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...And countless individuals!

Our Mission To help children and families in the Richmond metropolitan area to achieve their potential and become productive citizens.

www.friendsassn.org

804.644.2357

the Lucy bracelet



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

Honor a special someone with this affirmation cuff. Available in blue or green gauze pouch with story card. Support the work of FRIENDS! Help us tell our story! Buy one today! Visit our website or call us!

Sterling silver
\$35.00



Visit our website to register for a LWF and find directions to our centers. Or, call us!

Has your address changed? Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically? Please contact Jessica Hockett at 804.644.2357 or by emailing her: jhockett@friendsassn.org

Special Thanks to Bon Secours Richmond Health System for printing the FRIENDS quarterly newsletter.

**FRIENDS**
ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN
1004 Saint John Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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Lunch with FRIENDS • 2008 11:45 AM - 1 PM

WED, January 16
FRIENDS Family Center
1004 Saint John Street

THUR, February 21
Robert L. Taylor Center
929 North 26th Street

WED, March 19
FRIENDS Family Center

THUR, April 17
FRIENDS Family Center

NO MAY LUNCH

THUR, June 19
FRIENDS Family Center

NO JULY LUNCH

THUR, August 21
FRIENDS Family Center

THUR, September 18
FRIENDS Family Center

THUR, October 16
Mary Tyler
McClenahan Center
2700 Bensley Commons Blvd

WED, November 19
FRIENDS Family Center

NO DECEMBER LUNCH

MORE INSIDE



MARCH 15, 2008
Historical Marker
Dedication, 11 a.m.
1004 Saint John St.



MARCH 27, 2008
Virginia Women in History 2008
Honoree: Lucy Goode Brooks
6 p.m., Library of Virginia



APRIL 26, 2008
FRIENDS From Age to Age
7:30 p.m.
Richmond Christian Center



FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN

Imagine What Is Possible™

1004 Saint John Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220 • (804) 644-2357 • www.friendsassn.org

ISSUE 1
WINTER
2008

Why FRIENDS matters

Laura McTaggart, Board of Trustees President

As a parent, I want the very best for my children; mostly, I want them to be happy and have every opportunity to reach their full potential. This wish is universal among parents, but some struggle to meet their children's needs – their financial circumstances, lack of affordable child care, and limited educational options make it impossible. FRIENDS helps parents like these offer their children the best chance at success in life.

After 6 years on the board of FRIENDS, I'm still awed by the wonderful work FRIENDS does in our community.

- **Thanks to FRIENDS**, infants and toddlers get loving care and stimulation while their parents work
- **Thanks to FRIENDS**, preschoolers learn music and Spanish, along with their ABC's, so they'll be ready to thrive in kindergarten
- **Thanks to FRIENDS**, school-aged kids work on homework and take private music lessons in a safe, nurturing environment until their parents come home from work
- **Thanks to FRIENDS**, struggling parents who want a better life for themselves and their children are acquiring the skills and education they need to reach their personal and professional goals, creating new opportunities for their families

Please join me in supporting a great organization with a history of success, and in saying, **Thanks to FRIENDS!**



Laura McTaggart at
FRIENDS Annual Meeting.

Welcome

John C. Purnell, Jr.
Executive Director



I am pleased to share the first edition of the 2008, quarterly newsletter with our readers. It gives us the chance to thank our loyal supporters and to tell you about the exciting changes and progress we are making at FRIENDS. It

also gives us the chance to recognize the host of dedicated volunteers who help us to enrich the lives of children and parents in so many ways.

FRIENDS is on the move and our programs are changing. The Music and Performing Arts Program is starting its second year, and it does not seem possible that the Computer Education Program was introduced six years ago. A new strategic plan is being prepared, and two celebrations are scheduled for March. Women's History Month will honor Lucy Goode Brooks, our founder, and a historic marker will be dedicated on the site of the *Friends Asylum for Colored Orphans*.

And, there is so much more to come. I would like you to know and be a part of our growing programs that have made FRIENDS a good place for children for 137 years. Your interest helps us to continue to Imagine What Is Possible™ for those we serve.

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2007-2008**

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Music & Performing Arts Program

Completes 1st Year

FRIENDS offers Music & Performing Arts education based on the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to learn and grow from exposure to, and participation in, the arts.



Music and mathematics have had a relationship since the first musical note made it to paper.

Completing its first year, the **FRIENDS Music & Performing Arts Program** has some rather impressive numbers to crunch.

The total number of young people served equaled 432!

That number divides into three groups:

- 262 preschool children;
- 134 school age children in grades K-6; and
- 36 middle and high school youth

What were these 432 creative minds, hands, feet, hearts and voices doing?

Just take a look...

- Private Music Instruction
- Tap Dancing
- Sign Language Ensemble
- Children's Chime Ensemble
- Teen Drama
- F-Troupe (*volunteer adult acting ensemble performing monthly musical plays based on the preschool curriculum*)
- Staff Performances
- Spring Event Performances
- FRIENDS, THE MUSICAL
- June Violin Recital
- Music Action Council (*17 member volunteer advisory group*)
- Summer Handbell Intensive
- Summer Preschool

Adventure

- THE BELLS OF FRIENDS
- "Exploring" Class (grades K-5 explored singing, drama, and sign language)
- December Recital
- FRIENDS Youth Orchestra
- December Handbell Concert
- December Nursing Home Outreach
- LUNCH with FRIENDS Preschool performances

Throughout the year, the number of adult volunteers has simply multiplied.

Isn't it amazing what one music educator and her friends can do?

infant/toddler/preschool childcare: **FRIENDS reaches for the STARS!** STAR (Self-study Training Accreditation Readiness) Program

FRIENDS is reaching for the stars by participating in the United Way's **Success By Six (SB6)** program.

SB6 focuses on improving school readiness—making sure young children enter kindergarten with the skills necessary to achieve success.

SB6 uses **STAR** (*Self-study Training Accreditation Readiness*) a star-level rating system (1 to 5

stars) to evaluate the effectiveness of local preschool childcare programs.

Areas rated include: learning activities, physical environment, health and safety, language development programs, staff education and family involvement.

Meeting the quality criteria for **SB6** will allow **FRIENDS** to continue

to improve upon the quality of its core service—developmental childcare—as well as to qualify for improvement grants.



upcoming events

FRIENDS is honored to invite you to join us for these celebrations!

MARCH 15, 2008

Historical Marker Dedication 11 a.m. FRIENDS Family Center, 1004 Saint John St.

Join Honored Guest Governor Timothy Kaine in celebrating the legacy of FRIENDS founder Lucy Goode Brooks as we dedicate a Virginia historical marker on the same ground where the *Friends Asylum for Colored Orphans* began in 1871.

MARCH 27, 2008

Virginia Women in History 2008 6 p.m., Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad St.

Join the Library of Virginia as it recognizes FRIENDS founder Lucy Goode Brooks and seven other Virginia women, past and present, who have made important contributions to the Commonwealth, the nation and the world.

APRIL 26, 2008

FRIENDS From Age to Age 7:30 p.m., Richmond Christian Center, 214 Cowardin Ave.

Join us for a tapestry of talents, a montage of music, a plethora of performing arts, featuring the young and the young-at-heart! FFAZA will include performances by FRIENDS children, teens, staff, trustees and volunteers. You do not want to miss this celebration!

Why I volunteer at FRIENDS...

by David Leonard, Volunteer

I felt like I needed to do something as a volunteer, and luckily I enrolled in a class at VCU where I did just that. It opened my eyes to the opportunities present in the community. I was looking at a table full of flyers and the FRIENDS flyer caught my eye for some reason. It looked like a fun place and I felt like in some small way I may be able to help out. I heard all the reasons why I should not go to Gilpin Court but it has been just like any other neighborhood. The entire FRIENDS staff is welcoming and really appreciative of you being there. The most enjoyable aspect is the time I spend with the children. As soon as you walk in, the kids



rush to give you a hug and tell you a story about their day. They show me pictures and colorings they did and beam with pride over their work. I color, play with blocks, read stories, eat lunch, and best of all go to the playground. I love FRIENDS and the children. I look forward to being there immensely each time I go. You can't help but smile and be in a better mood when you leave.

FRIENDS has been changing lives since it began as an orphanage in 1871. Started by former Richmond slave Lucy Goode Brooks and her Ladies Sewing Circle for Charitable Works, today, FRIENDS is a three center, multi-service agency serving Richmond's most challenged neighborhoods.

Find out more at www.friendsasn.org or come to a Lunch with FRIENDS!



5 ways to support FRIENDS

1 Join us for lunch!

Be our guest at Lunch With FRIENDS. Bring a friend with you. Learn who we are, what we do, where we've been and where we are going! (See back page for dates & details.)

2 Volunteer!

Donate the gift of your time to a child! Become a pre-school classroom buddy, an after-school tutor, or, give private music lessons to a child. Play a board game or read with our youth. Call 644-2357 or visit our website to register for orientation.

3 Buy a Lucy bracelet!

Honor the legacy of our founder Lucy Goode Brooks by purchasing a beautiful sterling silver cuff that says: Isn't It Amazing What One Woman And Her Friends Can Do... (See back page for details.)

4 Make a donation!

FRIENDS needs the support of individuals like you! No gift is too small! Many formal opportunities exist to give as well: United Way, Guidestar, Benevolink, bequests, wills, cash contributions, etc. Contact our Development Office for assistance at 804.644.2357

5 Tell a friend!

Share the FRIENDS story with your family, friends and co-workers. We've been helping children and families in Richmond since 1871, yet many still do not know how we impact lives!

If not FRIENDS, who?

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