

# The Kingsway Banner



## 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.”

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501 (c)(3) tax status



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**JAN 2024**

## From The President of the Board of Directors

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

2023 is behind us now, and I think I can speak for all of the volunteers at Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach and say a BIG THANK YOU to all of you who have faithfully donated to Kingsway. Without all of you joining with us, Kingsway couldn't do what it does.

This Christmas, Kingsway helped 10 facilities with the love gifts that you have so generously given. 10 facilities received toothpaste, note pads, ChapStick, and a Christmas card signed by the volunteers at Kingsway.

Sometimes it sounds so repetitious with us asking over and over again, but life gets in the way and other things take precedence over your giving. Maybe now is the time to make that commitment to Kingsway. Start the New Year, this beautiful year of 2024, with a New Year's Resolution to give to Kingsway monthly. It might mean you have to give up something like a Starbucks or a McDonalds afternoon, but knowing you have given to such a ministry as Kingsway... doesn't that make you feel good? With your donations you may be helping someone that has nothing. And I do mean nothing. Recently, a young woman came to us with only the clothes she was wearing... not even a coat. She wanted to go home to WV, but didn't have the means and she needed a phone. Kingsway helped in so many ways. One volunteer took her to Staunton where she could catch a ride to the bus station in Charlottesville. Someone had just stopped by and had gotten some phones for Kingsway, so she received a phone. Everything was in place except for one thing. The lady needed a coat as it was really cold outside. Louise gave this lady her coat! Louise told the lady that she needed it more than Louise herself did. This is the kind of ministry Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach is. Please help us, that we can help others less fortunate.

Serving Him,  
Vicki Barb, President, Board of Directors

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

The Banner welcomes your comments, suggestions, questions, testimonies, and article submissions. If there is something of interest you would like to know more about or have included in this newsletter, please let us know.

Please send all submissions and communications for this newsletter to the Editor at [kingswaybanner@gmail.com](mailto:kingswaybanner@gmail.com)

# TESTIMONIES

Hello,

I am writing this letter to Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach to show my gratitude for all that the organization did for me while in the prison outreach program.

I can remember when I was struggling with addiction, my family deserted me, and I found myself doing years in DOC. These were by far the toughest times of my life, I had no one. I received a Christmas card from and birthday cards from Kingsway while doing time. No matter where I was in DOC, Ms. Jennings had a way of finding me right where I was with her letters of love and compassion. These letters meant more to me than anything a person could buy for me; they made me feel like someone cared, which in turn gave me the ability to start caring for myself and I started making the necessary changes in my life to get better and stay out of prison.

When I was released from prison, Ms. Jennings and the rest of Kingsway greeted me with open arms and did all they could to give me the necessities that I needed to get going when coming from nothing. This help was able to get me started in the right direction and made an impact on the better things that were headed for me in my life. I just wanted to thank Kingsway for making a positive impact on my life.

Thank you for loving me!  
David Leonard

I'm responding back to the birthday card I got today from y'all or Louise Jennings or whoever sent it. It really struck me a certain way, because I am going through some things right now. And out of the blue, this card pops up saying "Sorry I am late." Wow!

"Wow!" is the word, because a lot of things are on my mind. And how someone out of the blue comes out of nowhere and says "Sorry I'm late." Smiles. Really.

Is it really that, or someone that knows I'm struggling or reaching for what I want but not getting it? I just seem to be getting in trouble instead.

So I'm responding. Hoping. HOPING for what... A few things.

But first I feel I need to respond. Thank you for the card. Thank you for reaching out.

Eric

## ***"Thought For Today"***

An eye opening in prayer,

An eye opening in faith,

An eye opening to believe,

An eye opening in trials and tribulation,

An eye opening through the storm,

An eye opening through our ups and downs in life,

An eye opening to know God is always there when we at least expected,

An EYE OPENING!

Frankie

## **Kingsway's Wish List**

We will be sharing a list of items  
that we need for the ministry.

Please help us so that we can continue to help *them*!

### **Our current needs:**

Postage stamps

New cell phones with activation cards

For hygiene kits:

Shampoo for men and women

Deodorant for men and women

Toilet paper

## **PRAYER BOX**

*If you would like to share a specific prayer request in the newsletter, please email the editor at [kingswaybanner@gmail.com](mailto:kingswaybanner@gmail.com).*

The VADOC recently announced that the following 4 of VA's facilities will be closed as of July 1, 2024: Augusta Correctional Center, Sussex II State Prison, Haynesville Correctional Unit, and Stafford CCAP. Please keep all staff and inmates in thoughts and prayers as they adjust to transfers and changes in jobs and residences.

# Stepping By Faith Into 2024



Dear Friends,

With gratitude for the journey we've shared over the past forty-six years, we write to you with bittersweet news. Our beloved founder, Louise Jennings, is stepping into a well-deserved retirement from her role as longtime volunteer and Executive Director here at Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach.

Louise's unwavering dedication and passion for this organization have been the cornerstone of our mission. From its humble beginnings as a "Mom and Pop" prison ministry and food pantry, Kingsway Outreach, founded by Shelton and Louise Jennings, has grown exponentially, impacting countless lives in the criminal justice system and in our community. Louise's commitment, even after the passing of her husband, has been nothing short of remarkable.

Her vision and relentless efforts have shaped Kingsway into what it is today - a beacon of hope, support, and transformation for those reintegrating into society post-incarceration. The stories of changed lives, restored families, and individuals finding their way back into society are testaments to Louise's enduring legacy.

As we honor Louise's incredible journey and unwavering service, we also look to the future. As of January 1, 2024, Paula Ford, who has been volunteering with Kingsway for the past year, has accepted the role of Executive Director. Paula will be in training under Louise's guidance and mentorship. Louise will remain involved with Kingsway as Executive Director Emeritus.

The need for Kingsway's work continues. Kingsway is more than an organization: it's a community dedicated to providing resources, guidance, and hope to those often forgotten by society. Together, let's ensure that Louise's passion and dedication continue to shine brightly through the work that we do. We remain committed to our mission, and we appreciate your prayers and support.

In Service to Him,

The Kingsway Family of Staff, Volunteers, and Board of Directors

*A Blessed Happy New Year To All!*

"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:16-19

*When the song of angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.*



# Birthday Bash & Benefit Concert

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach held its 2nd Birthday Bash & Benefit Concert to celebrate Louise Jennings' 88th birthday this year on Sunday, October 29, 2023.



Left:

Guests were treated to a choice of chocolate or white cake.



Right:

Smokey & Brenda Wilson shared their music ministry with all of us once again! They have been so faithful in serving Kingsway for our special events.

The Higher Power bluegrass band graciously stepped in to play when the 3 In 1 Quartet had to cancel due to illness. They did great and we were very grateful for their service!



Louise Jennings and Vicki Barb with David Head.



Louise with several of her "guys" whom Kingsway has helped over the years.



# Christmas at Kingsway

*Kingsway was busy as usual during the Christmas season, packing gifts for delivery to inmates at several Virginia prisons and jails, and preparing the Apple Tree Project gifts for the children of incarcerated parents.*

Volunteers helped with preparing gifts for Rockingham Harrisonburg Regional Jail.



Chaplain Doug Huff and Kairos volunteer J.T. Clark collected gifts from Louise Jennings and Pam Presgrave for Green Rock Correctional Center.



A mother whose daughter received Christmas gifts through the Apple Tree Project wrote:

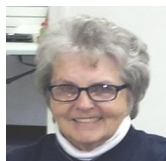
"I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the wonderful gifts for my 6 year old from her daddy on Christmas. These 6 years without him have been hard but her little face lit up to get the gifts. You all will never know how much it meant. So thank you all and God bless!!!"





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## ***Louise's Corner***

I don't know where even to start with my Corner of the newsletter now, as I plow through boxes of stuff from my office of 40 years with notes, messages, and just stuff I thought I needed to save. What I thought was going to be easy, and that I would just retire and help once in a while, has turned out to be a major project. As I look through files to turn over to the new Director, it is hard to decide what to keep that would help and what to discard. There are so many memories with each folder I look through, that I am really overwhelmed. It is just amazing that the things I have found that have such a deep memory of times spent with people that I didn't think much about at the time, but I now find that they have moved forward with great lives. Thank goodness for the memories. I am so happy that God chose this path for me, and I followed through. I have been clean of alcohol and drugs since I met Jesus in 1975. The year 1975 was the beginning of the rest of my life. I was born again, married again, and transplanted to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. My retirement goal now is to write a book about my life and the life of Kingsway.

The Banner provides a means of raising funds to carry on the work of Kingsway. Donations can be made by mail or online by scanning this QR Code.



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