

United for Justice Walking Trail

*An art & activism project sponsored by **Media Fellowship House**, **Media-Providence Friends School**, **Media Friends Meeting**, **Providence Friends Meeting** & the **Sandy Banks Burial Ground Committee***

A community collaboration began in the spirit of Black Lives Matter following George Floyd's murder by police in 2020. The purpose of UNITED FOR JUSTICE is to act on issues of Social Justice. With a strong belief in building and caring for diverse communities, we have installations in four Media locations for those who want to reflect on social justice and peace-building. Plaques in each site honor Black people killed by police. United for Justice aims to build compassion for the families affected.

these Black individuals and ask that you take a moment to reflect on their lives also. Our shared voices and actions can prevent future gun violence.

"It has been a privilege to bring together four distinct organizations in Media whose missions include working for justice in our community. To connect Media-Providence Friends School faculty and students, under the care of two Friends Meetings, with Media Fellowship House has felt

Annual
Giving Report
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mpfs.org/annual-report



Aiyana Mo'Nay Stanley Jones

Aiyana Stanley Jones was only seven years old when she was shot and killed by the Detroit Police Department's Special Response Team on May 16, 2010. Aiyana was sleeping in the living room near her grandmother when the team burst into the wrong door, one officer shot Aiyana on sight. The officer who killed her claimed that her grandmother had tried to grab or hit the gun in his hand, causing it to fire. However, Aiyana's grandmother had said she was not near the door when the tragedy took place. I painted Aiyana's portrait with bright colors to represent her youth and spirit, along with the future that she should have had, but was taken from her at a very young age.

-Artist: Addison May Irwin.

In 2023, as the number of Black people killed by police officers continued to rise, Eighth Graders at MPFS created art to celebrate and illuminate the lives of some who have been killed. These works of art are shared at mpfs.org/united-for-justice. Each comes with a short biography of the person who lost their life. In keeping with Media Fellowship House's philosophy of treating all people with the respect and dignity they deserve, and in living out this testimony at MPFS, the student artists honor and value

deeply rewarding," writes Laura Taylor, who is one of the project organizers and served as a full-time guidance counselor at Media-Providence Friends School for over twenty years.

"One of our hopes has been to showcase our collective commitment to find worth in every human being, no matter what their circumstances. This initiative came to me

UNITED FOR JUSTICE... | *Continued on page 6*

LETTER FROM The Associate Head of School

Dear Friends,

We received our 2022-23 Listening Campaign Summary Report from Philly Children's Movement (PCM) at the end of the summer. To learn more, visit mpfs.org/JEDI.

MPFS has a long and rich history of commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, what today we call our **Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Mission**. And we continue to work hard on this mission. This is ongoing work, both reflective and pragmatic. That cycle is imperative. This work is never done, only improved upon.

As Philly Children's Movement stated in our Listening Campaign Report (i.e. our JEDI progress report),

"MPFS has demonstrated a clear and ongoing commitment to a cycle of reflection and action."

We are committed to the work yet to be done. This is what the SPICES (Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Equality & Stewardship/Service) are all about. We will continue updating our community with this ongoing reflection as we work towards our JEDI mission, and our mission and vision as a school community.

If you have any questions about our JEDI program, or any aspect of our current programming, please feel free to reach out to me



Angela DiMaria

Associate Head of School and
Director of Admissions & Program

at adimaria@mpfs.org. The MPFS Admissions Office is currently accepting applications on a rolling basis for students age 2 - grade 8. Prospective families are invited to register for our next live Virtual Open House at mpfs.org/rsvp.

In Friendship,

Angela DiMaria
Associate Head of School

Corporate matching gift programs in support of MPFS

Corporate employee matching gifts offer the opportunity to turn one dollar donated by a match-eligible employee into two, three, four, or even five dollars for MPFS! Though these programs have become widespread, many donors aren't aware of their match eligibility. We want to work with our donors to claim some of the \$4-7 billion in matching gift revenue left on the table yearly.

The specifics of these programs vary from company to company, but the elements that shape these guidelines are always the same:

- **Match ratio:** This defines what kind of donation the company will make per the employee's initial contribution. A 1:1 ratio indicates that the company will donate the same amount, doubling the gift to the employee's chosen nonprofit.
- **Minimum and maximum:** The minimum refers to the amount an employee must donate to qualify for a matching gift. The maximum is the total amount a company will donate annually to matching contributions per employee.

CORPORATE MATCHING... | Continued on page 3

- **Employee status:** Sometimes, the employee’s role at the company can affect the match they qualify for. For example, Gap Inc. offers a \$1,000 maximum to part-time employees and a \$10,000 maximum to Senior VPs.
- **Nonprofit eligibility:** Some programs offer different matches based on the nonprofit being donated to. ExxonMobil offers a higher match for donations made to educational institutions than those made to cultural organizations.
- **Deadline:** Every program identifies a deadline when the employee must submit the matching gift request. This deadline can be a firm date or a threshold based on the initial donation date.

The impact of these programs can be substantial! For example, did you know over 18 million employees work for companies with matching gift programs? You might be one of them.

You can increase the impact of your gift for MPFS by searching for your match eligibility and gaining access to detailed information about your employer’s corporate giving program by searching our database of companies with matching gift programs. mpfs.org/support/matching-gifts

ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

2022-23 MPFS Fund by the Numbers

TOTAL: **\$99,011** • DONORS: **273** • GIFTS: **336** • FIRST-TIME DONORS: **67**

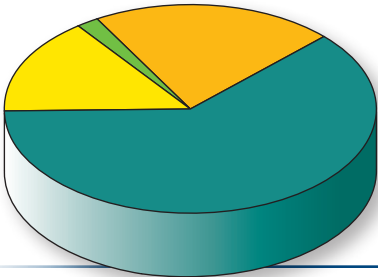
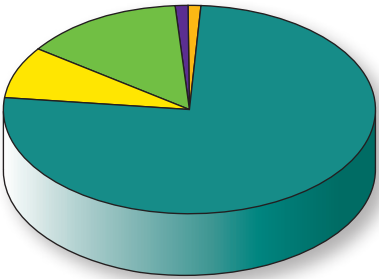
*We thank our Trustees, Faculty, and Staff for giving with 100% participation.
Help us achieve 100% participation all around in 2023-24.*

2022-23 Special Donations beyond MPFS Fund

TOTAL: **\$348,821** • DONORS: **8**

INCOME

- Tuition **76%**
- Auxiliary Programs (camp, gym rentals) **8%**
- Fundraising **14%**
- Interest Income **1%**
- Other **1%**



EXPENSES

- Student Instruction & Financial Aid **60%**
- Facility **15%**
- Auxiliary Programs **3%**
- Administration **22%**

A full list of our supporters is available at mpfs.org/annual-report. Visit mpfs.org/friends-collaborative to view the 2022-23 Impact Report for The Friends Collaborative and our participation in this tax credit program providing financial aid to students at MPFS and across PA.



NEW BOARD MEMBER: Rich Hoffmann

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Powelton Village in West Philadelphia, and then our family moved to Narberth when I was in sixth grade.

Tell us about your family (significant other, children, pets etc.)

Teacher Holly (editor's note:

current fourth grade teacher at MPFS, with over 20 years under her belt as a beloved MPFS teacher) and I have been married for 25 years, but are high school sweethearts and have been together for 32 years. We have three alumni children: Casper, '17, Sylvie, '20 and Lucas, '23. We also have a four-year-old Golden Pyrenees named Zelda.

What is your education? Occupation?

I went to a Catholic school for eight years (Waldron Mercy Academy) and then to The Haverford School for high school, where I discovered that I wanted to be an artist. I earned my BFA in film from New York University, and have been running my own small video production company, 215 Timelapse, for the last 25 years.

Please explain your connection to Quakerism and/or your Quaker background?

My first exposure to Quakerism was attending Friends China Camp, an overnight camp in China Lakes, Maine during my middle school years. I loved the good vibes of the camp, and in addition to Meeting for Worship (sometimes around a campfire), we did something called Vespers, where we sat quietly in a field and watched the sunset. This was very different from my Catholic upbringing, and I felt a more direct experience of Spirit that really resonated with me.

Why did you send your children to MPFS? How has MPFS impacted your life and that of your children?

When Holly was first offered the job teaching at MPFS, I encouraged her to take it because of my experience at Friends China camp. She accepted the role as first grade teacher, and immediately fell in love with the school. I saw how hard she and the other teachers worked, and how much love they put into their students' education. When Casper was born, we knew that MPFS was the place we wanted to send him and our other children. Holly's decision to teach here really was one of the best choices we've made in our entire lives.

What do you think are MPFS' greatest strengths?

I believe MPFS' greatest strengths are its small and supportive community of caring people, and its commitment

to recognizing the inner Light of all students and faculty. Conflicts can and do happen in every community, but at MPFS, they are handled with tenderness towards a peaceful resolution. It is a safe school – not just from a security standpoint – but a safe place for people to be themselves, and that brings out the best in everyone.

What initially drew you to MPFS?

Holly met former Head of School Ginny Christensen at a teachers' conference when she was still a Master's student at Sarah Lawrence College. Ginny encouraged her to apply for a position, and I accompanied Holly on the interview trip, during which I walked around Media. Back in 1998, Media didn't yet have a Trader Joe's, and only a handful of restaurants, but it still had a charming atmosphere that was very welcoming – just like the school when I first walked into it!

What strikes you most about the MPFS community?

There is nothing more striking than the quality of human beings that graduate from MPFS. When you attend graduation and hear them speak, I feel hopeful for the future. They are not just well educated academically, they also possess extraordinary emotional intelligence. They know themselves, and care about the wider community. The graduates are the true testament to all of the love and hard work that students, faculty, and parents put into this school.

What do you hope to bring to the Board of Trustees?

As a Member of Media Friends Meeting, I hope that I can help build a better understanding and more partnerships with the school and Providence Meeting. As a parent of three alumni, I would love to find ways to help keep alumni connected to the school.

What goals do you have for the Board of Trustees?

I hope that I can help MPFS continue to shine its Light to the wider community so that more people become aware of this incredible school.

Interests? Hobbies? Volunteer activities?

I love to make films and art, garden, play games, rock climb, box, hike, paint, sing, listen to music, watch movies, see friends, and have new adventures. Through Media Friends Meeting, I help organize the bi-monthly Meals for the Life Center program, and volunteer with the Friends of Glen Providence Park, helping to put on four free concerts every summer.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!



Class of 2023 High School Decisions:

Chase Angiulo	Archbishop Carroll
Geneiva Auguste	Westtown
Faith Byard-Moore	Cardinal O'Hara
Adam Hardy	Strath Haven
Lucas Hoffmann	Friends Central
Addison Irwin	Strath Haven
Charles Manley	Cardinal O'Hara
Kourtney Moore	Friends Central
Jada Pierre	Cardinal O'Hara
Chloe Shuster	Penncrest
Charles Spahr	Garnet Valley
Tristen Williams	Bonner/Prendie

Class of 2019 College Decisions:

Noah Boyd

Towson University

Major: Psychology with hopes of going to grad school to become a psychologist.

"Sing them happy!"



Soleil Morrison

LaSalle University

Major: Psychology

82% Athletic Scholarship (Track)



Manny Castro

Columbia College Chicago

Major: Music Production and Audio Arts



Simon Muther

Ursinus College

Major: Undeclared



Jackelin Gonzalez

Penn State University

Major: Pre-Med



Jenn Taylor

Eastern University

Major: Biology



Hope Lane

Connecticut College

Major: Elementary Education

Sport, Swimming



as a ‘leading’ – to create meaning and empathy out of our collective sorrow. George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, once said ‘I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness,’” writes Taylor. “We can all be empowered activists who aim to move forward in the direction of a more just society, one in which each person’s Light and love may shine.”

You’re Invited: A Walking/Driving Tour of the Social Justice Trail

To bring this project to our wider community, all of the project’s sponsors are joining together on Sunday, November 12, any time between 12:00-3:00 PM for a Walking/Driving Tour of the Social Justice Trail (rain date: November 19). Hosts at each site have many options: provide stories, history, current and past social justice activities, tours, refreshments, open Q&As, and more.

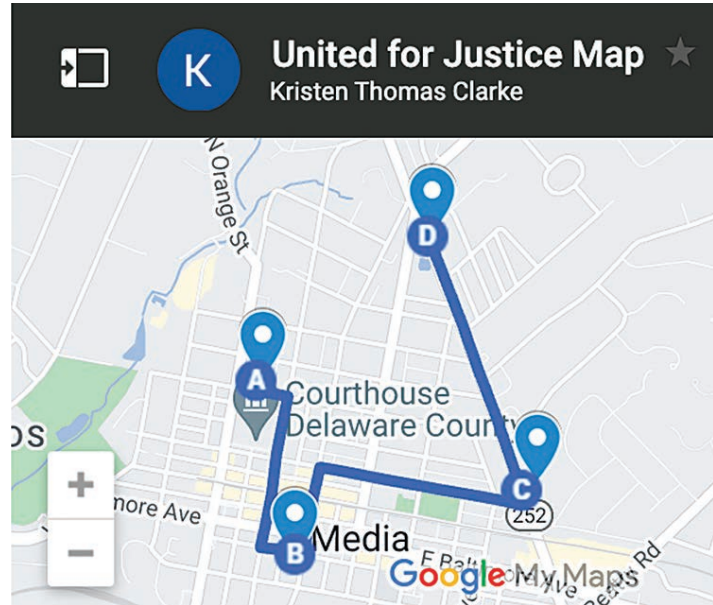
“Media-Providence Friends School students will continue to add to this project, bringing history to light, painful as it may be, in order to educate and to further the healing of past wrongs,” writes Taylor. “The United for Justice Walking Trail allows anyone to meditate and self-reflect at any of the five sites. The plaque’s QR Code provides historical information and video linking our organizations, student art, and short biographies of blacks who have been killed by police, plus a map to follow to reach each site.”

Our History of Social Justice:

In 1937, the Media Friends School Committee enrolled a Black child, Lances McKnight. A school statement made it clear that the Quakers held strongly to the testimonies of equality and the worth of every individual. There was the expected backlash from the parent community but Media Friends stayed true to their beliefs and justice prevailed.

In 1943, Dorothy Biddle James, a white woman and longtime member of Media Friends Meeting, and a Media Friends School Social Committee Clerk– witnessed another injustice when two Black women, Marie Whitaker and her sister, were not being served at a restaurant on the corner of State & Olive Streets in Media. Dorothy’s grandfather, the courageous abolitionist Thomas Garrett, had passed on his spirit of standing for justice to Dorothy. She and her friend

chose to leave the restaurant and invite the Whitakers to join them for a meal elsewhere. The next year, these four women founded Media Fellowship House, believing that strength comes from diversity, that opposing hate and racism is critical, and that it is imperative to afford each person respect and dignity. Media Fellowship House and Media-Providence Friends School continue to do the work of social justice to build community.



RESOURCES:

Locations of plaques + current contact info for each site

SBBG: Plaque attached to wooden signs at two entrances
Suzanne & Bob Redfern

PMM Burial Grounds: Baritone Wind Chimes by
Plaque on Stake
Meg Barney

MMM/MPFS: Peace Pole with Plaque adjacent
Rich Hoffmann, Janet Nicholson

Media Fellowship House: Staked Plaque on lawn
Amy Komarnicki

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@mediaprovidencefriendsschool



@media.providence.friends



TEACHER INTERVIEW: **Maggie Greening****Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Cheltenham township, Elkins Park specifically.

Significant other? Children? Pets?

My husband's name is Jack. I have three children: Edie (age 6), Fran (age 3, MPFS Class of 2034) and Gust (age 2, MPFS Class of 2035). We used to have a Boston Terrier, and we would love to get another dog soon!

Interests? Hobbies? Volunteer activities? Summer activities?

I used to like running, before I had three kids. I keep saying I'm going to pick that up again – time will tell.

My family went to Hilton Head for a week and we spent a few weeks down the shore in August. My older two children enjoyed Summer Friends camp at MPFS and we also spent a lot of time at our pool.

Where do you reside?

I live in Media across the street from MPFS.

Your education [names of college(s), degree(s)]?

I have a BS in Elementary Ed from Penn State University.

Prior jobs (teaching or otherwise)?

I taught third grade for two years at St. Ignatius school in West Philadelphia. Next, I taught toddlers for five years at Gladwyne Montessori. I spent the next three years at The School in Rose Valley, teaching preschool and kindergarten. I took a year off after having my third baby, and then found my way to MPFS.

Why did you choose teaching as a profession?

I love child development. I think it's fascinating how kids grow and change – some development is unique to each child, but other changes happen across all children. It's amazing to foster development as well as watch it grow.

How long have you been teaching? at MPFS?

The 2022-23 school year was my first year!

Why did you choose MPFS?

Truthfully, I live across the street and was looking at job postings for a few years before working here. When the toddler program job was posted, I quickly applied having a lot of experience with this age group. I love the Quaker ideals and think the school is truly educating and supporting the growth of the whole child.

What do you think are MPFS' greatest strengths?

The faculty is so warm and supportive. I could tell the summer before I started with how welcoming everyone was. I know the whole community must feel that warmth.

What are some of the ways you prepare the students for the next level in their education?

Because I work with the youngest age group, preschool age 2s, we don't specifically teach the Quaker testimonies, but we do talk a lot about community and how



to be a good community member. We talk about how good community members tell what's real, clean up and check in with their friends. I think these are important lessons for their entire education, as well as their life.

To prepare for their academic education, we expose them to pre-literacy skills. They track from left to right, they listen to stories and they are exposed to writing and reading with letter writing and labeling their paintings. For pre-math skills, we work on rote counting and one to one correspondence when friends help set up lunch and snack. For example, one lunch box goes with one chair and one water. If you were to walk into our classroom, it's going to look mainly like play, but there is a lot of rich academic experiences and exposure for our earliest learners.



MEDIA - PROVIDENCE

Friends School

125 W. Third Street
Media, PA 19063

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Media, PA
Permit No. 842

IMPORTANT DATES:

Family Movie Night
November 10

**Family Move-Up for current
Kindergarten - Grade 5 Families**
November 16

United for Justice Walking Tour
November 12 (rain date: November 19)

Kindergarten - Grade 5 Winter Concert
December 6

Virtual Admissions Open House
December 15

610.565.1960
mpfs.org

STEAM Week focuses on an overarching topic and incorporates each aspect of STEAM into this project-based exploration. Students age three through grade eight participated in this year's STEAM Week focused on Renewable Energy. Topics studied included how energy is created, renewable resources as an important part of solving the climate crisis, ways to upcycle items to reduce waste, and how to build simple machines such as windmills, solar ovens, and even solar toy cars!

