



FALL 2020

THE VISIONARY

Quarterly Newsletter for the Mothers



BUSINESS NEWS

Mothers Meetings

The new program year was faced with unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mothers were prepared to continue on with monthly meetings that addressed issues at hand from virtual classrooms at home, the importance of breast cancer screenings, and fund our philanthropic efforts.

[Read more on page 2](#)

ACTIVITIES

Groupwide Programming

The Fall Event Planning Committee kicked off the new year with an evening of games, goodies, and good vibes. Then the holiday season ushered in the MVP 12 Days of Christmas filled with activities and community service initiatives for each grade group. Festivities reached a high at the MVP Holiday Party with a live DJ and even a visit from Santa Claus.

[Highlights start on page 2](#)

CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

Grade Group Programs

Full STEAM ahead for the October grade group host moms who produced interactive and fun science and technology activities. November we engaged our children with their civic duties through programming focused on such areas as the voting process, learning about pioneers of civic advocacy and challenging their knowledge through virtual games.

[Full story on page 4](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS | EVENTS

February 12, 2021 - Virtual Massage Classes

February 15, 2021 - BSU Stuff A Pantry

February 27, 2021 - Educational, HBCU,
Greek Life Webinar

February 28, 2021 - Mothers Meeting

March 17, 2021 - Spring Cleaning Tips

March 28, 2021 - Mothers Meeting

MOTHERS MEETING

Falling Into Our New Norm

During our September Meeting, Moms kicked off the new program year with a Back to School celebration. 83% of Moms participated via Zoom! We began with Breakout rooms to discuss our Back to School experiences. The topics that were discussed included setting up virtual classrooms at home and preparing to support our children throughout the school year.

In October, Moms recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink attire and adorning their personal spaces with pink accents. We hosted special guest Teisha Boulter who is a Breast Cancer Survivor.

Ms. Boulter shared her Breast Cancer journey and educated us about the importance of regular screening. Ms. Boulter's story was inspirational and prompted a few moms to schedule their screenings.

73% of Moms were present and we voted on a recommendation from the executive board for a \$100 assessment toward our philanthropic work. We also reviewed and voted on 7 Amendments to the MVP bylaws.

Our November Zoom Meeting commenced with 92% of Moms present during our final Mother's Meeting of 2020. We began the

meeting by giving thanks to one another and the love of MVP! We hosted a special guest, Ms. Katrina Adams, from the March of Dimes (MOD). Ms. Adams shared details about the MOD programming and discussed a variety of ways that MVP could partner with the MOD.

We closed our meeting with a Joy and Love Fest that highlighted our pride in making it through the past nine months. 2020 was a tough year for many of our Moms, but we stuck it out together and for that we honor one another and we are Grateful!

GROUPWIDE PROGRAMMING

Swag Surfing on Family Game Night

Fall Family Game was our first virtual groupwide event, and proved to be an awesome experience for everyone. Event Chairs Monica Miller and Johanna Hogans, along with the Fall Event Planning Committee, hosted fun games such as Kahoot!, a virtual Scavenger Hunt, Minute to Win It, and Quarantine Bingo. We started the evening with music, family selfies, and MVP Family Game Night Snack boxes. Prizes were awarded to families that won each game. We ended the night with some great virtual swag surfing and doing the Wobble! Kudos to our Event Planning Committee: Monica Miller & Johanna Hogans-co chairs, Jenene Lee, Jenny Jones, Benity Brunache-Sewell, Lanell Perry, Traci Cutler, Carmen Kelly, Nicole Gardner, Tara Burgdolf, and Maranda Anderson. Special thanks to Stacy Carter, Technology Chair, for supporting the committee and families in executing such a wonderful event.

We ushered in the Holiday Season with the MVP 12 Days of Christmas, filled with celebrations, festivities and thanksgiving for making it through 2020 as an organization and as a family. The MVP 12 Days of Christmas allowed our children and families to learn and enjoy each other, give to those in need and come together to reflect on the past year, while looking forward to the year ahead. Some of the event highlights included:

MVP Secret Santa

Interested moms participated in the MVP Secret Santa. Moms provided gifts for their Secret Santa families and surprised them with wonderful goodies to brighten up their holiday season.

12 Days of Christmas

The MVP 12 Days of Christmas included a robust Calendar of events. The December Event Committee planned wonderful activities for grade groups as well as the entire group. All events were available via Zoom. The following events were part of our awesome month-long celebration. The events

in Bold indicate our Groupwide events for the month.

- Wednesday, December 9th- Ugly Sweater Event
- **Friday, December 11th- Pancakes & Pajamas Event**
- Saturday, December 12th- Cookie Decorating
- Sunday, December 13th- Gingerbread House Decorating
- **Monday, December 14th- Door Decorating Contest**
- Tuesday, December 15th- Kiss the Cook Baking Event

- Wednesday, December 16th- Storytime with Mrs. Claus & Mommy
- **Sunday, December 20th- MVP Holiday Party**

During our Pancakes & Pajamas Event, Dads cooked with their kids and Moms showed off their tablescapes! Families also won door prizes throughout the night. We kicked off our event with meditation led by our Chaplain Frances Carter Johnson, followed by Teen Chaplain Elliott Daniels. Families took selfies in matching pajamas sets and we had 4 Daddy/Daughter teams share their favorite pancake recipes with the rest of our group. A Special thanks goes out to:

- Anthony & Sydney Harris
- Frank Calhoun Sr. & Jr.
- Luther Sewell III & IV
- Curtis & Ivy Valentine

Congratulations to The Valentine family for winning the best pancake recipe contest! We also played games such as Family Feud and completed a holiday word scramble. Kids created and shared their family holiday ornaments. Dad Russell Cash offered a parting prayer for all families and we concluded the celebration dancing together.

(more Family Game Night on page 3)

Family Game Night (cont'd)

Congratulations are in order for our Door Decorating Contest winners!

- 1st Place Summer Johnson & Family
- 2nd Place Candace Peebles & Family
- 3rd Place Kimberly Mathews & Family

Our MVP Holiday Party served as our culminating event with music by DJ Joe Peebles. MVP Moms prepared a beautiful presentation of all of our events including photos of the wonderful service activities our children and families conducted, family fun events that our children shared, and celebrations we took part in all month. Our Hostess with the Mostess, Mom Kimberly Marcus, shared our grade group community service and groupwide events that celebrated the accomplishments of MVP throughout this year, while reflecting on the obstacles we have endured. Families communicated via video, greetings depicting what they were grateful for and children enjoyed time with Santa Clause while telling him what they truly wanted for Christmas.

Here is a glimpse of the service projects we fulfilled during the MVP 12 Days of Christmas.

Sprinkles of Joy and Cheer to a Deployed Veteran Family

*Operation Christmas Child Excited with Glee
Christmas Cards for Prince George's Families
New Toys to Deserving families*

The Opportunity to Fill the Bowie State Pantry

Special thanks to the December Event Planning Committee: Kimberly Marcus & Yolanda Thomas (co-chairs), Benity Brunache-Sewell, MerKeisha McKnight, Rashida Cohen, Era Calhoun, Yasmine Bradshaw, Terralon Knight, Delisa Coleman and Toni Jones for executing a wonderful month of events. Kudos to the Tech Committee for all of their support- Stacy Carter, Alesha Hernandez, and Monica Miller.



GG1 - Future Medical Doctors

In October, our Grade Group 1 Future Medical Doctors, hosted by Alesha Hernandez and Ebonee Thrower, skipped straight from preschool to medical school. They presented The Little Medical School of Maryland. Children donned personalized lab coats as they x-rayed their hands and examined the parts of the eye, heart, lung, and other body systems. They also explored how Covid-19 affects the body.

November concluded a dynamic campaign season and the children of MVP were prepared and ready to fulfill one of our basic civic duties! Mom Benity Sewell hosted Grade Group 1 activities and Moms supported the GG1 Raise Your Voice campaign. The children cast their votes in très adorbs political costume and proved that one is never too young for political engagement!



GG2 - Intro to Astronomy with Professor Julien



In October, Grade Group 2 enjoyed activities with Professor Julien, a current high school and George Washington University student who is also an explainer for the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum. Host Moms Sabine Balzora, Kimberly Matthews, and Kerrien Suarez supported our budding astrophysicists as they explored space, time and the motion of celestial bodies from the comforts of their own homes. They are now equipped with their Star Wheels and are ready to navigate the night sky!

Grade Group 2 also enjoyed an exciting hour of interactive learning on leadership and civic duty in the month of November. Dr. Carlene Reid, candidate for Ward 8 Member of the District of Columbia State Board of Education, explained the voting process and ways that children are able to get involved in their community and student government. GG2 learned why it is important to use their voices at an early age to facilitate change in their school, community, and abroad.

Children voted in a mock election and enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions about the process. As the activity adjourned, the children received an election activity and chapter book about a student election along with a cool leadership affirmation pencil to remind them of who they are.

GG3 - Wacky Science with Ms. Cristi



Moms Dasha Wilson, Pershelle Cambrell, and Stacy Carter hosted Grade Group 3 activities in October with STEM Science teacher and Cake War's two-time champion, Cristi Simmons. Children mixed secondary colors and made water defy gravity. They also tested their knowledge of energy absorption while whipping up ice cream in a bag. It was a fun dive into the Sciences for Grade Group 3.

The late Congressman John Lewis was a pioneer of civic advocacy and leadership who encouraged us to use our voices for good and to "make good trouble." In November, Grade

Group 3 followed his model to confidently use their voices with the direction and instruction of Greg Watkins who is a vocal coach. Mr. Watkins taught the children about the Four Keys to consider when learning to use their voices. These keys include: Practice, Confidence, Preparation, and Just Do It.

Mr. Keys taught the children a melody and allowed a few songbirds to use their voice to sing. The children also voted electronically and they used their voices to support their vote. The activities concluded with a rousing Kahoot game that reviewed the key points learned.

GG4 - STEAM Yak Attack

Grade Group 4 kicked off October with a STEAM activity. Moms Stephanie Cornish, Robin Brown, Lukisha Gibbs, Segayle Thompson, Sharmeen Ferrell, and Tracy Cutler hosted Coding with BitBox for Kids. Children had a Yak Attack as they coded (programmed) a virtual yak, making it dance and change to snow.

In November, Grade Group 4 played virtual games, Argument Wars and Represent Me on the iCivics website. They flexed their civics knowledge by playing Bingo with facts from the iCivics games. Bingo winners received \$25.00 gift cards and all of the children received a gift bag that included custom bingo cards, snacks, and the book, "We Rise, We Resist, We Raise our Voices".



THE CORNER MVP TEENS

MVP Teens Giving Back

While COVID-19 kept us at home, our teens were busy and in good trouble during the fall months. MVP teens met virtually in September to discuss the individual goals they set for themselves to start the 2020-21 school year. Teens enjoyed bonding and playing Two Truths and a Lie. They connected and had an enjoyable time. It was a great way to begin the school year.

MVP teens enjoyed fellowship with peers during the Teen Sip and Craft Election Reflection activity in November. They were fully engaged with the 2020 Presidential Election and appreciated the opportunity to unwind, speak freely, and express themselves regarding the election. They also asked questions regarding the voting process. The event included election conversations and candid reflections from the teens. The teens participated in trivia questions, there were prizes, and lots of FUN!

MVP teens participated in an Annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution. Considering that we have experienced challenges during this year, our teens were up early,

ready to give back to their community. They partnered with Project Giveback Community Service Organization to assemble food boxes with an array of fresh fruits, veggies, sides, and turkeys for families in need. MVP teens brought along their families to take part in giving back to those less fortunate. Our teens braved the cold while packing over 2500 Thanksgiving boxes for families in need.

The teens wrapped up the calendar year by organizing the MVP Teen Toy Drive for children ages 5-12. MVP teens donated 15 toys to the Housing Authority of Prince George's County to ensure that the children enjoyed a fun-filled Christmas.



CHAPLAIN

Inspiration

Our MVP Beloved Community of Mothers and Families grew and flourished through weekly prayer calls and a praise and prayer message group. In addition to the weekly prayer calls, special prayers sessions included Dads and children. Such topics of prayer were virtual school and closing out the year on New Years' Eve. Through praying and growing spiritually together, our friendships have not weakened during one of the most unprecedented times. Instead, the love and the bonds of friendship, fellowship, and family have grown stronger.

We are thankful for each other and our families as well as the increased strength and spiritual focus we have experienced. We know that individual and collective strength will sustain us and make our families and community stronger. For this strength and comfort, we are grateful. In the midst of it all, we continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

*- Francis Carter-Johnson
MVP Chaplain*

Community Service

In September, MVP started the 2020-2021 program year by intentionally impacting children in our community. On Tuesday, September 22, 2020 we impacted 20% of the 500 children in care by donating over 100 backpacks to the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, Foster Care & Adoptions. The backpacks were stuffed with items to assist children with virtual learning as well as items that were donated by Alluzion Designs to protect against COVID-19. Our donation efforts equipped over 100 children from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade with the tools necessary to successfully start the school year.



During the month of October MVP Moms served our community by supporting early voters during the 2020 historic general election. MVP logged over 30 hours of service from October 26 through November 2, 2020 during our Poll Volunteer initiative. MVP families showed pride in the community by providing water and snacks to voters and poll workers across Prince George's County as they fulfilled their civic duty.



MVP families donated over 1,000 cans, logged 125 service hours, and ultimately impacted over 2,000 families for the "We Canned Hunger" initiative. On Sunday, November 22, 2020, 13 MVP teens, mothers, and fathers participated in Project GiveBack. Families sorted food items, built boxes, filled them with food items and delivered food baskets to less fortunate families within our community.



In preparation for Project GiveBack, MVP members hosted a grade group pound challenge to raise a minimum of 200 canned foods per group to be donated to Project GiveBack. Grade Group 4 donated over 1,100 canned food and walked away with the coveted "We Canned Hunger" award!

MVP partnered with Girls' Night Out (GNO) by Shawn Yancy to achieve the goal of diminishing food insecurities during the Thanksgiving holiday. Twenty catered meals to transitioning veteran families and families within Prince George's County public housing were delivered. Through our efforts, MVP and GNO continue to provide families with a sense of peace during an unprecedented time.



In December, MVP continued its partnership with the Prince George's House Men's Shelter and delivered over 35 Blessing Bags during the holiday season. The 2nd Annual Blessing Bag delivery provided MVP an opportunity to continue to impact residents of our community. The bags were stuffed with hygiene products as well as Personal Protective Equipment to provide protection against COVID-19.

In partnership with GNO, MVP presented over 100 toys to families within the Housing Authority of Prince George's County. MVP Teens served as elves during the toy distribution! GNO also provided over \$500 in monetary contributions to fulfill Christmas Wishlists for families who receive public housing!



MVP's goal of providing One Warm Coat to an underserved child was fulfilled by donations from GNO. Due to GNO's generous donation we were able to keep over 20 children within the care of Prince George's Department of Social Services, Foster Care warm this winter!

MVP POWER Brunch

RECOGNIZING POWERFUL MOTHERS WITH
SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

On September 27, 2020 more than 100 MVP Moms and their guests joined the Power Brunch to celebrate the contributions of Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Tiffany Green, Cheryl Petty Garnette, and Tonia Wellons to the Prince George's County Community. Broadcast journalist Taylor Thomas was a gracious Mistress of Ceremonies, leading the honorees in an engaging discussion of how they balance the demands of high-power careers and motherhood amidst the pandemic.

Taylor awarded several door prizes that were generously donated by MVP Moms, and crowned MVP Mom Monica Miller winner of the afternoon's Opulent Hat Contest. Entertainment was provided by MVP children Christian Austin (violinist), Channing Pidgeon (spoken word), and Mackenzie Perry (spoken word). Channing and Mackenzie,

along with Ashley Anderson also introduced honorees.

Technology Chair Stacy Carter created a wonderful "MVP Movie" screened during brunch, summarizing the group's activities and contributions to the community since its inception. MVP Moms and guests prepared festive tablescapes, dressed in purple attire, and gorgeous hats/fascinators and enjoyed brunch and fellowship. It was an enjoyable affair that the committee planned and executed in sisterhood!

The well-kept secret of the afternoon was that Former President Maranda Anderson was honored with an MVP Award and received a warm video tribute from her family.

The Committee looks forward to hosting the Second Annual Power Brunch in fall 2021 and a Virtual Discussion on the COVID-19 Vaccine this spring.



TONIA WELLONS



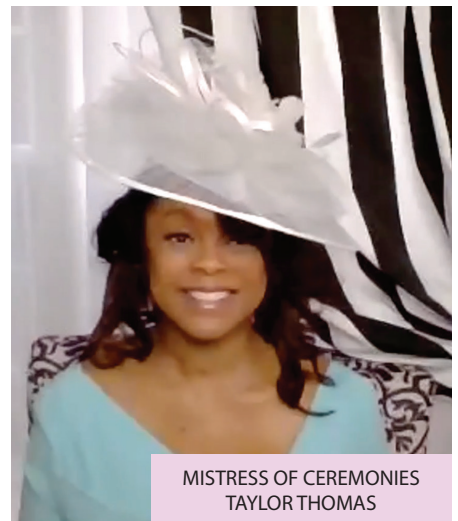
CHERYL PETTY GARNETTE



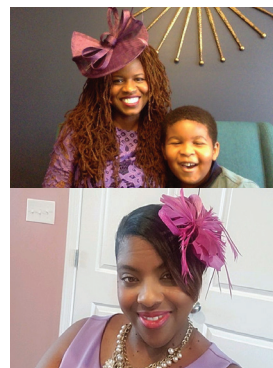
CHIEF TIFFANY GREEN



CEO DR. MONICA GOLDSON



MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES
TAYLOR THOMAS



Performing Our Civic Duty

On October 7, 2020, Mom Vetta Cash chaired the historic Vice Presidential Debate Party. Then candidate, Kamala Harris debated Vice President Mike Pence on critical questions such as the economy, race, education, and healthcare. A total of 30 Moms attended the interactive event, which included polling questions and a live chat discussion. During the event we played Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party Bingo, provided commentary, and enjoyed witnessing this significant event together from the comfort of our homes.

The Legislative Committee hosted Part II of the Women's Empower Voter Roundtable on October 8, 2020. Several local community advocates were invited to participate in the event. Delegate Julian Ivey (District 47A), Chonya Johnson (The 5 Minute Advocate), Monica Roebuck (Alternate Member of the MD State Board of Elections), and Gideon Epstein (Election Protection) served as our featured panelists.

The event was moderated by Mom Robin Brown and co-hosted by Chair Mom Benity Sewell and Co-Chair Mom Jenene Lee. Panelist discussed topics such as Question 2 on the ballot, advocacy, having a voting plan, and the importance of speaking up if we believe our rights have been violated while voting in person on Election Day. Moms left the event informed and empowered to encourage family members and friends to vote!

The Committee extends heartfelt grace, gratitude, and appreciation to all of the Moms for participating in this event and displaying a high level of engagement during this very important election year. We remained committed and involved throughout the election process by encouraging family members and friends to vote. We realized that this historical Presidential Election of 2020 served as the catalyst for ushering in the first woman and the first African American Vice-President of the United States.

Performing Our Civic Duty

MVP Moms and kids recognized Premature Birth Awareness Month in October by extending our philanthropic efforts during the giving season to the March of Dimes March for Babies. We accepted pledges for our team. This is our second year partnering with the March of Dimes and we look forward to extending our partnership in the years to come.

In November, our young philanthropist, ages 2-12, began their

Loose Change Initiative by collecting loose change to donate towards our annual foundation goals. This is an ongoing initiative that will commence through March 2021.

Our mothers made a significant impact on Small Business Saturday with our Black Businesses Matter event. MVP identified three black-owned businesses in Prince George's County and spent a collective total of \$964 at those businesses.

PARLIAMENTARIAN TIPS

In October we held our General Body meeting. The Mothers of MVP voted to approve several amendments to the Bylaws. If there are any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mom Katrell Jones-Bouie.

Parliamentary Procedure Basic Tips:

- Meetings –** Every meeting should have a start and end time.
- Agenda –** Every meeting should contain "Old" and/or "New Business" and each committee member should receive the agenda prior to the meeting.
- Call to Order –** The Chairperson must make sure a quorum is present before the meeting is called to order and any business is conducted.

4 Parts to a Motion:

1. Present Motion – Make a proposal, "I move..."
2. Second Motion – Express support for discussion of another member's motion, "I second the motion."
3. Debate Motion – The members will give opinions on the motion.
4. Vote on the Motion – The members will vote on the decision.



On Saturday, September 5th, Luther Sewell (GG2) and Jon Luke Sewell (GG1), hosted their first Lemonade stand to benefit families in need. Together the Sewell brothers, raised money to purchase canned goods and essential care items that will be donated to the Bowie Food Pantry. Mom Benity & Dad Luther are extremely proud of the boys' decision to dedicate a portion of their outdoor play time to serving others. Great job boys! The Foundation Committee salutes Luther and Jon Luke Sewell.

Staying Engaged

The Social Committee hosted two back to back Social events in October and November.

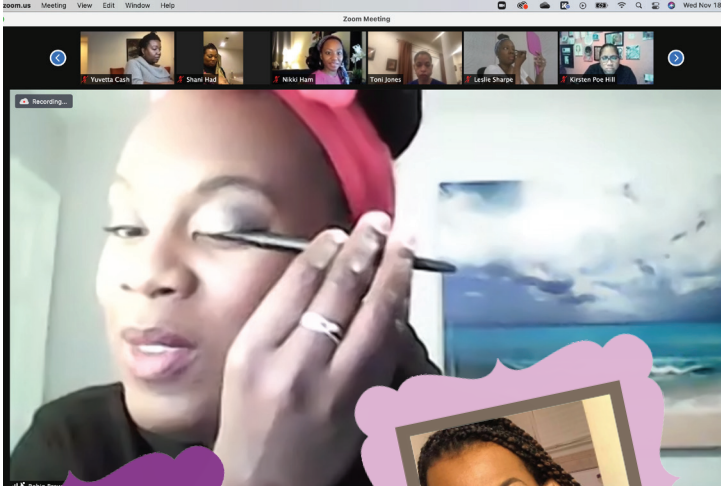
On October 24th, the committee invited Mom Lola Pyne of Oasis Soul Sent Co. to host a candle making workshop. 21 Moms purchased kits in preparation for the virtual event via zoom. There were scent recognition quizzes for a promo code as well as a trip down music memory lane as Mom Lola made connections between her candle scents and her love of music. Moms who were not able



to attend were provided with the recording in order to make their candles on their own. Moms who purchased kits were gifted a 15% promo code for their next purchase.

The social committee partnered with the legislative committee to host our General Election Night Watch Party on November 3, 2020. Moms collected their election night watch party bags complete with our new signature MVP glass and enjoyed trivia, laughs, angst and more laughs. Though we knew we would not know the result by the end of the event, we hung out until the very end to enjoy

THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST November 18, 2020



Moms received tips from The Hospitality Coach Mom Monica Miller and Make up Artist Mom Robin Brown shared her industry learned secrets. Check out the results!



one another's company. Thank You to Moms Shannon Anderson, Daphney Jackson, and Benity Sewell for hosting.

MVP Moms closed out the year on December 31, 2020 with New Year's Eve festivities coordinated by the social spiritual committee. Mom Shani Haden, Dad Storky Pittman, Teen Chaplin Elliott Daniels and MVP Chaplin Mom Frances Carter Johnson lead us in praise and worship, prayer, scripture, and moments of reflection for 2020. The spiritual committee facilitated discussions in breakout rooms and at the close welcomed members to give their life to Christ. The event closed as Ministers Moms Vetta Cash, Benity Sewell, and Victoria Pittman provided resources for children, moms, and dads to grow in their prayer life and their relationship with God.