

# THE STAIR SPOTLIGHT

A Monthly Newsletter from STAIR-Annapolis



## WELCOME, DENI HENSON!

STAIR-Annapolis is pleased to announce the addition of Deni Henson to our Board of Directors.

As an engaged community advocate in the greater Annapolis area, Deni comes to STAIR with a desire to impact the lives of local students. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Charles W. "Hoppy" Adams Jr. Foundation, an organization dedicated to implementing and establishing programs that support educational, social, emotional, recreational, and faith-based growth for youth and adults living in Annapolis and the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. metro area. Deni also serves as the current President of the historic Peerless Rens Club, a social organization that has been creating community in Eastport since 1948.

A mother of two and a former foster mom of 16, Deni believes that a well-developed love of reading can take you many places. She worked hard to teach her own children the importance of reading and now hopes to pass that along to a new generation through her work with STAIR-Annapolis.

"My favorite people are children, and anything I can do to help a child is where my passion lies," Deni explains.

A native Annapolitan, Deni earned her BFA in Technical Theatre from Howard University and worked in radio and television for many years. She is also a screenwriter, a documentary filmmaker, and in 2016 was honored as a recipient of the Fannie Lou Hamer Award by the City of Annapolis.

In her spare time, Deni enjoys reading, writing, travel, and is an avid doll collector.

We're so fortunate to have the benefit of Deni's community-building expertise and are excited about the value she'll bring to the STAIR-Annapolis Board!

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome, Deni Henson!
- An Important Program Update
- Become a STAIR Volunteer

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**9/17** Board Meeting

**10/15** Board Meeting

*Please visit our online calendar for the most up-to-date information.*

[www.stairannapolis.org/news-events/calendar/](http://www.stairannapolis.org/news-events/calendar/)

### ON THE BLOG THIS MONTH

- September Reading Challenge
- Library Card Sign-Up Month
- ...and more!

## YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Last week, students across Anne Arundel County returned to school buildings for an exciting new year. While we wish we could join them now, we know how important it is to take time to thoughtfully plan STAIR's return to in-person programming.

We don't yet know what this year holds, but with your financial support we can be ready for anything:

- ***Ready to meet children where they are to strengthen early literacy development.***
- ***Ready to engage families to share the adventure of reading at home.***
- ***Ready to work with our partners in education at Anne Arundel County Public Schools to bridge the gaps for striving young readers.***
- ***Ready to welcome back our volunteers in safety and with purpose.***

Your generosity means the world to us and will make a meaningful difference in the life of a child in need of reading support.

To make your gift of any amount, please visit [stairannapolis.org/give/make-a-donation/](https://stairannapolis.org/give/make-a-donation/)

### AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM UPDATE

At this time, we do not have a definitive start date for STAIR-Annapolis 2021-2022.

STAIR staff is working closely with our Board of Directors to craft a responsible return policy for the health and safety of our volunteers and students.

We will communicate relevant updates and further information about STAIR's return to in-person programming--including training and potential start dates--as soon as possible.

Your continued patience is appreciated!

### VOLUNTEER!

STAIR volunteers work one-on-one with second-grade students who need a little extra practice to achieve grade-level reading, helping kids improve basic literacy skills and boost their self-confidence in a caring environment where reading is fun! You'll have access to excellent training and resources, meet great people, and build a warm, personal relationship with a child in need of reading support.

We're actively recruiting volunteers for all STAIR-Annapolis sites in preparation for our return to in-person programming. No prior teaching or tutoring experience necessary.

To learn more or to complete your volunteer application, visit [stairannapolis.org/volunteer](https://stairannapolis.org/volunteer) today!



**"THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING DURING THE SUMMER. HE LOVES THE BOOKS AND GAMES TO HELP WITH READING!"**

*-Mom of Adrian, STAIR At Home student*