



Clarkdale High School student, Lauryl Joyner, Named MCM-Meridian Volunteer of the Quarter

PRESS RELEASE • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • 5/15/2022

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - MERIDIAN

MEDIA CONTACT

Rebecca Parker

Marketing

Coordinator

rebecca@mcm.ms

P: 601.512.0276

Meridian, Miss. (May 15, 2022) – Lauryl Joyner has been named “Volunteer of the Quarter” for her outstanding volunteer service at the Mississippi Children’s Museum – Meridian (MCM-Meridian).

Lauryl Joyner is an accomplished junior at Clarkdale High School who is highly involved in the community. Soon after becoming an MCM-Meridian volunteer, Lauryl realized what a joy it is to spend her time at the museum. Serving children and families quickly became an outlet for her, and she states that she has gained valuable relationships and experiences that are irreplaceable.

“Getting to see the kids grow up with such an awesome place right here in Meridian, that I know I would have loved growing up, makes my heart burst,” said Lauryl. “Because I did not grow up with the children’s museum around, I am thankful that I get the opportunity to pour into the visitors that come in, just like I know others would have done for me.”

Growing up in Meridian, Lauryl regards MCM-Meridian as an important asset to the city that allows children to explore, grow, and appreciate what Meridian has to offer.

MCM-Meridian’s Front Desk Coordinator, Whitney Gowdy, is especially grateful for her contributions to the museum. “Lauryl consistently goes above and beyond, prioritizes the children we serve, and always has a positive attitude,” said Whitney.

MCM-Meridian is a nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity of volunteers like Lauryl. The MCM-Meridian team is grateful for the time and talent Lauryl contributes to the museum. Volunteer opportunities for youth and adults are available year-round. To learn more and to become an MCM-Meridian volunteer, visit mcmmeridian.org.

About the Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian

The Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian (MCM – Meridian) is the East Mississippi satellite campus of the statewide Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM)—a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that creates unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. MCM-Meridian is a 25,000-square-foot facility with exhibit space designed around

five primary initiatives: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi History woven throughout all galleries. Outdoors is a 25,000-square-foot exhibit gallery that allows children a safe and magical space to explore and enrich the learning experience. The museum's exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities provide engaging, hands-on activities for children of all ages. MCM – Meridian is a strategic part of the statewide Mississippi Children's Museum which is dedicated to inspiring all of Mississippi's children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. To learn more about MCM – Meridian, visit www.mcmmeridian.org.

About the Mississippi Children's Museum

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. The 40,000-square foot museum is designed around five primary initiatives, with correlating exhibits, programs, and outreach efforts. These initiatives include: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage – the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. In response to community needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MCM shifted operating and programming priorities to best serve Mississippi's children and combat learning loss through facilitating virtual schooling and creating online educational enrichment – services that continue today through a robust, daily afterschool program and an online platform for teacher professional development.

In 2021, MCM celebrated a monumental year by receiving an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the nation's highest honor for museums, and through opening its first satellite museum, MCM-Meridian, which received the 2021 Governor's Award for Travel Attraction of the Year.

###