THE 8TH ANNUAL FINE ART BENEFIT AND SALE 2019

Colors of Autumn by Heather Moss
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 8th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale.
Dear Supporters, Friends, Parents, Partners, Mentors and Mentees

For the past decade, the volunteers of MEGA Mentors have actively given time and resources to help instill hope, leadership and self-regulation in the students we support. During this 10 year period, MEGA Mentors has grown from providing mentoring services to only two schools to now serving 10 schools. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary year we will be serving over 600 students.

What have we observed over this time period? Student hope, self-initiation and self-regulation increased positively. MEGA now has parental consent to monitor student grades and discipline. We have seen ongoing improvements in this area. Merit-based student field trips have exposed our students to over 11 colleges and universities and our students have experienced numerous other learning opportunities (Smithsonian Museums, US Congress, Supreme Court, Nauticus, Air & Space Museum, Richmond Forum, VMFA and others). In addition, MEGA has awarded over $35,000 in awards to graduating seniors. Our plan going forward is to add elementary schools into our program in order to provide consistent mentoring to students from grades 1-12. Finally, this year we plan to launch the MEGA Endowed Scholarship. More information will be shared in the upcoming months.

The MEGA Mentors Eighth Annual Fine Art benefit and Sale promises to be very special. Cloud Nine band will serenade, as the Hippodrome staff wines and dines us, Watercolours Fine Art Gallery inspires us with the very best in fine art, and finally the MEGA Silent Auction captivates us. MEGA is extremely proud to be a volunteer-run organization. Many of our mentors will be available tonight to answer your questions. That is how over 90% of all revenues collected can be allocated towards programs that support students and schools.

You can help us help the students we serve by purchasing art, participating in the MEGA Raffle and Silent Auction, and/or by volunteering to mentor or serve on a committee. Thank you for your continuous support of MEGA Mentors and the students we support.

Enjoy the evening ahead,

Greg Cummings
President, MEGA Mentors
“MEGA Mentors is a truly excellent organization, and I am grateful to show my support for the great work you perform.”

-Ralph S. Northam, Virginia Governor
January 11, 2019

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am pleased to congratulate MEGA Mentors on celebrating their 10th Anniversary. MEGA Mentors is a truly excellent organization, and I am grateful to show my support for the great work you perform. Thank you to the volunteers for all that you do for MEGA Mentors.

Since your founding over a decade ago, your mission has been to provide meaningful learning experiences and build life skills amongst underrepresented Chesterfield County Public School students and neighboring school systems through mentoring, tutoring, and field trips. Through your efforts, you have touched the lives of over 1,700 students. I am so glad to know that your organization is working tirelessly to provide critical resources to our youngest Virginians who need it the most.

As Governor, I have worked diligently to create a community of inclusion, dignity, and equality. I strive to make Virginia a more vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and raise a family. MEGA Mentors plays a critical role in these efforts, and I am confident that your hard work and advocacy has made our Commonwealth a better place.

I wish you all the best as you celebrate the 10th Anniversary of MEGA Mentors, and thank you again for all that you continue to do for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Northam
The 2019 Fine Art Benefit and Sale

(FABS) marks the 8th annual fundraising event for MEGA Mentors. This year’s event is extra special because we’re celebrating MEGA Mentors’ 10 years of community service and excellence.

Hosted at the historic Hippodrome Theater, and in conjunction with the Freedom Classic Festival, FABS is the signature Friday evening event that includes a weekend of festivities that culminates Saturday afternoon with a basketball clash between CIAA rivals Virginia State (Trojans) and Virginia Union (Panthers) at the VSU Multi-Purpose Center.

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 18, 2019
Fine Art Benefit and Sale
The Hippodrome Theater, 7pm

Master of Ceremonies, Phil Daniel

Featured Artist and Guest Speaker, Heather Moss
Heather Moss is a Mobile, Alabama native who currently resides in the Mississippi countryside, she draws inspiration from her surroundings. Heather paints primarily with golden heavy bodied acrylics. Occasionally, she will use paint brushes, but the majority of her work is created using palette knives. The different shapes and sizes of the knives allow her to create a 3-D effect with her paintings.

All art is coordinated by WaterKolours Fine Art Gallery.

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

Musical Guest, Cloud 9 Band
Cloud 9 Band hails from Richmond, Virginia and although they’ve only been together for a little over eight 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.

Saturday, January 19, 2019
Freedom Classic Festival
VSU Multi-Purpose Center, 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 comes to the VSU campus for its first time! Join us on Saturday, January 19th for a high-octane doubleheader featuring Virginia State University and Virginia Union University men’s basketball teams and women’s basketball teams. The event is filled with tons of activities for the entire family, including marching band performances, gospel choir showcases and special halftime performances! 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 Festival.
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.

Greg & Marilyn Cummings

Contact: mr.faceyproductions@gmail.com
Cell: 347-517-0934
Celebrating a decade of valued partnerships, clients and community.

NO MATTER WHERE THE MARKETS TAKE US, WE’RE PROUDLY INVESTED IN RICHMOND.

RiverFront Investment Group

http://linkd.in/1oF5kER
@RiverFrontIG

1214 East Cary Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219  TEL (804) 549-4800  TOLL FREE (866) 583-0744
MEGA Mentors would also like to express sincere gratitude to tonight’s host committee members. We appreciate you for joining us in this effort.

Carlos & Tamara Brown
Finis & Linda Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Tyren Frazier
Kym & Kyle Grinnage
Monroe & Jill Harris
Greg & Deborah Hillman
Iris Holliday
Brian & Tammy Jackson
Otis & Machel Jones
Derrick Johnson

Ken & Lydia Johnson
Ed McCoy & Jackie Henry
Phil & Vicki Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Nelson
Alex Nyerges
Todd “Parney” Parnell
Tim & Daphne Reid
Jamal & Vanessa Slappy
Sam & Nikki Young
The 8th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale
7:00 PM, Friday, January 18, 2019
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.waterkoloursfineart.com
MEGA Mentors would like to thank Danny Jenkins and WaterKolours Fine Art for 6 years of fundraising partnership to support the initiatives of our organization.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2019
VSU MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

6PM - VUU VS. VSU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL GAME
8PM - VUU VS. VSU MEN’S BASKETBALL GAME
PERFORMANCES BY VSU’S TROJAN EXPLOSION AND THE VSU AND VUU CHOIRS
TWO SPECIAL HALFTIME SHOWS VENDOR FAIR
DOORS OPEN AT 4PM
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
Heather Moss’ art is as elemental as her passion, her passion as elemental as her art. In her artwork she has found her “truth.”

Being true to oneself is the personification of what one sees when Heather creates a painting. Her “three dimensional impressionism” is grounded in her innate, enigmatic ability to paint with synchronicity.

Moss didn’t take art classes as others have. She seems to have never had an interest in learning painting techniques, media application, the theory or curriculum of researched and re-examined fine art masters. She said her education began around the age of four when she started painting with watercolor. From there her art became both escape and an allegory of a life as broad and expansive as the universe because creativity is a constant in her. Heather’s art never ends.

Moss sees life as a series of experiences. Her experiences began as a child. The daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries, Heather was practically educated around the world in a myriad of cultures.

“I lived in Bangalore, India. That’s where I started to use watercolor,” said Moss, her joy of life, palpable in her voice. One experiences her art in form and function. In form it is tactile as it is visual. In function it is as communicative as it is universal.

“My work is the expression of everywhere I’ve lived, and the experiences, cultures, images and colors that comes with living in South America, Kenya, Madrid and Grenada in Spain, Europe and parts of Asia, all over South America,” said Moss, interviewed as she was preparing for the MEGA Mentors Eighth Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale at Richmond’s historic Hippodrome. “I’ve been really blessed.”

To say that Moss is a self taught artist is an over simplification. Her mastery speaks for itself. Her ability? Intrinsic.

“There was a year in Europe, where I went to college. After a semester on scholarship I went my own way because I just didn’t feel like I was being taught anything but the techniques of somebody else. So I just went my own way,” said Moss, then softly and chortling added. “None of the masters went to art school. I’ve worked in museums. I’ve studied their work.

“All of my art friends have bachelors and Masters degrees in art. Most of them work in other fields, or they’re schoolteachers, college teachers. It’s a blessing for me to actually create art for a living. It’s more than a diehard thing,” said Heather.

“I am blessed I actually make my living through my art. That’s very important to me. Making a living as an artist is kind of like art in its true form. More than anything it’s a discipline. Like any job it takes disciple and dedication. I’m in front of the easel from nine o’clock in the morning until five o’clock in the evening like any other job. I never complain, but I’ve never been on vacation without painting.

During her interview Moss was also giddy with pride. She shared her excitement because of her three children; John, Carol and Bert. Bert is working on his first suite of paintings for an exhibit; Literally, he is her living legacy.

When Moss paints she prefers Golden brand acrylics that she applies with palette knives, adding that it allows her to “bring depth” to pieces, giving a three-dimensional almost installation effect to her paintings.

“It’s a heavy body with an polymer base. I’m very three-dimensional,” she said unapologetically.

“Since we were always moving I kept to myself a lot. I started doodling, drawing and painting as early as I can remember. I tried to paint the things around me.
The colors and the cultures, themes were always changing so my artistic view was always changing.

"Once I got to the place where I was confident in what I was doing, I kept wanting to do better. The techniques other people went to art school for kind of came natural to me," said Moss. "It was like it was just there."

Moss’ personality is calming. Personable. She possesses a warm worldly, intellect she unveils during a conversation as if she is someone you’ve known all your life. That is a gift. She paints like that. One is easily draw into her humanity. Heather exudes a positivity that’s infectious.

One perceives that in her application of paint.

You feel as much as you see the wind in her strokes.

Fire in her determination.

Her abstract suites in her gallery convey many levels of emotion, mood, a surreal journey into a view-scape that transcends time and space while visually encompassing all. Moss’s paintings are a singularity of composition. Uninhibited but thought out. Many of her suites are absent of intent but transparent in emotion. Space. All dimensions of thought rendered in two dimensions. Painted in three.

Ross conquers infinity by filling the space with an expression of tactile energy. The palettes she use, or prefer, are the hues of the elements. Like the group: Earth, Wind and Fire. So are those hues. Like a study in rare gems, she mixes pigments one sees onyx instead of black, sapphire blue instead of jay’s blue; rust to amber; neon lava instead of orange. A sea green instead of aqua or sunset red to bronze comes to mind.

Her design motif is rendered like an installation. She possesses an innate visualization of feng shui. In her landscape paintings her trees have bark, foliage, road gravel to cobblestone. Her watercolors are ethereal bordering on the sublime.

In regard to Heather’s body of work one learns to appreciate what she sees, imagines, feels, then conveys in her work. Her suites of paintings or other media explores the depths of her creativeness, consciousness, as they communicate, taking viewers on a journey through a myriad of dimensions, perspectives and themes.

In abstract painting sometimes the complexity of the art is the simplicity of the presentation. It can be bold, or as subtle as two single brush strokes. At times, ambiguity abounds but one can arrive at a sensible conclusion as subjective as it may be. Heather’s art represents the conclusive expression of her creative being.

By Glen Mason
Independent Writer,
Director, Producer
OTHER ARTISTS

Marilyn Thompson

Woodrow Nash

Rene Dickerson

Artwork brought to you by WaterKolours Fine Art Gallery.
OTHER ARTISTS

Jacob Lawrence

Charly Palmer

William Tolliver

Additional art on display by Richard Mayhew, Phyllis Stephens, Paul Goodnight, Lee White, Lobyn Hamilton, Rosa Gallardo, Mark Richardson and others.
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”
René Dickerson
Nationally acclaimed artist and Loudoun County resident, René Dickerson’s works of acrylics on canvas are a masterful marriage of colors that reach each person on a unique level. His paintings can be found in the private collections of Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, Berry Gordy and many other such celebrities. René has a long standing relationship with The Temptations and has provided artwork for their album covers over the years.

It Takes a Village
Nationally acclaimed and former FABS featured artist, René Dickerson has continued his passion for “giving back” by gifting MEGA Mentors with one of his signature works of art. His works of acrylics on canvas are a masterful marriage of colors that reach each person in a unique way. Special thanks to René Dickerson for being a part of “the village” who share a passion for enriching the lives of Chesterfield’s underrepresented communities.

René Dickerson expresses his own experience with mentors in this commemorative painting. It takes parents, educators, community leaders, and yes, the mentee to Nurture the Growth. . . It Takes a Village.

Nurture the Growth. . . It Takes a Village
Available as 18” x 24” limited edition giclée, hand-embellished by artist.
The 2019 MEGA Silent Auction features smart phone e-bidding.
The 2019 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 and Hers Raffle” featuring a Weber Gas Grill donated by Southern States and a John Hardy Classic Chai Collection Leaf necklace donated by Finks Jewelers. Tickets are $10 each or two for $15.

Art Items
Heather Moss & CCPS Student Collaboration – Original Painting
Rene Dickerson – Original 10 Year Commemorative Painting – “Nurturing the Growth – It Takes a Village”
Alfred Addo – Original Painting
Shona Statues – Soapstone

Entertainment
Party at the Hipp for 100
Richmond Jazz Festival Tickets for Two
The Vine Club – Tickets to The Exclusive Blacklist 5th Year Anniversary Weekend
Jazz Inside Out
Bourbon Excursions
Theater Tickets
Date Nights – Restaurants and Entertainment
Richmond Flying Squirrels – Fantasy Package
Annual Membership – VMFA
Silent Auction

Spa & Fitness
Total Peace Message
Breckenridge Chiropractic – Message Package
Luminous Skin Care
Attele Message Therapy
Midlothian Athletic Club
Sona Med Spa

Sports & Sports Memorabilia
Autographed Baseballs
Autographed Baseball Jerseys
Autographed Basketballs
Flying Squirrels Apparel
Chesdin Landing Golf Package
Stonehenge
Jefferson Lakeside Highlands
Birkdale

Wellness
Complete Set of Braces – Davis & Nycepir
YMCA Membership
Midlothian Athletic Club

Getaway Packages
Black River Outfitters (Hunting & Fishing in Uruguay)
Staycation – (Dinner and Stay at the Doubletree)
Bed & Breakfast – (Irvingston Cottage)

Other Great Items
Mink Scarf – Alan Furs
Custom Belt – Beecroft and Bull
Stihl Gas Leaf Blower
43 inch Smart TV
In the fall of 2009, the Chesterfield County School Superintendent, Marcus Newsome approached six 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. Less than a year later, these six leaders, grew to more than 12 to form the first MEGA. We realized early in our journey that our mission was to provide guidance and teach life relevant skills to help students find success. MEGA therefore determined that we could impact behaviors and attitudes. If we could influence those things then performance would come. Our goals became very clear. We would devise ways to build hope, self-regulation and leadership skills.

Ten years later, the movement continues. Here are a few highlights of MEGA’s ten year journey.

**2009-2011**

- From the beginning, MEGA has partnered with Providence Middle’s School Young Men on a Mission (YMOM) program supporting annual field trips, talent night, goal-setting seminars and workshops.
- In 2010, MEGA added its 1st women to the board – Carol Dalesa Mack-Grisby. Shortly thereafter we increased women representation on the board and started working with female students in the classroom.
- Altria Corporation granted MEGA its first grant of $10,000 to build capacity for mentoring expansion.
- Also in 2010, MEGA began recognition of school and student achievement at the MEGA Excellence Award and Recognition Celebration at Virginia State University. The event has hosted numerous renowned speakers and has continued to grow in student, parent and staff attendance each year. In 2018, the event was hosted at CTC Hull and attend by 400 + students and guests.
- In 2011, MEGA partnered with Virginia Mentoring Partnership (VMP) to provide mentor training. VMP certified the MEGA Mentors lead trainer.
MEGA HISTORY

2012-2015

• First website was designed by technology students at CTC Hull with the assistance of ASTYRA. (2012)

• MEGA began its signature fundraising event, the Fine Art Benefit Sale (FABS) in 2012, hosted at the historic Hippodrome Theater. With the support of Al and Jackie Lester and the Freedom Classic Festival FABS was launched and features renowned artists, high-tech silent auction and raffle. Partnering with the Freedom Classic Festival. Each year students and parents experience the annual rivalry basketball game between Virginia State and Virginia Union Universities.

• Added tutoring at Carver Middle School in 2012.

• Designed and executed the annual HOPE survey in 2013 as a means of measuring the effectiveness of the program in each school.

• Falling Creek Middle School added Speaker’s Bureau in 2013. The concept was taken division –wide in 2014.

• Co-sponsored over 3,000 students to see historically relevant movies (Selma and Hidden Figures).

• In January 2015, President Barrack Obama recognized and awarded MEGA Mentors as the recipient of “The President’s Volunteer Service Award” for community service in 2014. MEGA received the Gold medal, which signifies over 1,000 hours of service.

• In March 2015, the Chesterfield County School Board and Administration recognized MEGA Mentors as the Community Partner of the Year,” the highest Chesterfield County Public Schools award.

2016-2018

• Received 501c3 Tax Exempt status in April 2016.

• Numerous articles written about MEGA Mentors – Chesterfield Observer, Richmond Times Dispatch, and Village News.

• Developed priorities with school board members and Administration Staff over the year.

• In 2016 the MEGA’s organizational model expanded to Petersburg, VA and became “Petersburg PROMISE”.

• Created vertical model where MEGA will mentor students from elementary through high school (2018)

• MEGA program was designed for portability to allow any group to train mentors and activate.
MEGA HISTORY

10 Years of MEGA

• Over 2,000 students have participated in the MEGA Program.
• Mentors have donated over 125,000 hours of service to CCPS students and schools.
• MEGA has donated over $34,000 to graduating seniors that are pursuing education options after high school.
• IBM Corp contributed STEM grants through MEGA, a total of $40,000 since 2014.
• MEGA has contributed over $317,000 in program related activities.
• 91% of all revenues goes straight to student programs.
• MEGA has coordinated annual merit based field trips for deserving students. Some of the venues have included:

  Washington DC –
  • Smithsonian Museums
  • African American Museum
  • Spy Museum
  • Supreme Court
  • Capital
  • Numerous Monuments
  Howard University

  George Washington University
  Norfolk State University
  Hampton University
  Virginia State University
  Old Dominion University
  Longwood University
  University of Virginia
  George Mason University

Today, MEGA has over 180 volunteers and has grown from 20 students to over 600. With the guiding principles of Respect, Responsibility, Effort and Achievement, MEGA Mentors mission is to "Enhance student success by providing positive experiences and role models to mentor, tutor and teach leadership and life skills".

Today, MEGA serves eight schools in Chesterfield County:

• Carver Middle
• Chesterfield Career and Technical Center (CTC) Hull – Academy 360 Program
• Chesterfield Technical Center at Courthouse – Phoenix Program
• Falling Creek Middle
• Manchester Middle
• Meadowbrook High
• Providence Middle
• Salem Church Middle
• Ecoff Elementary – Beginning January 2019
• Thomas Dale High School – Beginning January 2019
• Carver College and Career Academy – Ended 2018
MEGA HISTORY

MEGA would not be successful without the support of our corporate sponsors. Our corporate sponsors over the past ten years have included:

A Plus Driver Improvement School Inc.
ACAC of Midlothian
Allan Furs
Altria Group, Inc.
Astyra Corporation
Audio Tech
Bank of America
Birkdale Golf Club
Bourbon Excursions
Branch Banking & Trust Corporation
Breckenridge Chiropractic
Chester Community Association
Chester YMCA
Chesterfield County Public Schools
Chesterfield Education Foundation
Chesdin Landing Golf Club
CineBistro at Stony Point
Davis & Nyczepir Orthodontists
Dominion Virginia Power
Don Pepe Mexican Restaurant
Douglas Optometry
Eaheart Industrial Service, Inc.
Edward Jones Investments
El Patron Cantina
Fink’s Jewelers
G&G Sportswear-USA
Gwaltney Consulting Company, LLC
Home Team Grill
Howlett’s Restaurant & Tavern
IBM Corporation
IHOP
Ironbridge Sports Park
Jadien Jones Photography
Jefferson Lakeside Country Club
John Tyler Community College
JMI – A Johnson Inc. Company
Joyner’s Paint and Frame
Kiwanis Club of Chester, VA
Lake Chesdin Golf Club
LEGACY MEDIA Studios
Luminous Skin Care and Wellness
McGuireWoods LLP
Midlothian Rotary Club
Owens Financial Services
Premier Bank
Richmond Flying Squirrels
Robins Foundation
Rudy Coyner, Attorneys at Law
Second Baptist Church – Chester
Second Baptist Church – Southside
Spotts Fain PC
Spring Creek Baptist Church
Stonehenge Golf & Country Club
The Country Club at The Highlands
The Hippodrome Theater
The Richmond Forum
The Thomas Law firm, PLLC
Uptown Alley
Urban Development Corporation
Virginia Mentoring Partnership
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Virginia State University
Virginia Tractor
WB Orthodontics
West Cary Group
Wells Youth Basketball T/A
West Cary Group LLC

These organizations have enabled the vision and mission of MEGA to be realized in the lives of students who will become our future leaders. Thanks to all who have contributed to the vision.
MEGA HIGHLIGHTS

Organization Highlights of 2017 - 2018
Partnered with eight schools to provide mentors:

- Carver Middle School
- Falling Creek Middle School
- Providence Middle School
- Manchester Middle School

MEGA Celebrates 10 Years of Service and Excellence
MEGA is proud to celebrate 10 years of service and dedication to over 600 underrepresented Chesterfield County Public School students. To commemorate this achievement, MEGA will showcase a video at the 8th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale (FABS) and make a special announcement. Come celebrate with MEGA on January 18!

Carver Middle School
Thanks to support of Second Baptist Church – Chester, a new group of volunteers have been acquired. Over 60 enthusiastic students have been enrolled in the program this year. The mentees are actively participating and they have expressed their love for the scenario based, small group setting sessions. Mr. Jason Trueblood and senior counselor Maia Johnson continue to support mentoring efforts at Carver Middle School. This team has embraced the partnership by inviting MEGA Mentors to speak at the staff and faculty meetings and the back to school night. 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 team continues a successful program working with Principal Aurelia Ortiz, for the 2nd year. She has expressed her excitement about working with the program during the 2018-2019 school year. This year the program has 17 boys and 18 girls. Due to changes in county demographics the school is currently experiencing significant overcrowding with the entire 7th grade class being educated in portable trailers. The school continues to expand its English as a Second Language (ESL) program and has become the “go to” school for this population in the county. Despite these challenges, and possibly because of them, the very diverse student community at FCMS maintains a high level of Panther Pride. The MEGA Mentors students have particularly embraced the concept of Respect and are continuously exhibiting its importance in many of the choices they make both in and out of school.

Providence Middle School
The Providence Middle School 8th grade boys achieved a cumulative 3.20 GPA. Eight grade girls achieved a cumulative 3.46 GPA. Total Program (Boys and Girls Grades 6-8) average GPA was 2.96.

MEGA Mentors sponsored a “Day of Golf” at First Tee Chesterfield for students participating in ‘Young Men on a Mission’ Mentorship Program. The activities included a meet-and-greet session with Ed Gill, First Tee’s Director of Instruction and his staff, a goal-setting presentation by MEGA’s Mentors and golf lessons from First Tee’s staff. Gill said this event was the best since he joined First Tee in 2014. Greg Cummings, MEGA’s President added, “We hope this event will leave aspirations of leadership and desire for the students to pursue the business sport of golf.”

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.
MEGA HIGHLIGHTS

Salem Church Middle School
The MEGA Mentoring program continued to provide mentoring to students at Salem Church Middle School for the second year. In 2018, the program was expanded to include 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. The students currently enrolled in the program remain extremely excited about the mentoring sessions to come. The students enjoy a great relationship with the Mentors and receive outstanding support from the School Coordinator.

Thomas Dale High School
We welcome the opportunity to work with new Principal Christopher Jones. Program will restart in January 2019, on the 9th grade campus with 25 excited students. Plans are to move to the entire campus next year with over 100 students expected.

Meadowbrook High School
Over 100 students have expressed interest in the MEGA Mentors program. Currently 54 are enrolled in the MEGA Mentors Program. We look forward to working with Principal Joi Alexander-Lowery.

Ecoff Elementary
Reading Program will start in late January 2019. MEGA is actively recruiting mentors to assist.

Chesterfield Career and Technical Center (CTC) Courthouse - Phoenix Program
Alternative Education Program (Phoenix Program)
Funding has been provided for the creation of a comprehensive alternative education program with the goal of allowing all students to achieve academic success. The program will engage students who have not been engaged in a traditional educational environment through individualized engagement and innovation.

Chesterfield Career and Technical Center (CTC) Hull
MEGA launched the 2018-19 CTC Hull mentoring school year the first week of December 2018 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 60 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.

2019 Fine Art Benefit and Sale
MEGA Mentors 8th Annual Fine Art Benefit and Sale is being held on January 18, 2019. This commemorates the 10th anniversary of the MEGA mentors program. Event will be attended by over 300 patrons; the event will showcase fine art, a silent auction featuring electronic bidding, music by Cloud 9, as well as an assortment of food and beverages.

MEGA Excellence Awards & Recognition Celebration
MEGA Mentors Annual Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration was held on May 31, 2018. Approximately 400 students, parents, mentors, school officials and other guests attended this annual event. This year’s guest speaker was Jame’l R. Hodges, Associate Vice President of Student Success and Engagement at Virginia State University (VSU). Hodges earned his undergraduate degree in English from VSU and returned to the University with a wealth of pedagogy and leadership experience, most recently as assistant vice president for student affairs at Tennessee State University. In 2016, he was selected as a Maxine Smith Fellow for the Tennessee Board of Regents for his research “Tennessee Promise: Changing the Mindset and Closing the Achievement Gap for African American Male students of TBR.” He earned masters and doctoral degrees from Florida State University and University of Southern California’s Rossier School of Education, respectively.
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!
MEGA Field Trips
April 13th:
On lucky Friday the 13th, four chartered buses carrying Chesterfield middle school students rolled out of the county on an educational tour of Hampton, Virginia, for their annual year-end merit trip. MEGA Mentors students were being awarded for their successes with tours to Hampton University and the Virginia Air & Space Center.

Students from Carver Middle, Falling Creek Middle, Providence Middle, and Salem Church Middle Schools, first visited the campus of Hampton University; the young scholars were given a guided tour of the institution’s African American Museum of Art and History. After a filling lunch at County Grill & Smokehouse, they visited the Virginia Air & Space Center. They began their adventure with a scavenger hunt identifying the Wright Brothers’ first plane to the Apollo Moon Mission. Climaxing the day, the students viewed the museum signature 3-D theater – the IMAX.

In today’s sensitive and challenging scholastic environment, MEGA Mentors will continue the programs to encourage our youth to perform at their best in academics, school attendance, and social ethics.

April 20st:
For their April 20 year-end merit trip, MEGA Mentors took over 70 high school students from Carver Career College & Academy, the Career & Technical Center, and Meadowbrook High Schools on a field trip of the University of Virginia and Thomas Jefferson’s home of Monticello. Touring the campus of UVA, they learned that although Jefferson designed the school he was educated at William & Mary; the school was built by slaves; and early students enjoyed calithumping (riding horses while shooting). In a Peabody Hall lecture, Tour guide, Allyson Umali explained the various academic courses available for study at the institution.

After lunch in the campus cafeteria, the young scholars visited Jefferson’s Monticello home and gardens. Featuring an entrance foyer museum with Native American and trophy artifacts, the home amazed the students with Jefferson’s book collection and innovative inventions. The stop also included a slave tour of a reconstructed slave home and the Jefferson family grave site. Students, Mentors and Chaperones enjoyed the field trip. The students were especially engaged and in awe during the tour and history of Monticello and the grounds. They were on their best behavior as they were educated on the history of this 25th nationally ranked university.

Annual Membership Meeting
This year’s annual membership meeting was held September 19 where veteran and new MEGA Mentors discussed the 2017-2018 school year accomplishments, best practices and the path ahead. Over 100 members attended, making this MEGA’s largest recruiting class in our history. The meeting was held at John Tyler’s Midlothian campus and featured guest speaker Dr. Connie Honsinger, who trained the group on Trauma Informed Care.

Students Bowl and Bond at Uptown Alley
MEGA middle and high school students kicked off the school year with a fun-filled day at Uptown Alley in Midlothian October 27. The team building event allowed the students, mentors and Chesterfield County Public Schools (CCPS) staff to bond and set a positive tone for the school year.

“Walk A Mile” Program
MEGA Mentors Carver Academy High students attended a Flying Squirrels game on May 29th and experienced an example of the day-to-day management of the team. Flying Squirrels Director of Community Outreach, Megan Angstadt, introduced the students to a few team members and explained the activities that occur in the Diamond’s tunnel. After meeting Squirrels pitcher Dan Siania, the students also shared a photo op with U.S. Representative Donald McEachin (D-VA).

In addition, this year students also visited NBC 12 in Richmond where they toured the studio and met with the Vice President and General Manager Kym Grinnage, who is also a MEGA Mentors member.

The Walk A Mile program is a great way for students to see the operations side of local businesses and see how education and hard work pay off. MEGA takes the students to different organizations every year, but the Flying Squirrels have been a favorite so we keep going back.
We’re proud to support MEGA Mentors and encourage positive traits in our youth.

RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
EFFORT
ACHIEVEMENT
For the past 10 years, the men and women of this organization have made a difference in the lives of our young scholars. They have become a valuable supplement to the core values we teach our students.

Sandra Judge-Harden, Assistant Principal, Providence Middle School

I recently attended the Community and Carver recognition award’s presentation. As our MEGA Mentor students won award after award, I had tears in my eyes. This is why we are there at 7am. It shows that we can make a difference……

Howard Corey, Mentor and MEGA Mentor Board Member

MEGA, thanks very much for all that you do! Our kids at Manchester Middle School need these encounters. I am so happy to be a part of this great community.

Narshara Tucker, MEGA Mentor School Liaison

I think it is great that MEGA brings back former students to share their stories and inspire our kids!!

Senior Chesterfield County Administrator
MEGA Hosts 8th Annual Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration #SUCCESS

As the student jazz ensemble played easy listening music at the Career and Technical Center on Hull St., approximately 350 students, administrators, and guests filled the Thomas Flugrum auditorium on May 31 as MEGA Mentors held its 2018 Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration. This year’s theme was “#SUCCESS.” Guest speaker was Jame’l R. Hodges, Ed.D, Associate Vice President, Division of Student Success and Engagement at VSU. Dr. Hodges pushed self-esteem, motivation, and respect upon the students sharing his personal testimony of how he achieved success.

MEGA Mentors President Greg Cummings also recognized all the classroom mentors for their hard work and dedication in helping improve students’ lives.

Cummings concluded the program by inviting churches, retirees, and individuals to volunteer their services to assist in mentoring our FUTURE by contacting MEGA Mentors at info@megamentors.org.
MEGA AWARDS 2017 – 2018
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).

Those that touch our lives stay in our hearts forever.

Sarah Fraher - Past Principal
Manchester Middle School

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.

Jori Swingen - Middle School Coordinator
Falling Creek Middle School

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

David W. Saunders - Past President
Midlothian Rotary Club

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) Verna Bradby - Providence Middle School
(R) Adam Hawkins – 360 Academy
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 Middle School
Milagros Torres and Thomas Roy – Grade 6
Keyaisa Dodson and Patrick Noggins – Grade 7
Yemen Brown and Evan James Brown – Grade 8

Falling Creek Middle School
Anyah Allen and Caden Cosely-Sims – Grade 6
Keira Lawrence and Jake Martinez – Grade 7
Brianna Johnson and Jeremiah Grey – Grade 8

Manchester Middle School
Trinity Goode and John Campos – Grade 6
Diamond Burrell and Tyler Richardson – Grade 7
Debony Martin and Caron Greene – Grade 8

Provendence Middle School
Anjeolaoluwa R. Archer and Naeshon D. Wilson – Grade 6
Evelin Y. Alfaro Rivas and Andre S. Lockey – Grade 7
Desiree N. Baldwin-Bailey and Martin D. Ellerbee, Jr. – Grade 8

CTC Hull 360 Academy
Derrick Ross and Eberlin Izaguirre-Cuellar – Grade 9

Meadowbrook High School
Najee Williams and Sean Summers – Grade 9
Tumilya Barksdale – Grade 10
Alexis Jones and Kirt Studevant – Grade 11
Diamond Coleman and Tyrone Campbell – Grade 12
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MENTORS EXPECTING GREATER ACHIEVEMENT
### MEGA CALENDAR

**January 18**  8th Fine Art Benefit & Sale

**January 19**  Freedom Classic Festival Field Trip

**January 31**  New Mentor Training & Orientation

**March**  Richmond Forum Field Trip

**April 15**  Annual Field Trip for Middle Schoolers

**April 10**  Annual Field Trip for High Schoolers

**May 30**  9th Annual Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration

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<tr>
<th>School</th>
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<td>Academy 360 (CTC-Hull)</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Friday</td>
<td>Greg Cummings</td>
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<td>Stephen Hackett</td>
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<td>Kevin Smith</td>
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<td>Academy 360 (CTC-Courthouse)</td>
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<td>Laura Faucon</td>
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<td>Kevin Smith</td>
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<td>Carver College &amp; Career Academy</td>
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<td>Phil Daniel</td>
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<td>Howard Corey</td>
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<td>Brenda White</td>
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<td>Carver MS</td>
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<td>2nd and 4th Thursday</td>
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<td>2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday</td>
<td>Art Espey</td>
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<td>Kenny Odom</td>
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<td>2nd and 4th Thursdays</td>
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<td>Gwen Epps</td>
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<td>Salem Church MS</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Tuesday</td>
<td>Rueben Turner</td>
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<td>Hopkins ES</td>
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<td>Howard Corey</td>
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“...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.

MISSION
Our mission is to understand and serve the best interests of the Richmond community by listening, learning, engaging and supporting.
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Finis & Lynda Cook
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Supporting the mission of MEGA Mentors to
“make a positive measurable difference in the lives in African American students in Chesterfield County Public Schools”

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MEGA NEEDS YOU!

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:

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Changing Lives One Student at a Time

MEGA Mentors focuses on shaping students to be confident, caring and goal-oriented. We teach life skills, provide meaningful learning experiences and build students’ leadership skills through mentoring, tutoring, experiential field trips and recognition.

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

We want to do more by enhancing our services to students and expanding the number of students we serve. To do so, we need your help.

Founding MEGA Mentors

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.

Widely perceived as a well-to-do suburban county, Chesterfield is both ethnically and economically diverse; 34 percent of the 60,000 Chesterfield students received free or reduced lunch rates last year, 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.

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. MEGA Mentors helps students deal with the challenges of daily life by doing just that – simply demonstrating a genuine interest and concern for their growth and development.
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. We focus 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. MEGA’s programs and activities are geared toward prevention by using research-based best practices. We have a well-managed process that includes screening and training for Mentors and provides over 50 lessons for mentoring sessions.

Woven into these lessons are MEGA’s core values of Respect, Responsibility, Effort and Achievement. In addition to life and leadership skills, these lessons help to broaden our students’ academic and social perspectives.

Each year, our calendar includes:

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<th>Weekly mentoring sessions</th>
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<td>Structured tutoring</td>
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<td>College visits</td>
<td>Student and Mentor awards and recognition</td>
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<td>Guest speakers</td>
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We believe MEGA Mentors inspires possibilities through these experiences and helps to make the future brighter for our students and their families.

Make a difference.
Become a Mentor today!
megamentors.org
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

- Established mentoring programs in 10 Chesterfield County Public Schools
- Over 1700 have participated in MEGA Programs
- Spent over $317,000 for mentoring program and related activities
- 90% of total expenditures are spent directly on program and student activities
- Awarded graduating seniors over $33,000 in tuition assistance grants
- Provided over $40,000 through the MEGA Excellence Award grant (donated by IBM) to Chesterfield County Public Schools

What Differences Have We Made with Chesterfield County Public Schools Students since 2009?

- Hope, self-initiation and self-regulation all demonstrated statistically significant improvement
- Discussed grades and behaviors each grading period and performance has improved in all areas over time
- Supported school-based student activities (Sea Perch, Young Men on a Mission, school and PTA activities
- Encouraged Seniors to have a graduation plan and graduation preparation (FAFSA, applications, etc.)
- Over 400 parents, students, teachers, etc. regularly attend the annual MEGA Recognition and Awards Celebration
- Visited 12 universities, colleges and technical colleges
- Facilitated over 21 field trips with 0 incidents

Left to right (back row): Phil Daniel, Derrick Thomas, Greg Cummings, Charles Owens Cortez Dial and Ed Baine
Left to right (front row): Beth Teigen, Carol Dalessa Mack-Grisby, Gwen Epps, Misha King and McKinley Moore
Not Pictured: Howard Corey, Rodney Mullins, Kevin Nicholson, Jean Cauble and Michelle Wingo
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Left to right: Otis Jones, E. Lee Coble, Marcus Newsome, Greg Hillman and Larry Murphy

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