

Name: Victoria Hill
Title: Miss Capital City
Hometown: Canton, Georgia

Date of Birth: June 23, 1998

Education: Reinhardt University Senior, Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance
Homeschooled K-12

Platform Issue: Flip the Script on Foster Care

Scholastic/Career Ambition: Doctor in Musical Arts in Vocal Performance
Become a professional opera singer

Talent: Classical Vocal – “Chacun le Sait”

Scholastic Honors: Alpha Chi National College Honor Society; Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society; President’s List; Reinhardt University Academic Scholar: GPA > 3.9

Leadership Roles: Counselor at Joni and Friends camp for Special Needs Adults/Children; Creator of WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) Mentorship Program; Intern at Angel House Home for Girls

Accomplishments: 2019 Rome Symphony Young Artist 1st Place; 2018 3rd Place in Nation for College Musical Theater Women for NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Competition; 2017 National Winner in Classical Voice for NATS; 1st Place Winner of George Shirley Vocal Competition; 1st Place Winner of Schmidt Vocal Competition; Georgia Honorable Mention Award in piano at GMTA (Georgia Music Teacher’s Association)

Interesting Facts: Performed as Susannah in the opera *Susannah*; Often trick people with my different accents; Sang at hospice bedside of war hero and at his military funeral; Started “Victoria’s Creations” at age 12; Oldest of five children; Have a learning difference; Almost gave up music to go into the medical field; Worked for several summers with doctors in remote villages in Guatemala; Burned my hair off playing the role of Meg in *Little Women*; Played a man in *Sweeney Todd*; Hobbies include acro yoga, silent movies, crocheting, collecting records, and running; Earned enough money to pay cash for my first car at age 18; Opened retirement account at age 14; Member of Greater Cherokee Kiwanis Club

Employment: Performer at events and restaurants; Piano teacher; Creator and seller of personal art and notecards

How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations? I consider myself very fortunate to have been raised in a family who values community service. I have memories of being at nursing homes on Thanksgiving and Christmas and also seeing my baby brother strapped to my mother’s back while we served the homeless in Atlanta. Growing up focused on community service, serving on medical missions to Guatemala, and seeing others in such great need both locally and internationally shaped my desire to serve others. Seeing *Faust* at the Atlanta Opera and being raised in a home immersed in beautiful music shaped my desire to be a professional opera singer.

Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Competition? The Miss America Program is the number one scholarship opportunity for women in the United States. I will soon be pursuing my Master’s in Vocal Performance, so I would greatly benefit from the scholarship money awarded. However, my biggest reason for choosing the MAO is because the focus of this organization is community service and impact on society. The titles of Miss Georgia and Miss America would empower me with an even greater platform to not only Flip the Script on foster care in Georgia, but also in America.

What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why? From what I view in the high schools where I speak and in the world around me, I believe that a lack of focus and drive is the social issue that is most affecting my generation. Many young people seem to allow distractions such as social media, cell phones, and unhealthy relationships to impede their progress to their fullest potential. Because of these distractions, many are not even aware of all the great things they are capable of accomplishing.

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Flip the Script on Foster Care

My uncles, Michael and David, were just numbers in the group of children with no home in Georgia's foster care system, but fortunately, they were adopted at young ages. Love for my uncles and my work at a local group home for girls became the driving forces behind my desire to meet the needs of children in Georgia in the foster care system in three ways:

1. Raising awareness of the foster care crisis,
2. Engaging businesses to show them the tangible role they can play in foster care, and
3. Inspiring mentorship relationships within the foster care system.

Awareness: Today in the United States, there are approximately 450,000 young people in foster care. In the state of Georgia, there are over 14,000 foster children (a number that increases daily) with only about 5,000 certified foster homes ready to receive them. Too many children are waiting on homes. I want to "Flip the Script" and have homes waiting on children not children waiting on homes. The first step to achieving this goal is raising awareness of this critical issue. To that end, I have:

- Promoted DFACS and FaithBridge to engage the community in foster care,
- Emceed and performed with the Swinging Medallions in a concert that raised \$7,000 to help build the Circle Ranch for needy children in Georgia, and
- Met with Congressman Barry Loudermilk to address and discuss foster care in Georgia.

Engagement: I am an intern at a group home for girls called the Angel House. Our girls come to us from all over the state of Georgia from unbelievably sad situations. I want my Angel Girls to feel loved and receive the best care possible while they are with us. But more resources are needed to support foster care services. I have contacted companies to assist in meeting specific needs that we have at the Angel House. Most of these companies are simply unaware of this crisis or the potential impact they can have on children in foster care. I want to "Flip the Script" from lack of corporate involvement to engaged businesses positively impacting these children in need. Working toward this goal, I have:

- Recruited Findlay Roofing Company to replace the dilapidated roof at the Angel House, a \$40,000 gift,
- Recruited Randal Lowe Plumbing to renovate the bathrooms at the Angel House, a \$20,000 gift, and
- Involved the Cheshire Group to Flip the Script on foster care in Forsyth County.

Mentorship: Terica from the Angel House showed me the importance of mentorship. I knew that she had a dream of becoming a meteorologist, so I organized a very special day for her. I took her to Fox 5 where she shadowed a well-known meteorologist for the entire day. I wanted to give her a vision of the life she could achieve. My work with Terica inspired me to begin a mentorship program at the Angel House. Each year over 22,000 young people age out of foster care with no transition plan or mentor to guide or inspire them. Studies show that only 3% will attend college and usually within just a few weeks of emancipation, many are homeless, incarcerated, and many females are facing unwanted pregnancies. I want to "Flip the Script" from youth aging out of the foster care system without any plans or goals to empowered youth connected to a mentor and armed with a transition plan. Working toward this goal, I have:

- Created WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) mentorship program,
- Organized and performed in a benefit concert for the Angel House that raised \$8,000 to assist with the GROW Home for girls, an Independent Living Home for girls transitioning out of foster care, and
- Partnered with the national organization CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), MAAC (Multi-Agency Alliance for Children) and Connections Homes.

As Miss Georgia, I will continue the work that I have started, striving to Flip the Script on foster care by raising awareness, engaging the business community, and developing mentorship relationships. With more involvement in these areas, our foster children stand a much better chance at successful futures and achieving their goals.

Signature/Date

Name: Mary Wilhelmina Hodges
Title: Miss Atlanta's Outstanding Teen
Hometown: Louisville, Georgia
Education: Louisville Middle School
Platform Issue: Take Ten
Scholastic/Career Ambition: B.S. in Exercise Science from University of Georgia Pursue career as a fitness expert
Talent: Tap Dance to "Boogie Shoes"

Scholastic Honors: Distinguished Honor Roll; BETA Club; Highest GPA in Homeroom; Principal's Award and Citizenship Award; WriteScore Exceed Award

Leadership Roles: Class President; Class Vice-President, BETA Club Vice-President; Ambassador for Play 60; National Advisor for Play 60; Page for Georgia Senate and Georgia House of Representatives; Created "Take Ten" Initiative; Teen Spokesperson Georgia Fitness and Wellness Festival; Led a pajama drive for the Navicent Children's Hospital; Led "Take Ten" challenge at school and 100 Mile Summer Challenge; Hosted "Jingle All The Way 5K", Youth Dance Ambassador for Dance Troupe Inc; Inspire All-star

Accomplishments: Earned and performed lead role of Clara in *The Nutcracker* Dublin; Performed in the Bartow Community Playhouse productions of "Belles on Their Toes" and "The Christmas Bus"; Volunteer for Navicent Children's Hospital; Numerous dance awards for entertainment and showmanship; Earned Georgia Fitness Gram Program Award for fastest 1 mile and most push-up; 1st place Performing Arts Georgia Junior BETA Club

Interesting Facts: Sixth Wilhelmina in family; Hydration Specialist; mom to two fur babies; Favorite television show is "Golden Girls"; First Time Forecaster ; Oct 9th is Mary Wilhelmina Day

Marketing Plan: Using social media and in person appearances, I plan to market "Take Ten" program on both the state and national level. These same platforms allow me to serve as an ambassador for the Miss America Outstanding Teen program. Serving as a page for the Georgia Senate and House of Representatives has allowed me to promote fitness to local and state officials. I have also met with local school officials, but I also plan to meet with the state representatives to ask them to seriously consider a physical education requirement for middle school students in Georgia. Being Miss Georgia's Outstanding Teen would allow me a larger audience and more resources to continue spreading the message of "Take Ten" while also promoting the Outstanding Teen program.

Legacy: I want my year of service to be defined by the quote, "Though she is little, she is fierce". This fierceness is a combination of work ethic and determination I use to promote my platform. When people see me perform they also witness this fierceness as I give each performance that little something extra.

Why should I be Miss Georgia's Outstanding Teen: I am the complete package! Each day I live what I preach! I encourage youth and adults to get healthy by Taking Ten, but I also live these healthy habits. While promoting a platform, I have become increasingly involved in my community and my school. Being Miss Georgia's Outstanding Teen would allow me to continue to spread the message of "Take Ten". During my involvement in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization, I have been able to inform people in my community as well as via social media about the benefits of the program. They have grown more and more supportive when they see what this organization has allowed me to do in my community. I want to bring this same type of knowledge and respect for the organization on both a state and national level

Name: Mary Wilhelmina Hodges

Take Ten

During elementary school, I logged around 10,000 steps per day on my Fitbit. However, once I got to middle school that was no longer the case. Children are in school on average seven to eight hours per day. In addition, homework, after-school clubs, and other responsibilities can make finding time for exercise difficult. Still, the Center for Disease Control suggests a minimum of sixty minutes of physical activity per day. Through research, I found multiple studies that suggested adding exercise into daily school schedules could boost grades, decrease discipline problems, and increase brain activity. In the fall of 2017, my father was diagnosed with high blood pressure. I learned just ten minutes of exercise three times a day can even lower blood pressure! This practice has helped my father lower his blood pressure.

At the beginning of spring semester 2017, I approached my principal about my proposal for "Take Ten". I asked him "Would you like to improve student discipline and attention span, promote higher grades, lower blood pressure, and prevent Type 2 Diabetes?" After meeting and discussing my idea, the principal allowed me to lead several of my classes in ten minutes of exercise several times per week, during regular class time. Near the end of the semester, I interviewed my teachers and fellow students to determine their thoughts on the program. Both teachers and students agreed "Take Ten" was beneficial.

After such a positive response at my school, I realized that I needed to continue my work in local schools as well as reach out to others in the community. Obesity and Type II Diabetes are challenges for many in our local area so this is especially important for them to learn about the benefits of Take Ten.

Some highlights of promoting Take Ten include:

- Hosting the 100 Mile Summer Challenge
- Producing Fitness Friday video segments for the Take Ten Facebook Page
- Hosting the "Jingle All The Way 5K" to promote fitness (raised over \$3500 for Cardiac Rehabilitation at the local hospital)
- Partnering with the American Heart Association to promote Move More/Live More
- Speaking to the Board of Directors of the CSRA American Heart Association to promote Take Ten
- Reaching out to approximately 12,000 students in Georgia by partnering with the Georgia Wellness and Fitness Festival to create a PSA about "Take Ten"
- Promoting "Take Ten" to elementary, middle and high school students in my community

My goal as Miss Georgia's Outstanding Teen is to be a strong force in changing the lifestyles and fitness of others in a way that is fun and manageable for all ages. By working together, we can not only improve our own lives, but also encourage others on their journeys to a healthier life. Join me and "Take Ten!"

I plan to expand my Take Ten challenge by:

- Continuing to use social media to reach people of all ages, walks of life, and fitness levels with tips and challenges on how to include exercise throughout their day
- Promoting "Take Ten" at schools throughout Georgia
- Partnering with the American Heart Association to "Move More/Live More"
- Contact legislators about the lack of any physical education requirement for middle school students in Georgia

Signature/Date