

## MELLOTT

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With the help of her mother, Cindy Bouet, Mellott developed a video for YouTube and a GoFundMe page that garnered \$2,100 along with \$25 in cash donations.

Bouet, a web developer who works at the College of Southern Maryland in the marketing department, supplied the camera work and social media expertise for the video and GoFundMe request. Support for that request substantially exceeded Mellott's original goal of raising \$500 as a birthday gift for the homeless.

Bouet pointed out that she handles all social media access for her daughter and that Mellott isn't allowed on social media sites.

Washington said Mellott "has come with her family on several occasions previously to provide dinner for 30 to 40 people who were homeless."

"She never just stood back. She engaged with the families,



PHOTO BY ADDISON LIKINS

Lily Mellott, a third-grader at T.C. Martin Elementary School, was declared the largest and youngest individual donor to the recent 17th annual Walk to End Homelessness.

especially the children. She has donated from her own resources, gifts and clothes," Washington said.

Mellott, whose middle name is Love, said she wants to help the homeless "because I feel sad for them. I just want homeless people to have a home."

Bouet said her daughter has always been compassionate about those in need. "When I take her in to the city, I have to distract her because, of course, we see homeless people, and

she cries. It breaks her heart," Bouet said.

"I just want to take everybody back home," Mellott chimed in.

As for when she grows up, Mellott said that she would help the homeless, "I would give them lots of money ... from making my movie."

Behind her, grandmother Darlene Breck whispered, "Education ... don't forget about education, honey."

"I plan to go to a movie college," Mellott said. She has multiple plans to be a writer, director and actor. "I don't know which one I want to be yet."

"What, I really want to do is write stories," she said. She then proceeded to spell out a lengthy, detailed story about a woman in her twenties who, while walking her dog, meets a homeless person who needs food and a shower. The story ended with, "I let them take a shower and let them have everything they needed and we became best friends."

The sense of compassion and civic duty runs deep in Mellott's family as both her mother and grandmother volunteer

for Safe Nights events and for homeless programs conducted by Lifestyles.

Mellott's father and stepfather are active duty military, according to Bouet. Her father, who lives in North Carolina, is a member of the U.S. Army and her stepfather is in the U.S. Air Force.

Mellott has a support group, called "Lily's Loves," for her mission to help the homeless of Charles County.

Helping her are classmates from T.C. Martin Elementary School, where she is a third-grader who is on the honor roll, according to Bouet, as well as from members of her soccer team. Breck pointed out that a number of Mellott's cousins are also in the group.

Many of the 16-member group of children walked with Mellott during the Walk to End Homelessness and volunteer their time when Mellott and her family help at charitable events.

On the day before Thanksgiving, Mellott and her family helped prepare food for the community Thanksgiving dinner at Middleton Hall in Wal-

dorf. Mellott sorted peppers for the meal, this time crying because "I was working next to people cutting onions," she said.

Washington said the meal, which was served to 1,342 local residents on Thanksgiving Day, was part of the End Hunger in Charles County program supported by Lifestyles, the Charles County's Government, the sheriff's office and Department of Social Services along with Israel Total Life Ministries and True Gospel Ministries.

Chefs and personnel from Middleton Hall, Galazio's and Luciano's Restaurant, Smokers's Delight, Akalign Vegan and Charles Street Bakery were among the over 200 volunteers who prepared the meal, Washington said.

Breck said she also volunteers, along with her daughter and granddaughter Lily, for Safe Nights, a program in Charles County that provides shelter and food for the homeless between October and April. Local churches rotate facility support for the homeless with a place for cots and hot meals, she said.

## PLANT

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posedly some substantial upgrades to the facility, so I don't understand why there's so many problems."

The intention to sue notice mentions that in 2018, there were "at least seven" instances of raw sewage being discharged from the facility into the creek, based on the facility's self-reported spills. Five of the seven spills listed in the report originated from overflowing sewer manholes.

Naujoks said he knows of one "pretty big sewage release" that occurred around a year and a half ago, just ahead of the group hosting a planned

padding trip. Because it was just a couple weeks out from the scheduled outing, Naujoks said he reached out to the facility, but it ended up being unnecessary when heavy rains led to the trip being canceled altogether.

"They said they were going to fix all that, and it just seems like that has not been the case," Naujoks said.

The health implications of the heightened levels of pollutants are serious, Naujoks said, especially where contaminants like E. coli are concerned. Many people use the county's waters for recreation, Naujoks said, and with improperly treated water re-entering the Potomac's local tributaries, folks could unknowingly be exposing themselves

to serious health risks, even if they only splash themselves with it. The risks the bacteria present range from fairly moderate risks like ear and sinus infections to potentially deadly illnesses. That doesn't cover the risks the spills present for the environment, either, like potentially creating algae blooms that harm the aquatic vegetation and river-dwellers.

Naujoks noted that, depending on the course of action the county chooses to take, they may not ever end up in a courtroom. He explained that they cannot file any official legal action until after the 60-day period has lapsed. He said it's possible that the county and the organization will engage in a dialogue and potentially

settle out of court.

To his knowledge, Naujoks said, no one from the county government has reached out to them regarding any potential course of action. "The bottom line is they're breaking the law," Naujoks said. "They're violating the permits. They need to come into compliance."

Citing the potential for the county and the organization to enter into litigation on the subject, government spokesperson Donna Fuqua declined to comment.

The Clean Water Act, Naujoks said, gives citizens and organizations like the PRKN to hold facilities like the Matta-

woman plant to account for the terms of their permits. Naujoks said they notified the Maryland Department of the Environment, and that the state agency may opt to join them in taking legal action. The MDE has so far not announced any such action.

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## Big Changes are Happening Here.

Coming Soon—New, Temporary Hospital  
Entrance and Parking Update



Our hospital has started an exciting expansion and renovation project—the largest in our more-than-40-year history. When it is complete, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center will have a state-of-the-art emergency department to provide our community with the best care, as well as a beautiful, new front entrance.

**Starting the week of December 8, 2019**, the hospital will open a new, temporary front entrance for patients and visitors to access the emergency department (ED) and main hospital. Patients and visitors may remember this entrance as the former cardiopulmonary rehabilitation entrance. Once inside, directional signage will make it easy for patients and visitors to find where they need to go.

At some points during the renovation process, the hospital's visitor lot may fill up. Designated overflow parking will be available at the Colony South Hotel.

#### Why is the hospital renovating?

When the renovation is complete, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center will have a state-of-the-art ED that will meet the needs of Prince George's County and Southern Maryland residents. Here are some of the things you can look forward to:

- A total of 40 ED treatment rooms—almost 50 percent more than before
- 18,000 more square feet of space in the ED, for a total of 70,000 square feet
- Designated space for behavioral health patients
- A better waiting room
- Easier access for EMS personnel
- A separate area for patients who may have been exposed to pathogens
- A new front entrance with a 24-hour café for patients and visitors

**We're committed to providing excellent care to our community throughout this renovation process. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of transformation.**



MedStar Southern Maryland  
Hospital Center

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We look forward to sharing the renovation's progress with you! For more information and updates, follow us on social media, or visit [MedStarSouthernMaryland.org/Construction](http://MedStarSouthernMaryland.org/Construction).