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THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

T R A N S F O R M I N G



ALUMNI WORK TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF RIVER CITY RESIDENTS



Q&A WITH BOARD CHAIR

SERVICE LEARNING BY DESIGN

Collegiate School



SERVING YOUTH IN CRISIS

Claiborne Mason '78 is a true Renaissance woman.

She graduated from Davidson College as an economics major and went on to have a long career in marketing and advertising. After retiring in 2004 and spending eight years out of the workforce, Ms. Mason began consulting for nonprofit organizations throughout Richmond, as well as serving on several boards. She served as interim CEO for United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg until she found her more permanent home as president of Virginia Home for Boys and Girls (VHGB).

"I've sort of zigged and zagged in my career, but I landed in a really good spot that was right for me at the time in my life when I went back into the working world," Ms. Mason said. "It was where I felt I needed to be. It's a wonderful organization. The children we serve come from truly dire circumstances and have endured abuse that is unimaginable for any child."

The Virginia Home for Boys and Girls is a group home that serves youth in crisis in the Richmond area by providing a safe and nurturing alternative to foster homes when none are appropriate or available. The Home hosts an onsite K-12 school and a clinic where therapists support children's mental health needs. Re-integration with the community,

and sometimes with their families, is VHGB's end goal for the youths in the organization's care, as well as ensuring they have the tools to thrive.

Ms. Mason felt called to work for nonprofits after she realized how gratifying it was to help an organization by using the skills she learned in her previous career. Having sent both of her children to Collegiate (Elizabeth '09 and Jay '16), she's thrilled that the School continues to make community service an important part of the curriculum.

"I think modern-day Collegiate, the Collegiate that my children attended, has put such a wonderful emphasis on giving back and on the responsibility that we, as people who have the ability to give, really have to our communities," Ms. Mason said. "I think Collegiate does a wonderful job of underscoring that from a very early age."

– Madelyne Ashworth '13