



# NEWSLETTER

YEAR IN REVIEW, VOLUME 1 WINTER 2019

## 2019

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## Who is Marie?

Marie Emmanuela Fandal was born in Labadee, Haiti, on December 25, 1950, and raised in Jacmel. As a student, she excelled in the study of languages, and she eventually became fluent in Haitian-Creole, French, English, and Spanish. After completing her post-secondary education, Marie became an elementary school teacher. She later immigrated to the United States and settled in Miami, Florida, where she met and fell in love with George Alfred.

Marie and George married in 1977, and they had eight children together. Marie used the same skill and passion she brought into the classroom to teach all of her children how to read, count, and add before they enrolled in school. Throughout their formative years, she read short stories and poems with them every night, helping them foster a love for reading. She also assisted them, and other children in the neighborhood, with their homework and encouraged them to complete more than the minimum requirements. Marie believed strongly in the value of education and instilled these values in her children. Three of her children have followed in her footsteps, teaching at the K-12 and post-secondary levels.

Marie passed on April 25, 2015. Marie's Kids was founded three years later and named in her honor.

*Follow us*



## 2019: Year in Review

Our team of education, child development, research, fundraising, marketing, and finance professionals has been very busy over the past year. We've been developing our web site ([www.marieskids.org](http://www.marieskids.org)), creating marketing & fundraising brochures, recruiting our educational team, and developing our curriculum.

Your support has also allowed us to set up tables at educational fairs and other events in public venues around the community, to get the word out about our awesome program. Here's a snapshot of a few of these 2019 events.



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### Charleston Kids Fair (3/3/19)



### The Right Age for STEAM is Now!

"...there is mounting evidence that if kids don't experience the spark of STE[A]M before middle school, they're unlikely to ever major in a STE[A]M subject, let alone persevere to a STE[A]M career."

"Young children are quite able to tackle STEM subject matter, and children's curiosity makes them natural explorers of STEM topics."

### Goodwin Elementary Community Wellness Event (4/18/19)



#womensandTEAM

#makingtime

#therightageforTEAM

## 31st Annual Charleston Kids Fair

This past March, Marie's Kids participated in the 31st annual Charleston Kids Fair. The Kids Fair, sponsored by Jewish Community Center and MUSC Children's Health, connects parents to community resources. The event, which was held at the Gaillard Center in Downtown Charleston on March 3rd, included over 100 exhibits and activities. There was an estimated 8,000 families in attendance.

As exhibitors, we had the opportunity to speak with parents and educators about our program and lead a slime making activity with children of all ages. During the activity they learned about the states of matter and the role of the different ingredients in creating the slime. Parents and siblings alike took part in the activity assisting younger children with the kneading required to bond the compounds. Our exhibit proved to be among the most popular, attracting over 150 kids!



## Goodwin Elementary Community Wellness Event

Goodwin Elementary serves 533 K -5 students in North Charleston. On April 18th the school hosted a community wellness event to promote overall health and wellness in a fun environment for the community. Over 100 families attended along with more than 20 community partners and volunteers. For this event, Marie's Kids also led the diverse group of students through a slime-making activity; even inviting older students to assist younger students through the activity. Students weren't the only participants interested in making slime! We were happy to walk our firefighter trainees through the activity as well.



## Marie's Kids First Annual STEAM Night

Marie's Kids hosted STEAM night at North Charleston Elementary on October 17th. The event introduced elementary students to STEAM through fun and interactive activities. During STEAM Night, students rotated through five stations below, spending 15 minutes at each station.

**Science:** Students learned about basic endothermic chemical reactions, bonds, and the states of matter through a slime making activity.

**Technology:** Students conducted a quick coding activity that focused on logic and demonstrated how codes are used to program technology.

**Engineering:** Students learned about the plane design features and their influence on flight. Students then choose one of three planes design – for speed, maneuverability, or hang time- and followed the instructions provided to build and test their paper plane.

**Art:** Students created a collage with different color circles of varying radii that follow Fibonacci's sequence.

**Math:** Students learned about patterns through different forms of dance such as Salsa, Hip-hop, and Line dancing and create their own pattern and corresponding step sequence.

Following the activities, we raffled five gift cards off to parents and five gifts to students who completed at least four of the stations. The gifts included a circuit set, slime making kits, and headphones. We had over 80 families attend STEAM night!



# Marie's Kids First Annual STEAM NIGHT continued...



## Upcoming Events

We'll be partnering with the Liberty Hill STEM initiative in the Charleston County School District to lead educational activities on January 7th and 9th as part of North Charleston's Elementary afterschool STEM education program. The afterschool program is from 3-5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program is open to students on a first-come-first-served basis. The sessions can accommodate two groups of 30 students each day. We will develop our programming to align with their current course material and based on their grade level. Our activities will focus on the solar system to align with their curriculum. Other upcoming events:

- **Lambs Elementary Math & Science Night (1/28/2020)**
- **Charleston STEM Festival (3/7/2020)**
- **Annual Liberty Hill Community STEM Day (3/14/2020)**
- **Ladson Elementary Math & Science Night (4/1/2020)**

## We could not do this without you!

Marie's Kids would not be able to do all of this, nor can we get to the many other items on our to-do list, without the financial support of monthly donors like you. We recently sent out letters and emails asking for your annual or monthly gift. If you have already given thank you for your support. If you would like to gift or become a monthly donor you can do so using the link below:

<http://www.marieskids.org/donate.html>

## Our Team

### Staff

Myrte de Alfred, PhD – Executive Director

David Hazeltine – Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Nicole Barclay, PhD – Director of Research

Stephanie Whetsel-Borzendowski, PhD – Director of Outreach

Tiffanie Smith, PhD - Co-director of themes and curriculum

Jaylin Carter – Co-director of themes and curriculum

Melva James, PhD – Technical editor

VeeAnder Mealing – Events coordinator

Kate Cohen – Executive Assistant

### Board of Directors

Myrte de Alfred, PhD (Chair)

Tyrese Bryant

Brandon Matthews

### Advisor

Travis Smith



Myrte de Alfred, PhD  
Executive Director

**Thank You to All of Our Funders!**



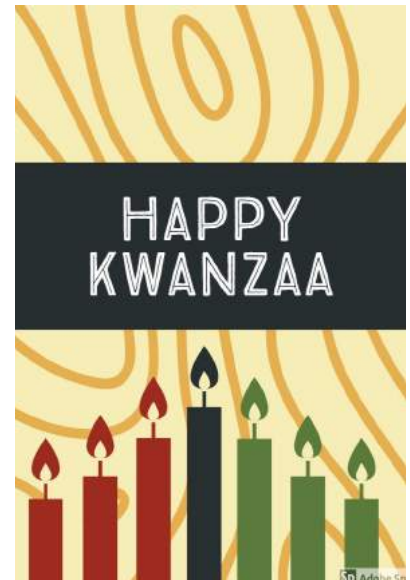
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**DRAPER**

*Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!*



**How to Contact Us!**

Visit our website: [www.marieskids.org](http://www.marieskids.org)

Call us: 843-970-0418

Email us: [marieskidssc@gmail.com](mailto:marieskidssc@gmail.com)

Donate: [www.marieskids.org/donate](http://www.marieskids.org/donate)

*(note: gifts by 12/31/19 are tax-deductible for 2019)*

Do you have a Charleston-area venue you'd like to donate for a Marie's Kids STEAM event? We'd love to hear from you!