

# Mary Alexandria Hobbs

## Catalyst, Consultant (Healthcare Analyst)

Age: 28

### WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

Savannah, GA

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?

Almost 4 years. I moved here in December 2016.

### TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?

In no particular order

- I am a huge Clemson Fan. I managed to squeeze in lots of football seasons -7, to be exact- while getting my masters and undergrad from Clemson. Go Tigers!
- I enjoy being a bit of a class clown. Example: I just learned a popular TikTok dance – not because I’m a good dancer but because I thought it would be hilarious to try.
- I’m part German so I am constantly “trying” to learn German. Spoiler Alert: Rosetta Stone only works if you do it daily!
- My friends and family are amazing. I am constantly bragging on all their accomplishments and am so grateful for their support and senses of humor.

### DURING YOUR TIME VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY OR PROJECT, WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?

I currently serve as a Big for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS). My Little and I were asked to do some promotional material for BBBS and she had to record herself answering questions like “What is your favorite thing to do with your Big? What’s the best part of being matched?” Hearing her responses made me tear up. I had hoped I was making an impact and that she enjoyed our time together but hearing her say it in her own words was extremely powerful and meant the world to me. I am extremely grateful to be part of BBBS and most importantly be a Big to my Little.

**IN YOUR OPINION, HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY? PLEASE BE AS DETAILED AS YOU CAN.**

- I have served as a Big for BBBS since 2017. I underwent training through BBBS and was matched with a shy, quiet 12-year-old girl. We started off slow, going to the park, the mall, or out to dinner while learning more about each other. We did schoolwork and talked through the school drama (middle school girls can be harsh). She came out to me as a confident, 14-year-old high-schooler. I was so glad she felt comfortable enough to allow me to be an unbiased sounding board to help her navigate new relationships. I'm truly honored to be a Big to my Little and look forward to watching our relationship grow as she moves through high school.
- Catalyst (my employer) has a quarterly volunteer day. We have completed various activities such as sorting clothes, doing yard work, preparing meals, and sorting donated school supplies at organizations including Levine & Dickson Hospice House, Care Ring, MedAssist, Friendship Trays, Second Harvest Food Bank, Crisis Assistance Ministry, and Classroom Central.
- I was a mentor at Meyer's Park High School through the ACE (Architectural, Construction, Engineering) Program in 2018. As a high schooler and college freshmen, I wasn't aware that Industrial Engineers can be valuable in the healthcare industry and was originally anxious about what I wanted to do with my career because I loved both (Engineering and Healthcare). I wanted to let them know that not knowing what you want to do at that age is okay. I also explained to them that there are unexpected paths that will come up, and chances are, they are better than you ever imagined.
- I have always been an advocate for donating blood. Recently, I transitioned to donating platelets at OneBlood. Platelets are desperately needed due to their short shelf life. They are often used for cancer treatment. Donating platelets is a way to feel helpful when friends, family members or even acquaintances in our lives are diagnosed with cancer.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW ANY AWARDS OR RECOGNITIONS YOU'VE RECEIVED IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER:**

I was honored to receive the Haskell's Living the Values Award in April 2020. Haskell is Catalyst's parent company. This award recognizes a team member who demonstrates Haskell's values: Team, Excellence, Service, and Trust.

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTERESTS?**

- I love indoor and outdoor volleyball. In the summer, I play two nights a week. I also play year-round in a fun league at the Wallace Pruitt Recreation Center and a work

league in the summer at Southside Park on Remount Road.

- I enjoy planning trips with friends or family. I will always say yes to a day trip to Asheville or a road trip to a Clemson game.
- I go on a ski trip with my extended family almost every year. If you know anything about skiing, I am comfortable in the blue squares right now. And I'm making my way to the black diamonds slowly, but surely!
- I have run in 4 half marathons. The last one was a Virtual Half Marathon in March of this year. Word to the wise: half marathons are not meant to be run virtually.
- Who does not love a good Netflix and junk food chill night?

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?**

Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light. – Albus Dumbledore.

I'm assuming a lot of these applications have some reference to Harry Potter (given our age). This quote helps me to keep a positive perspective and avoid negativity. I'm a firm believer that you control your own happiness. How better to do that than by bringing light and joy to you and those around you.

### **WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS? 10 YEARS?**

This year especially has taught me not to plan out my life too far in advance. I hope in 5 years I'm enjoying what I do, spending time with the ones I love and leaving the world a little better than when I found it. In 10 years, I hope it's all of the above, with an added sense of pride that I've been accomplishing this for 10 years.

### **CAN YOU SHARE ONE THING THAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?**

I would love to go cliff diving in a beautiful place with crystal blue water. I haven't picked the exact location yet but it will be one of my greatest adventures.

### **WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?**

Last April I went on a solo trip to Scotland, Belfast, and Dublin. My family then met me in Löwenstein Germany (where my grandmother is from). I couldn't have asked for a better trip to get me through this dry spell of no travel.

### **WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF THAT NO ONE KNOWS?**

I still sometimes think about becoming famous. For what? I have no idea. I used to think I would be a singer or standup comedian, but I think those ships have sailed.

### **WHO IS YOUR HERO?**

It's hard to pick just one. Both of my grandmothers have shown me what hard work and perseverance looks like. My Oma came from Germany. She experienced hardships in Germany and state-side. She worked hard to provide for her family and now gives back to her community and neighbors any chance she has. My Granny got her kids out of an unstable environment. She got a divorce in a small rural town where divorce was seen as a failure. She too worked hard to provide for her family and give them the best life. I'm so lucky to personally know my heroes.

### **WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?**

For pleasure, *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. For self-betterment, *The Originals* by Adam Grant.

### **WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?**

The 2013 film "The Frozen Ground." It was in the top 10 on Netflix this week and I love a good true crime story.

### **WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?**

This is a sore subject. I was supposed to see Taylor Swift in Boston in August, so that would have been my last concert. Honestly, it's been so long that I can't remember my last concert. Maybe seeing OAR last year for the third time?

[LinkedIn](#)