



"Changing lives through education"

The Elizabeth Kates Foundation Newsletter

www.TheElizabethKatesFoundation.org

INSIDE OUT

Spring 2024

A Message From the President

Dear Friends,

We have so much exciting news to share with you. The annual Kates Day will be held on Wednesday, May 1, and I hope to see you there. Inmates are busy growing plants in the greenhouse and making crafts to sell. Remember, 100% of proceeds go to scholarships and other literacy opportunities.

In other exciting news, we were the recipient of a grant from the Schaberg Foundation that will be used for scholarships for correspondence classes, CDL textbooks, and assistance with coding and fiber optics classes, where needed.

I am grateful for our Foundation members for their continued financial support, and for our volunteer board members who work year-round to enable us to support inmates in their journeys to a successful return to the community.

We dedicate this Kates Day to Barbara Moore, retired after many years as the Culinary Arts Instructor at VCCW, and it is our pleasure to plant a tree in her honor.

We hope to see you at Kates Day!

Joan Dalrymple

A Message From the Warden

All of our inmates and staff at VCCW are hard at work to make Kates Day a huge success. We are grateful to The Elizabeth Kates Foundation for this one-day event that benefits the lives of so many women all year long.

We are excited to announce that inmates at State Farm Work Center can now enroll in classes to obtain a Commercial Drivers License. One part of the program includes hands-on driving experience in a commercial truck with trained operators. The program has nearly completed its first class with an anticipated success rate of eight out of 10 inmates completing the course. Three women have already graduated from the new program. In addition, we now offer computer coding classes. Both of these new programs are important for securing future jobs and finding success upon release, something that we strongly support. We thank The Elizabeth Kates Foundation for supplying textbooks and other support for these new offerings.

With deepest gratitude,

Dana Ratliffe-Walker



The greenhouse is filled with blooms. (Photo by John Roberts)

Kates Day - Wednesday, May 1

2:00 – 5:00 pm - Plants, raffle tickets and crafts available. You may also pay for and pick up your reserved dinner ticket.

4:45 pm - Annual Meeting of The Elizabeth Kates Foundation in the chapel.

5:15 pm - Dinner and entertainment in the gym featuring the VCCW choir, raffle prizes, and scholarship presentation. Dinner is \$15 and reservations are required by Friday, April 26. **Call Lori Wheeler for reservations, (804) 556-740.** Tickets may be paid for and picked up at Kates Day by cash or check only.

Note: *The meeting and dinner are open to the public.*

Regulations for Kates Day

Items NOT allowed: Cell phones, purses, Fitbits, Apple Watches, key rings with multiple keys, and credit cards.

Your photo identification is required for admittance to VCCW, and you must pass through a metal detector before entering. You may bring only your ID, cash, checks and a car key with you. Plastic bags will be provided for these items upon your arrival.

Dress code regulations stipulate modest clothing. Clothing NOT allowed: sleeveless blouses or shirts, leggings, camouflage clothing, and orange clothing. Jeans must be neat, no frayed hems or holes. Knee-length Bermuda shorts are allowed but no short shorts. No children allowed under the age of 12.



Attention Foundation Members

Please renew your membership if you haven't already. Membership is \$25 a year. If you are not a member we hope you will join. For membership information visit: www.theelizabethkatesfoundation.org.

Every year former board member Peggy Spera spends months collecting fabulous items to fill the beautiful gift baskets for the Kates Day raffle. Tickets are still \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please note: a name and phone number must be legible on the back of every ticket turned in. Foundation and board members will be given tickets to sell to friends and coworkers. Bring your check or cash and ticket stubs to Kates Day for the drawing, or mail them if you are unable to attend. (The Elizabeth Kates Foundation, PO Box 64, Goochland, VA 23063).

Education

- We continue to work closely with Southside Community College's Campus Within Walls program. This spring 61 students are enrolled in eight different college courses. Last fall 35 students were enrolled in four courses.
- Kates Readers, a book club for women working on a GED, introduces participants to the joy of reading.
- We look forward to working with Dr. Jeffrey Scales, Principal of the school at VCCW and State Farm Work Center.
- The Elizabeth Kates Foundation continues to support the horticulture program for students who are earning horticulture certifications.



In December Kates Board Members created 550 treat bags for inmates for the holidays. (Photos by Donna Cottingham)



Talented knitters at VCCW create beautiful gifts for all ages

A Touching Testimonial

I was incarcerated at VCCW and I took some college classes through the foundation. You really helped to reignite the spark in me for my education. I cannot thank the foundation enough for offering college classes in prison. I was able to take five classes there and it was enough for me to want to finish what I started. I graduated from Thomas Nelson in December Summa Cum Laude with my A.S., and now I am at ODU pursuing my Bachelors in Sociology. I am on track to graduate next spring. I just wanted to thank you because if it wasn't for you, I may not be where I am today. So thank you, it changed my life.

Kind regards, K .

The mission of The Elizabeth Kates Foundation is to provide educational and vocational programs to reduce recidivism.

The Elizabeth Kates Foundation is a not - for - profit 501(c)(3) organization. A copy of the Foundation's financial statement may be obtained from: The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.





**P. O. Box 64
Goochland, VA 23063**

The Elizabeth Kates Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. We encourage you to participate by joining our Foundation as a member and/or by making contributions. Annual dues are \$25.00 and our year ends March 31.

\$_____ Annual Dues (\$25.00)

If you wish to make an additional contribution, we have two funds for your consideration:

\$_____ CeCe Bullard Scholarship Fund helps provide college level education

\$_____ General Fund used for all other projects.

My company's matching gift form is enclosed.

If you would like your contribution to be a memorial or gift to honor someone, please indicate below. All checks should be made payable to The Elizabeth Kates Foundation and mailed to the address above. Please be sure to give us your name and address so we can send proper acknowledgement to you for your records.

Your name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Gift in honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

With thanks for: _____

Other: _____

Notices should be sent to (gift amount not included in notices):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Our records are not shared with others. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218