is a patron of Mr. Robinson’s art.

An artisan touch, Mr. Robinson frames some of his work in reclaimed wood adding a tactile element of installation to some of the composition to some of his paintings. Self-taught, there is an inherent clearness to his painting as Robinson embellish themes of his environment.

It will be interesting to see how the MEGA Mentors exhibit in Richmond’s Hippodrome will be as his Muse.

Robinson has been incommunicado. Immersed in a new suite of acrylic and oils set to canvas just for this event.

What awaits attendees could be easily themed as Robinson’s Delta Now Series.

Have you ever been to the Mississippi Delta? Have you not.

Welcome to the Delta of Willie Earl Robinson.

BY GLEN MASON
Independent Writer, Director, Producer
OTHER ARTISTS....

Heather Moss

Artwork brought to you by WaterKolours Fine Art Gallery.

Leroy Campbell

William Tolliver
OTHER ARTISTS....

Kevin Williams

Charly Palmer

Kennith Humphry

Additional art on display by Richard Mayhew, Phyllis Stephens, Paul Goodnight, Lee White, Lobyn Hamilton, Rene Dickerson, Mark Richardson and others.
The 2018 MEGA Silent Auction features smart phone, tablet and e-bidding. The 2018 Silent Auction features a unique blend of items ranging from electronics, sports memorabilia, art, date nights, and vacation getaways.

Don’t miss the MEGA “His & Hers Raffle” featuring a Louisiana Grills K22 Kamari Charcoal Grill – donated by Southern States and a lovely necklace donated by Fink’s Jewelers.

ART ITEMS
Willie Earl Robinson Original Painting
Tim Reid Limited Edition Autographed Print
Daphne Maxwell Reid Limited Edition Photo Collection of Doors
Cameron Johnson Original Painting
Custom Photography Package by Jadien Jones Photography

ELECTRONICS & ENTERTAINMENT
43 Inch Smart TV
32 Inch Smart TV
Bose Solo Speakers
SILENT AUCTION

EDUCATION
John Tyler Community College Summer Tuition
Annual VMFA Membership

SPA & FITNESS
Chester YMCA Membership
Attevle Message Therapy
Luminous Skin Care
Breckenridge Chiropractic Message
Sona Med Spa
Total Peace Message

WELLNESS
Orthodontist Braces by Davis & Nycepir

RICHMOND JAZZ FESTIVAL AT MAYMONT

ENTERTAINMENT
Party at the Hipp for 100
Richmond Jazz Festival Weekend Pass
Bourbon Excursions- Bourbon Tasting Social Event
Date Night - Cinebistro and dinner
Date Night - Uptown Alley and Commonwealth 20 Theater Tickets
Date Night - Sam Miller’s Restaurant and Altria Theater Concert Tickets
Many other Restaurant Gift Cards

SPORTS PACKAGES
Lake Chesdin Golf Package
Robert Trent Jones Golf Package
Stonehenge Golf Package
Highlands Golf Package
Richmond Flying Squirrels Fantasy Package
Richmond Flying Squirrels Apparel
Autographed Baseballs
Willing hands and hearts are welcome in Chesterfield schools, where volunteers play a vital role in the academic success of our students.

We make it easy for everyone to participate — whether you can help every day, once a week, once a month or once a year. There are many ways to volunteer, and we will help you find your place:

- read to elementary students
- help in a school office, cafeteria or clinic
- sell tickets at a game
- speak at a career day
- organize information packets
- chaperone a field trip
- fill another need

There is a place for you in Chesterfield County Public Schools! If there is a specific school where you’d like to volunteer, please contact the principal or the school’s volunteer coordinator. If you don’t have a specific school in mind, call 748-1405 to talk with the community outreach coordinator. After volunteers fill out an application, their names will be checked against the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry.

Chesterfield County Public Schools
P.O. Box 10, Chesterfield, VA 23832

804-748-1405
ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net
mychesterfieldschools.com
THANK YOU EVENT SPONSORS

MEGA Mentors would like to send a special thank you to the Fine Art Benefit and Sale Event Sponsors that contributed to the success of this evening.

MEGA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you would like to support MEGA Mentors as we work devotedly to improve the future of students in Chesterfield County Public Schools, do so in any of the following ways:

ARTWORK/RAFFLE/SILENT AUCTION
AT THE FINE ART BENEFIT AND SALE

• MENTOR
• SPEAKERS BUREAU
• TUTOR
• BOARD COMMITTEES
• IN-KIND SERVICES
• MONETARY DONATIONS

Go to www.megamentors.org or email megamentors14@gmail.com

Direct tax-deductible donations to MEGA Mentors, c/o
Chesterfield Education Foundation 13900 Hull Street Road, Midlothian VA 23112
JANUARY 14, 2018
DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM • THE RICHMOND COLISEUM
FREEDOMCLASSIC.COM
In the fall of 2009, the Chesterfield County School Superintendent approached a few community leaders about the need to provide positive African American role models in Chesterfield County Public Schools to improve academic performance, graduation rates and reduce discipline issues. This request was the catalyst that ignited a movement and the formation of MEGA Mentors…Mentors Expecting Greater Achievement.

Today, MEGA has over 150 volunteers and has grown from 20 students to over 500. With the guiding principles of Respect, Responsibility, Effort and Achievement, the MEGA Mentors mission is to "Enhance student success by providing positive experiences and role models to mentor, tutor and teach leadership and life skills." This is done by providing group and one-on-one mentoring, increasing awareness of higher education and career opportunities, college visits, field trips, cultural and social activities and parental engagement in student affairs. MEGA began annual recognition of school and student achievement in 2010. Its "Tutoring Initiative" in partnership with Carver Middle School began in 2012. MEGA’s "Graduation Award" Program for graduating high school seniors was started in 2014. MEGA began its Leadership Speaker Series in 2015 at Falling Creek Middle School, Manchester Middle School in 2016 and Salem Church Middle School in 2017 were added to its list of Mentorship Program Schools.

MEGA works in partnership with Chesterfield Education Foundation, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Virginia Mentoring Partnership, Virginia State University, John Tyler Community College, Communities in Schools and many other community, civic and nonprofit organizations to enhance its mission.

MEGA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Who We Are

Our purpose is to maintain the spirit of the Chester Village Plan and expand the original vision to keep our community a unique village within Chesterfield County.

To join the Chester Community Association, call Elliott Fausz at 804-405-5443

“Creating a Sense of Place”
MEGA HIGHLIGHTS

Organization Highlights of 2016 - 2017

Partnered with eight schools to provide mentors:

Carver Middle School
MEGA Mentors would like to welcome the new administrative team, Principal Jason Trueblood and senior counselor Maia Johnson to Carver Middle School. This team has embraced the partnership by inviting MEGA Mentors to speak at the staff and faculty meeting, the back to school night and joining other student support activities like the Christmas Angel Tree. The 75 mentees in the program this year love the more scenario based, small group setting and are more actively participating in the sessions. We are looking forward to continuing to assist the students with life skills to improve their academic, professional and social goals.

Falling Creek Middle School
The Falling Creek MEGA Mentors program welcomes new Principal Aurelia Ortiz, who has expressed her excitement about working with the program. The joint FC administration/MEGA Team is collaborating to incorporate Falling Creek ESL (English as second language) administrators and/or ESL mentors to assist the increasing Spanish speaking population. The program has 12 boys and 25 girls registered as mentees for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Over 30 of the students are returning to the program. A few students are participating in the program because one of their siblings was in the program several years ago. Since our sessions began a few months ago, several students have expressed an early interest in improving their grades. One student, who is serving as an inspiration to others, has received a score of 100 on all of tests and quizzes in all classes to date. The mentoring team participated in a “Back to School Night” early in the 2017 – 2018 school year, which was a great success in making parents and some community members aware of the MEGA Mentors program.

Providence Middle School
The Providence Middle School 8th grade boys achieved a cumulative 3.38 GPA. Total Boys’ GPA was 3.06 and Girls’ 2.84 for an overall average of 2.95.

Troy Lewis, best-selling author of the book “Gas Money,” was the guest speaker at Providence Middle School on April 6, 2017. He spoke to over 50 students, school administrators and MEGA Mentors volunteers over two sessions. Gwen Epps, Lewis’ lifelong friend and a Mentor at Providence, was instrumental in getting him to be the guest speaker.

Congratulations to the Mentors and Mentees at Providence.

Manchester Middle School
Changing the accomplishment trajectory of our Manchester Middle School students isn’t a desire but an expectation. The volunteers from Spring Creek Baptist Church are working with the students and administrators to expose, encourage and elevate. Early indicators are that several of our students have embraced the challenge and the results affirm it. Our goal is to create that ‘sense of urgency’ and focus with ‘all’ of our program participants. The journey continues.
Located in Jackson Ward, a recognized National Historical Landmark in the city of Richmond, The Hippodrome Theater and the Taylor Mansion are the centerpieces of the latest project to return the Jackson Ward area to its legendary prominence. This historic neighborhood was the center of African American commerce and entertainment in the early 1900s, garnering the nickname Harlem of the South.

The famed Second Street, known as the Deuce, was a bustling hot spot of performance venues including the same Hippodrome Theater that stands today. Built in 1904 as a vaudeville and movie theater, it later became a celebrated musical locale attracting such legendary greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Duke Ellington, and Cab Calloway just to name a few. Rich in cultural development, Jackson Ward was home to many influential people, including Maggie Walker, the first woman to charter and serve as president of an American bank, and Rev. William Lee Taylor, president of The United Order of True Reformers.

Today, the beautifully revitalized Hippodrome Theater hosts entertainment events such as concerts, comedy shows, happy hours, and private events. Rev. William Lee Taylor’s private home has been elegantly restored into the adjacent Speakeasy Grill restaurant, specializing in Southeastern Cuisine.

Contact the Hippodrome Theater today to host your next private event!
**Salem Church Middle School**
Salem is in its very first year of the MEGA Mentors Program. The MEGA program for 6th & 7th graders began on November 14th. There are a total of 42 students currently enrolled in the program and they are extremely excited about the mentoring sessions to come.

During the last quarter of 2017, members of First Baptist Centralia church committed over 150 volunteer hours in support of Salem Church Middle School. Volunteers donated their time organizing the school’s music library, installing soccer benches and performing various site beautification projects.

**Meadowbrook High School**
On November 18, 2017, MEGA Mentors provided tickets for several students from Meadowbrook High School to attend the Richmond Forum where President Barack Obama was the featured speaker. President Obama provided remarks and answered questions from the Altria Theater audience. In addition, each student was asked to write a short essay about their experience at the forum. They received a book from the former president. Regarding the experience, 12th grade student Diamond Coleman, wrote “I thought it was a great and very educational and interesting”.

**Carver College and Career Academy**
On November 30, 2017, Carver Academy received the 2017 School of the year award. The ceremony was attended by Bermuda school board Representative Carrie Conyer, Superintendent James Lane, members of his staff and IBM representative Greg Hillman. Jennifer Grossnickel, MEGA coordinator for Carver Academy, was also honored as MEGA’s 2017 coordinator of the year.

On December 1, 2017, Dr. Michael Reynolds, Dean of Engineering, Business and Public Service at John Tyler Community College, spoke to the MEGA students at Carver Academy. Dr. Reynolds shared the value of an education and careers in both trades and technical fields. This was followed by the MEGA juniors and seniors taking a field trip to John Tyler to view the school’s campus and Technical Center.

**Chesterfield Career and Technical Center (CTC) Hull**
MEGA launched the 2017-18 CTC Hull mentoring school year on December 6 with great success. CTC Hull continues their Academy 360 (A360) program, which helps struggling 8th graders catch up academically so they can start high school on time. This program allows students to complete both their 8th and 9th grade requirements in one year. A360’s 36 boys and girls enjoy a focused environment in our state-of-the-art facility, with small class sizes and extra support from the faculty. The learners have demonstrated great respectfulness, hard work, and positive leadership qualities, even when navigating the program’s special expectations, such as the requirements to dress in uniform and to give up cell phones for the entire school day. These norms help reduce distraction from academics and prepare our young men and women for futures in professional settings.
We’re proud to support MEGA Mentors and encourage positive traits in our youth.

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EFFORT ACHIEVEMENT
2017 Fine Art Benefit and Sale
MEGA Mentors 6th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale held on January 13, 2017 was a huge success. Attended by over 300 patrons, the event showcased fine art, a silent auction featuring electronic bidding, music by CHKN GRESE, as well as an assortment of food and beverages.

Annual Excellence Awards & Recognition Celebration
MEGA Mentors Annual Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration was held on May 18. Approximately 320 students, parents, mentors, school officials and other guests attended this annual event. This year’s guest speaker was Ms. Nikki Jackson, senior vice president and regional executive of the Louisville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. In her role she focuses on community development and education as well as regional economic research and policy input. This year she was recognized by Business First of Louisville as the 2017 Woman of Influence and the same publication, in 2016, selected her as one of Louisville’s “20 People to Know in Banking and Finance.” She has also been honored as a 2009 “Forty Under Forty” winner.

MEGA Field Trips
April 3rd: MEGA Mentors sponsored a trip for 87 middle school students to Norfolk State University and the Nauticus museum. The students, along with 17 Mentors, toured the NSU campus and received a motivational presentation about what it takes to be successful in life and what it takes to get into college. Following the campus tour, the group visited the Nauticus museum where students had lunch and a guided tour of the ship and the museum.

March 21st: Approximately 85 MEGA Mentors students and chaperones visited the NMAAHC in Washington, where they experienced an insightful and inspiring learning adventure. MEGA was honored to have Mr. John Franklin, Director of the Office of External Affairs for NMAAHC, and Thameenah Muhammed, Senior Major Gifts Officer for NMAAHC, provide a personal guided tour of the first three levels of the museum. Following the tour, the group visited the Lincoln and King Memorials.

“Walk A Mile” Program
MEGA students “walked a mile” with Dominion Energy and the Richmond Squirrels management team May 5. MEGA sponsored the event and Communities in Schools (CIS) served as the liaison. The Dominion Energy team went out of its way to make the visit informative and relevant for the students. Students observed different aspects of their operations, so they were able to grasp the scope of Dominion Energy’s work and potential career opportunities. The students were very engaged; they asked thoughtful questions indicating they had probably done some research on the electric and power industry prior to the tour.

MEGA students and chaperones spent quality time with The Richmond Squirrels management team. They had the opportunity to observe various areas of the business. In addition to seeing what happens behind the scenes for game production, the group learned about real world business experience. The students met with the general manager and chief operating officer who presented their business perspective. MEGA is grateful to Dominion Energy and the Richmond Flying Squirrels for providing this learning opportunity for the students.
The arts are for everyone

When community members support the arts, they help inspire and enrich everyone. Artistic diversity helps unite communities, creating shared experiences and inspiring excellence.

Bank of America is honored to be connected to MEGA Mentors and its dedication to bringing the arts to our community.

Visit us at bankofamerica.com/local
Life’s better when we’re connected
MEGA TESTIMONIALS

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MEGA MENTORS?

“I like that we can talk to them and they listen to us. Genuinely.”
“They not only help you with stuff that has to do with school, they also help you with problems that you’re facing.”
“MEGA Mentors has helped me realize my dreams and turn my dreams into goals.”
“MEGA Mentors has really helped me control my attitude and my actions over the last 2 years.”
“They have helped me with the way I have treated other people and the way I treat myself.”
“It is great and will help students get through school and become a better person.”
“To focus on your goal and don’t let things get in your way.”

WHAT THREE THINGS HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM MEGA?

“Education is important.”
“Money is important.”
“Go to college.”

“How to love yourself.”
“How much salary you will need in everyday life of an adult (with or without children).”
“What other people like about you!”

“I learned how to focus on my goals.”
“MEGA Mentors has taught me how to be a leader.”
“They have taught me to overcome my fears.”

“Achieve your goals.”
“Never give up in life.”
“Be careful who you’re around.”

“Treat others how you want to be treated.”
“Recognize what a real friend is.”
“Don’t give up, and reach for your goals.”

“Kids need to feel that we believe in them and they need to believe in themselves.”
Linda Wood, Former Director, Elementary Education

“They have stepped up and have been there in more ways than one. MEGA provides balance for our students and helps them in more ways than they can imagine.”
Monique Booth, Principal

“Everyday citizens come into the schools and help students learn what socially appropriate behavior all about. It pretty much ties the community to then schools and our students to the community.”
Kevin Olds, Assistant Principal

“We give an hour of our time each week so that girls flourish, and we see where they started from and where they ended up is absolutely amazing.”
Jamie Barnes, Evaluation Specialist
MEGA held its Annual Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration on May 18. Approximately 320 students, parents, mentors, school officials and other guests attended this annual event. This year’s theme was “What’s Next, I Rise”. Guest speaker was Ms. Nikki Jackson, Senior Vice President and Regional Executive of the Louisville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. In her role, she focuses on community development and education, as well as, regional economic research and policy input. “It was an honor having Ms. Jackson speak to the students,” said Howard Corey, MEGA Mentors President. “We strive to have successful people from various fields come speak at our recognition event, and she was an excellent representation of the banking and finance sector.”
MEGA Awards 2016 – 2017
Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration.

MEGA School of the Year Award – This award is based on the partnership with MEGA Mentors (Principal involvement, Coordinator involvement) and promoting the MEGA Values (Respect, Responsibility, Effort, and Achievement).

Carver College and Career Academy
Dr. Kenneth Butta, Principal

MEGA Mentors School Coordinator of the Year Award – This is awarded to the high and middle school coordinator that puts forth exceptional effort to partner with MEGA and assure student success. This coordinator not only schedules activities but takes extra effort to assure the program is running smoothly, participates in activities, helps solve problems and shares best practices.

Jennifer Grossnickel, Site Coordinator
Communities in Schools of Chesterfield County

MEGA Mentors Community Partnership Award – This award is given to a community partner who helped MEGA achieve its mission of funding, enrollment, and recruitment.

Ron Stallings
The Hippodrome Theater

MEGA Mentors of the Year Award – One (1) male and one (1) female will be awarded. This award goes to the mentor that went above and beyond in their mentoring students, tutoring, and coordination of school activities, advocacy, teamwork, recruiting and retaining mentors and participation in all MEGA Mentor activities.

(L) Thomas Mandley, Jr.
(R) Gwen Epps
MEGA Mentors Students of the Year Award – The school coordinator, teachers, administrators and MEGA coordinator select a student from each school/from each grade that demonstrated Respect, Responsibility, Effort and Achievement.

Carver College and Career Academy
9th Grade: Brianna Dewalt and Tylan Washington
10th Grade: Sherlin Urgell
11th Grade: Tasia Bibbs and Gary Tompkins
12th Grade: T’Asia Jordan and Ramarie Aitken

Manchester Middle School
6th Grade: Ariana Hernandez and Jayden Bland
7th Grade: Cadence Rowles and Samuel Oasiro
8th Grade: Sha’mya Green and Breyon Green

Carver Middle School
6th Grade: Jordan Cheatham and Gavin Hart
7th Grade: Sanai Raysor and Jourden McDaniel
8th Grade: Yoveii Lewis and Oscar Ambrose

Meadowbrook High School
9th and 10th Grade: Jordyn Dennis, Leeana Nguyen and Kirt Studevant
11th and 12th Grade: Amaris Bethea, David West and Crystal Mobley

CTC at Hull — 8th Grade Academy
Arely Ayuzo and Dillion Brown

Falling Creek Middle School
6th Grade: Rosa Ceballos and Izel Travis
7th Grade: Joselin San Jose and Jordan O’Neal
8th Grade: Breonna Watts and Tyland Clark

Providence Middle School
6th Grade: Illiana Castro and Tre’vonta Givens
7th Grade: Autumn Dennard and Martin Ellerbee
8th Grade: Keziah Johnson and Ethan Murray
CEF
Chesterfield Education Foundation
Fueling minds through opportunity.

Is a Proud Sponsor of

MEGA MENTORS
MENTORS EXPECTING GREATER ACHIEVEMENT
Mentoring sessions are twice per month at each school
Tutoring sessions are each Tuesday from 2-4 pm at Carver Middle School

August 2017
Annual Membership Meeting & Orientation Training
John Tyler Chester Campus Nicholas Hall

August 2017
MEGA Coordinator and Principal Meetings

September 2017
Mentoring Program Kickoff Week

January 12, 2018
MEGA Mentors Fine Art Benefit and Sale
Hippodrome Theater, Richmond, VA

January 14, 2018
Freedom Classic Festival Field Trip
Richmond Coliseum

March 2018
Richmond Forum
Landmark Theater 8:00 p.m.

April 13 and April 20, 2018
MEGA Annual Merit Field Trips, location TBD

May 2018
Career Shadow Day, location TBD

May 31, 2018
MEGA Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet
CTC-Hull Street 5:30 p.m.

Mentoring Schedule

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<td>Carver Middle</td>
<td>Tuesdays and Thursdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carver CCA</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>Howard Corey</td>
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<td>Brenda White</td>
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<td>CTC-Hull</td>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>Greg Cummings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falling Creek Middle</td>
<td>Wednesdays and Thursdays</td>
<td>Art Epsey</td>
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<td>Carol Mack-Grisby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manchester Middle</td>
<td>Tuesdays and Thursdays</td>
<td>Greg Hillman</td>
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<td>Meadowbrook High</td>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>Danny Connor</td>
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<td>Providence Middle</td>
<td>Tuesdays and Thursdays</td>
<td>Mack Moore</td>
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<td>Gwen Epps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem Middle</td>
<td>Tuesdays and Thursdays</td>
<td>Rueben Turner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mentoring sessions are twice per month at each school
* Tutoring sessions are each Tuesday from 2-4 pm at Carver Middle School
“...education is the greatest investment that any individual or corporation or foundation could possibly make. It is something that has an impact not only on the present generation but on many, many generations to come.”

– E. Claiborne Robins, Sr.

We support the efforts of MEGA MENTORS to enhance student success for ‘underrepresented’ students in Chesterfield County Schools.

VALUES
Claiborne Robins, Sr. was a compassionate, empathetic and accessible leader who valued integrity, ethical practices and generosity. As a thoughtful philanthropist and visionary, he used his wealth to improve the quality of life for the Richmond community. Robins Foundation highly values his legacy, and seeks to honor his example through our philanthropic work.

VISION
Robins Foundation envisions Richmond as a vibrant community in which to live, work and raise a family, where all its citizens have abundant opportunities to thrive.

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Our MEGA Mentors help students deal with the challenges of life by simply demonstrating a genuine interest and concern for their growth and development. And our results prove that mentees grow personally, socially, and academically while participating in the MEGA Mentors program.

We want to do more. After a number of volunteer leadership by a dedicated group of corporate and business executives, we believe it is time for MEGA Mentors to build capacity in order to enhance our services to students and expand the number of students we serve. To do so, we need your help.

Founding MEGA Mentors

Although there are always twists and turns along the road to success, most young people will stay the course when they have the attention and guidance of a caring adult. At MEGA Mentors we help students deal with the challenges of daily life by doing just that — simply demonstrating a genuine interest and concern for their growth and development.

Widely perceived as a well-to-do suburban county, Chesterfield is both ethnically and economically diverse; 34% of the 60,000 Chesterfield students receive free/reduced lunch rates which is comparable to nearby urban schools in neighborhoods with entrenched poverty and unemployment. We want to support these students, and others who may be more fortunate, by fostering a culture of achievement and resilience.

MEGA Mentors was born in 2009 when the Superintendent of Chesterfield County Public Schools asked African American community leaders to be role models for students. The goal was to improve academic performance, increase graduation rates, and reduce disciplinary issues. This was the catalyst that ignited the formation of MEGA Mentors – Mentors Expecting Greater Achievement.

Inspiring Possibilities

The MEGA Mentors mission is to enhance student success by providing positive experiences and role models in weekly one-to-one and group activities.

Our focus is on inspiring possibilities by fostering hope, offering support, and providing learning tools to help students build the self-esteem and confidence necessary to succeed in school and life.

The MEGA Mentors programs and activities are geared toward prevention using research-based best practices. We have a well-managed process that includes screening and training for mentors and provides 75 lessons for mentoring sessions. Woven into these lessons are our core values of respect, responsibility, effort, and achievement. In addition to life and leadership skills these lessons help to broaden our student’s academic and social perspectives.

Each year our calendar includes:

- Weekly mentoring sessions
- Structured tutoring
- Goal-setting discussions
- College visits
- Guest speakers
- Educational field trips
- Cultural and social activities
- Parental engagement events
- Student and mentor awards and recognitions

We believe that through these experiences MEGA Mentors inspires possibilities and helps to make the future brighter for our students and their families.
**Making a Difference**
Across the country more than 1.2 million teens drop out of school every year – that’s about 7,000 per day who may feel that they don’t have the support they need to graduate. MEGA Mentors is committed to empowering our students to prepare for a successful future.

The magic of mentoring is confirmed by years of research and evaluation. A youth’s relationship with a supportive adult can lead to improved academics, a stronger sense of self-worth, better relationships with parents, a higher likelihood of enrolling in college, and decreased drug and alcohol use.

**Seeing Results**
We have conducted a number of assessments and surveys with parents, teachers, mentors, and mentees. The results show that our program works – participating mentees are challenged, engaged, and enriched by the experiences we provide.

Students participating in the MEGA Mentors program took an insight survey in the fall and spring of last school year to determine their perceptions about hope, self-worth, and self-control.

The survey found that students were hopeful “a lot of the time” and felt that participating in MEGA Mentors had positively affected their self-worth. Most importantly students overwhelmingly said MEGA Mentors had an impact on their confidence level as well as interest in college and career.

Additional indicators of success include:
- 75 pass rate for tutored students;
- Positive trends in attendance, grades, and discipline;
- Consistent student participation;
- Increase in the number of mentees;
- Rise in seniors graduating with post high school plans;
- Praise and appreciation from parents;
- Boost in number, contributions, and involvement of partners;
- Growing demand to expand into more schools and districts
- Awards and accolades received from a wide cross-section of stakeholders.

**Fostering Futures**
Any parent will tell you that guiding children to become responsible adults is no easy task. Sometimes it does, indeed, take a village. Our community is that village and we need your help.

Today’s students will be responsible for maintaining our social, community, and health care services. They will provide the high-caliber workforce America needs for global competition. They will be responsible for protecting the earth and natural resources. An investment in our students now will significantly impact their future as well as ours.

There are many ways you can help our program continue:
- $300 will support participation of one student in our school-based MEGA Mentors activities for one year;
- $1500 will help with supplies and materials for one school; and
- $3000 will cover the cost of a field trip including transportation and meals.

And, of course, we are always looking for additional mentors!

**Moving Forward**
MEGA Mentors has grown from 20 to 500 participating students. And we continue to receive requests to establish programs in additional Chesterfield schools. In order to grow we need to engage professional staff. Please join us as we transform MEGA Mentors by strengthening operations to offer a more impactful experience for our students.

Your gift of $10,000 or more will allow us to build capacity:
- Hire a full time program coordinator who will be responsible for the daily operation of MEGA Mentors;
- Expand to serve additional students and additional schools; and
- Establish a scholarship fund for mentees who are graduating seniors.

**Leading with Passion**
Since 2009 MEGA Mentors has operated with a dedicated group of community leaders. We put great demands on ourselves in order to achieve great results. Although we’re happy with the outcomes, there’s still more to do.
Who We Are

To join the Chester Community Association, call Elliott Fausz at 804-405-5443

Our purpose is to maintain the spirit of the Chester Village Plan and expand the original vision to keep our community a unique village within Chesterfield County.

"Creating a Sense of Place"
MEGA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Organization Accomplishments of 2016 - 2017

- The Hope Survey results showed improvement in self-efficacy, self-regulation and hope remained at high levels.
- MEGA’s experiential activities included:
  - Freedom Classic: over 250 students, parents, mentors and CCPS staff members attended.
  - Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in DC: over 100 high school students and chaperones attended (merit-based trip).
  - Nautica Maritime Science Center and Norfolk State University: 180 students participated.
- MEGA arranged for more than 2,000 CCPS 7th graders to go see the movie “Hidden Figures.”
- MEGA financially supported Young Men on a Mission at Providence Middle School as well as the Regional Sea Perch Competition.
- Awarded over $6,300 in scholarships to graduating MEGA seniors; Over $23,000 awarded to date.
- MEGA Mentors program expanded to include Salem Church Middle School and assisted with program start-up in Petersburg School District.
- Mentored over 450 students in seven schools.
- 180 volunteers totaling over 7,658 hours and 125 mentors who contributed 3,250 classroom hours.
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Bottom Row (left to right): Tara Campbell, Brenda White, Pamela Duren-Browne, Ola Gunn, Joyce Ricks and Clementine Fleming. Not pictured: Zita Smith and Rev. Charles Sumpter.

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