

# The Kingsway Banner

Summer 2022



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## Our Mission:

Our Mission: "Ministering through the heart of Jesus to the broken hearts of those impacted by the criminal justice system, both those incarcerated and re-entering and their families."



Kingsway Outreach

Chartered 1988

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SUMMER 2022

## A Life Changing Moment

Every encounter we have touches someone. Lives can be destroyed or build up by the words we speak to others. Jesus words were words of encouragement that lifted people up from despair. He spoke of peace and not of fear. The scripture warns us of our words to others...

The good man brings good things out of his good store of treasure, and the evil man brings evil things out of his evil store of treasure. 36 But I tell you that men will give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."...

**Matthew 12: 35-37**

There is a song called *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* by Joe South. Some of the lyrics state "If I could be you and you could be me for just one hour If you could see you through my eyes instead of your ego If we could find a way to get inside each others mind I believe you'd be surprised to see that you'd been blind. Walk a mile in why shoes, walk a mile in my shoes Yeah, before you abuse, criticize and accuse, walk a mile in my shoes"

These lyrics are thought provoking.



## Thank You for Giving

Dear Director Jennings,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I write this letter because of yesterday. I received your birthday card. I want to thank you very much. May the Lord bless You and your volunteers as well. You are like Angels of God. Thank You with all my soul.

Grace be with you all.

Sincerely, Ricardo N

## HOLD THE DATE

**Save the dates August 12 Ribbon Cutting and 10 Year Celebration in Duke's Plaza Also Thursday August 25th Banquet**

**PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.**

# MOTHERS IN PRISON

An increase in the incarceration rate and longer sentences being issued out, more children are separated from their mothers for longer periods of time. When a man is arrested, he is usually confident that someone is caring for his children. Women prisoners this is not true. They suffer both from the pain of separation and the added anxiety of who is going to take care of their children. Most women are the primary caregiver of their children. Children of an incarcerated mother are unduly punished. Her children may be removed from home, school and community; they are often shuffled from one caregiver to another; they are deprived of seeing parents and siblings. They are left alone to figure out what is happening. A parent especially your mother is a social stigma that children tend to hide. This is an environment that causes children to become angry, hostile toward authority, failure at school, feelings of being abandoned and antisocial.

## Statics of Women Behind Bars

- 87,000 women are locked behind bars in US prisons and jails.
- 1.5 million children are separated from their incarcerated parents.
- 75 percent of all women prisoners are mothers with dependent children
- The number of women in prison has more than tripled, yet more than 60 percent were convicted of non-violent crimes



## Faces of People Incarcerated

When people think of those incarcerated they think of them as less than human. The people incarcerated are someone's child. They once were a baby, toddler, child just like you. They have families and friends. Kingsway tries to help the families on the outside as well as those on the inside.



### Kingsway's Recidivism Rate

This article started with someone requesting the recidivism rate of people released from prison had helped. Out of 2500 individuals Kingsway has helped in the past 10 years only 140 returned to prison. **That is only 5% returnees.** The Recidivism (return to prison) rate in the United States is 67.5%. We feel that what we are doing with your help is really working. Virginia has the lowest recidivism rate in the United States for the fourth year in a row, according to a news release from the Virginia Department of Corrections. The newly announced rate of 23.1% is down from last year's rate of 23.4%.

## **A Volunteer's Experience Defining Family**

I didn't experience Kingsway by choice - I picked their name out of a hat for my senior capstone project at James Madison University. We then went on the journey that was the Great Community Give this past spring. The moment I walked in the door, Louise sat me down and told me her life story. If time permits, you must experience the way she speaks about her journey toward finding God. She sent me home with a Bible and a strong feeling that we would be lifelong friends. I met the rest of the dedicated volunteers at the Sunday fellowship. The board of directors and fellowship attendees all have a story of their own to share that keeps them coming back week after week. Here they value connection, love, and of course, Jesus.

I spent three months contributing what I could to Kingsway. With each interaction, my heart grew fonder of this unassuming non-profit. The incredible work done here comes from words spoken and feelings felt. We were able to raise over \$11,000 through the Great Community Give, due to the loyalty of our community and God himself. As someone who walked into Kingsway disconnected from my spirituality, I can confidently say that the people here changed my life. Thank you, Kingsway.

With love,  
Mary Harrell



## **A Mother's Thoughts**

Being the mother of a son recently arrested and held in jail, I received the biggest shock of my life. This son has never given his parents any trouble and always been their right-hand helper.

Emotions are at the highest level-unbelief, denial, anger, depression. Some days you experience one emotion at a time and some days all emotions rolled into one. One of the things I learned early on, was how judgemental I had been. Now I view anyone being arrested in a totally different way.

The Kingsway family have been a tremendous support through my journey, which I am most grateful. Also the newly developed mother's support group is and will be a great benefit to each one attending.

**CHK**



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## In This Issue.....Changes

### Louise's Corner



Kingsway needs your financial help. The prison is releasing inmates that have served many years by reducing their prison time from 85% to 65% and over the month of May our door has been swinging both ways. Just for the Month of May we have been able to put 6 ex-offenders in Sober Living housings. We have found 3 apartments for those coming out homeless and have had to put 4 people in Motel efficiency rooms for a week until they could get a job and pay on their own. I had to turn down three other's that we could not find anything for as some of the motels will not work with us and we can't pay the high prices they charge. To put someone in a hotel for a week cost over \$300. In the average motel in the Harrisonburg area. We are blessed that we have connections with one that works with us and gives us a discount, but sometimes they do not have any rooms which is the case at this newsletter writing.

If anyone has or knows of anyone with housing, please let us know so we can help these people get back on their feet and a new start. We have been blessed that less than 5% of those we have helped over a ten-year period returned to prison. We would like to keep helping so that they know someone cares and they turn from their crimes to a better life. Our goal is to help those that want to help themselves. They can get work, but without a place to sleep and take a shower they can't keep the job. Transportation is also a factor now with the cost of gas. We were blessed to have a bicycle donated for one of the men to ride to work. We also have requests for food that those living in tents and in their cars can eat like pop top cans of beans or fruit and things that those in motels can microwave. Also needed are hygiene items like deodorant, shampoo, throw away razors and shaving cream for both men and women. Remember these are people that have spent many years in prison and are coming out with NOTHING but the clothes on their backs. Mercy House Thrift store is a blessing to Kingsway so if you have clothes you can no longer wear, please donate them to Mercy House thrift Store. Please check out our website: [www.kingswayoutreach.org](http://www.kingswayoutreach.org)

**The Banner is published as a bridge between you, Kingsway's supporters and the hands-on prison and family outreach ministry of Kingsway.**

**The Banner welcomes your comments, suggestions, and questions.**

**Is there something of interest you would like to know about?**

**Let us know.**

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