

The Mather School

Written by Dick Stewart

Tuesday, 12 January 2016 16:57 - Last Updated Wednesday, 13 January 2016 05:49



A legacy of hope and opportunity for almost 150 years

Many of my friends and neighbors do not know about The Mather School and its early leadership in teaching the daughters of freed slaves beginning in 1867. This uniquely Beaufort story needs to be told and celebrated.

Mather began at a time when the education of girls and women was rare in many cultures and societies. The Mather story is about more than buildings, funding and programs. The Mather story is about the transformational impact of education. Imagine if you can, the change being able to read makes in the life of a young girl whose parents and grandparents could not read. That girl can learn about the greater world outside the spoken history of her family. Imagine how that young girl in the aftermath of the Civil War and in the midst of Reconstruction, can begin to understand and explain those difficult times to her family and community. Now, think of the many millions of girls and young women around our world who are denied access to education. How will our world and our news headlines change when these women have the ability to read? The Mather story is important today because the Mather experience can inform the world about the impacts of educating young women. As our country engages in nation building in far reaches of the planet, the lessons learned here

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