

I feel blessed to be able to help *FRIENDS* tell their story in such a creative way.

~Elisa Saucy-Davis/ Portland, OR
Creator of the Lucy bracelet
www.saucyjewelry.com

Everytime a child at *FRIENDS* succeeds against the odds, we honor the legacy of Lucy Goode Brooks.



~John C. Purnell, Jr.
FRIENDS Executive Director Since 1970



Imagine What Is Possible™

the Lucy bracelet

Celebrates Many Things:

- The power of the human spirit to respond in love despite surviving the cruelest indignities;
- The amazing things one woman can do when she rallies her friends;
- The legacy of Lucy Goode Brooks and *FRIENDS* Association For Children.

Proceeds from the sale of the LUCY bracelet supports the work of *FRIENDS Association for Children* in Richmond, Virginia.



the Lucy bracelet

Isn't It Amazing What One Woman
And Her Friends Can Do...

Who was Lucy Goode Brooks?

She would have been recognized as a civic leader, a risk-taker and a brilliant negotiator, today. But, like so many before and after her, **Lucy Goode Brooks** was a woman unheralded by history. Though little known, this woman left behind a legacy that continues to change lives almost a century and a half later.

Lucy Goode was a slave born in Richmond, Virginia in 1818. For some reason, her sister Ann Eliza Goode was a free woman while Lucy was bound to a life of servitude, indignity and loss. Raped by her master's son, Lucy's first born child, a boy, was sent away never to be reunited with his mother. Listening to the lessons taught to her master's children, Lucy learned and later taught her husband-to-be, Albert Royal Brooks, to read and write—dangerous skills for slaves to possess. The couple managed to receive approval to marry AND to live in the same house. Together they had 12 children. Keeping the family under one roof and away from the auction block was an incredible achievement. Sadly, though, this great effort ended in terrific pain when despite the promise

of a “friendly” buyer, their eldest daughter, Margaret Ann, was sold away in 1862—the same year Albert had saved enough money to buy his families freedom. The Civil War ended three years later in 1865. Brooks family history says Margaret Ann was sold and died as a slave in Tennessee because of her “dangerous” abilities. She could read and write.

As Richmond, the once Capital of the Confederacy, smoldered in ashes, those formerly enslaved began to struggle for survival. No doubt still aching from her own losses, Lucy's heart went out to the children left behind abandoned, orphaned—many who, now, roamed the streets of Richmond alone. She rallied her friends, the Ladies Sewing Circle for Charitable Works, convincing them that an orphanage was needed. With Lucy's leadership, the women gained the support of the Richmond-based Quaker Society of Friends. Together, the two groups persuaded Richmond City Council to deed land for an orphanage in 1867. The *FRIENDS Asylum for Colored Children* opened its doors in 1871 at the corners of Charity and Saint Paul Streets.

Over the years, *FRIENDS* has evolved from an orphanage to an adoption agency to providing foster care to becoming multi-service family centers,

all the while remaining true to Lucy's vision. Through the power of the human spirit, the chains of bondage became chains of compassion that are still being felt generations later. Isn't it amazing what one woman and her friends can do?

Source: *A Brooks Chronicle: The Life and Times of An African-American Family* by Charlotte K. Brooks, Joseph K. Brooks and Walter H. Brooks, III, 1989



Lucy Goode Brooks 1818-1900

“Lives lived in such cauldrons are either obliterated or forged into impenetrable alloys.”

~Maya Angelou

Foreword to I DREAM A WORLD, 1989

The mission of *FRIENDS* is to help children and families in the Richmond metropolitan area to achieve their potential and become productive citizens.

FRIENDS has grown from a post-Civil war orphanage to a multi-service family agency touching the lives of some 4,500 people annually in neighborhoods where the challenge to succeed is greatest.

FRIENDS serves the whole family by offering:

- Developmental Childcare
- Family Support Service
- Youth Enrichment
- Leadership & Career Advancement



***FRIENDS Association
For Children***

1004 Saint John Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220
(804)644-2357

www.friendsassn.org