



UMFS
CHAMPION

Fall 2021

CLASS ACT

*Students Lend a
Helping Hand*

*"It's more like a
family than a school."*



Senior year of high school is a time of contemplation, excitement, reflection, and transition. And in the case of Ms. Morris' seniors at the UMFS Charterhouse School in Richmond, senior year is also a time for generosity.

"A lot of the seniors are at a point they don't need full class schedules," Ms. Morris explained. But rather than sit idly by during their daily one-hour resource period, Ms. Morris' seniors asked if they could help out around campus. "It's so great, because they could just choose to sit here in class. Instead, they took an opportunity to contribute and to model for younger students by helping to take care of campus."

Each week, seniors take turns pairing up with a peer to collect recycling from buildings around UMFS' sprawling campus in Richmond. They check-in with UMFS Maintenance Supervisor Richard, who gives them keys to a golf cart and an ID card to access buildings. Then they're off.

Seniors Jaedyn and Sam look forward to their weekly recycling run and say it's time well spent. "My favorite part of it all is meeting different people and just helping out," Sam said.

"Taking a few minutes out of our day to help other people, it gives them time to do something else," Jaedyn added.

That sentiment is absolutely true, and Richard said the support is invaluable. "It frees us up and allows us to focus on other tasks," he said. "I really appreciate having their help. These kids are an asset to maintenance."

But the endeavor is so much more than just collecting recycling. "They're learning to use access badges appropriately, keys appropriately, and they're learning customer service," Ms. Morris said.

"It's great for the kids," Richard added. "I think it gives them a lot of pride. It gets them out of the classroom, and they're doing

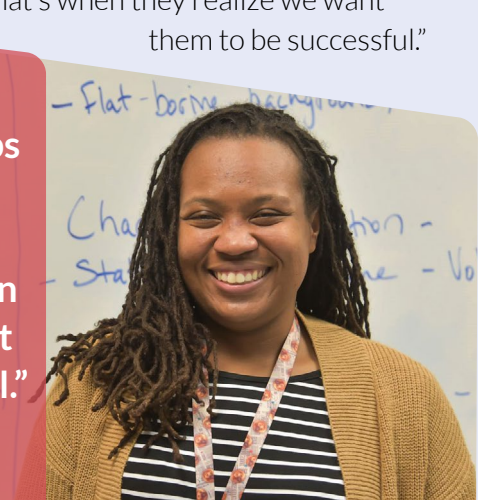
something very productive."

Jaedyn said collaborating with maintenance is just one of the many reasons Charterhouse School is such a great fit for her. "This is a hands-on experience," she said. "I enjoy the independence, and I have space to make my own decisions. The staff and the people here really help you out."

Ms. Morris beams when she speaks about her seniors, but she reminds us that when students first come to Charterhouse School, they're not always quite so motivated. "They're often determined not to do any work," Ms. Morris said with a smile. "But once they start building relationships and they see that everyone's rooting for them, that's when they realize we want them to be successful."

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— Ms. Morris



Sam couldn't agree more. The level of support and trust she's experienced in her two years at Charterhouse School has been phenomenal, she said. "The teachers know what's tough for us, but it's easy to communicate with them. I'll miss that."

"The staff and the people here really help you out."
— Jaedyn



And for Jaedyn, the four years she's been at Charterhouse School have provided a high school experience that exceeded her greatest expectations.

"It's more like a family than a school," Jaedyn said. ●

UMFS serves students with behavioral, emotional, and developmental challenges at our Charterhouse School locations in Edinburg and Richmond. We help students achieve their full potential through a curriculum that balances academics with the development of critical behavioral and social skills. Learn more at UMFS.org.

Remembering The Rev. Doug Hill, A Cherished Friend of UMFS

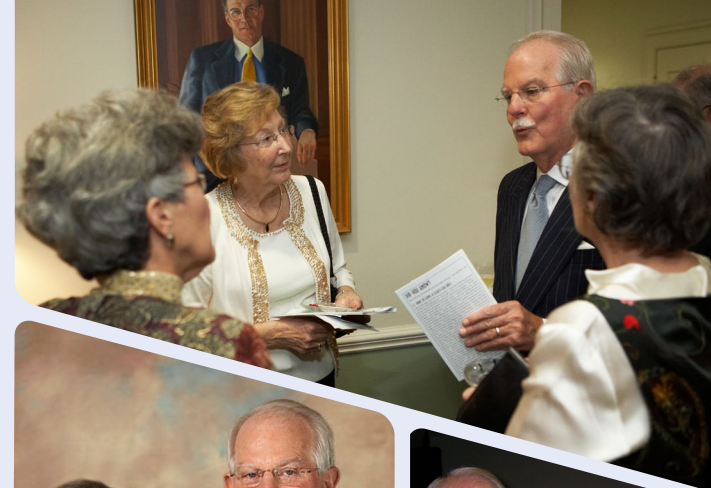
The UMFS community is mourning the loss of the Rev. L. Douglas Hill, who passed away on Sunday, September 26, at the age of 81. He was a staunch supporter of the children, teens, and families served by UMFS. Doug and Janet, his beloved wife of 59 years, contributed to UMFS' mission with generous monetary gifts, and they also provided foundational support that can't be quantified.

"Doug's love of UMFS was just a part of his DNA," said former UMFS board member Betty Forbes. "He challenged all of us to carry the torch forward for our children and families." And through the years, Doug did just that: he carried the torch as a member of the Resource Development Committee, the Be a Champion Capital Campaign Committee, and as a member of the

UMFS and Guardian Place boards. Doug was certainly beloved throughout the UMFS community, and his impact extended well beyond. He dedicated 42 years of service to the United Methodist Church as a pastor and as District Superintendent, making a lasting impact in the lives of so many people across the Virginia Conference.

"Doug was a real connector in the community," said Greg Peters, the immediate past President of UMFS and a friend of the Hills for more than 40 years. "Just a true advocate and unwavering champion."

"What a loss for UMFS and all of the Virginia Methodist Conference," Betty said. "There will never be another Doug Hill — such a special person who carried his love of God and the Church everywhere with him."



To read more about the incredible generosity of the Rev. Doug Hill, visit UMFS.org/blog.