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For Immediate Release:

School Daze Auction Raises Funds for Marriott School Restoration

On Saturday, March 28th, the King and Queen Community Development Corporation hosted the School Daze Gala Auction Event at Aylett Country Day School in Millers Tavern, Virginia. The event raised \$8,767 (after expenses) for the benefit of the restoration of the Marriott School, located in St. Stephens Church. Thirteen local artists transformed old school desks from the historic Marriott School into pieces of sculpture for the School Daze Public Art Project. Themes for the desk sculptures included a wide range, from nostalgic classroom activities to Virginia history to quilting to nature. Ann Chenoweth, Elizabeth Christeller, Dawn Greggs and Dawn Shank served on the Public Art Project Committee. The Marriott School Restoration Project is the planned renovation of the Marriott School into a community/cultural arts center for residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula.

Thirteen local artists and groups participated by creating the desk sculptures. Buttons Boggs, Walkerton; K. Anne Careatti, Tappahannock; Ann Chenoweth, Bruington; Michael Martin, Bruington; The Monk Family - Suny, Joe, Chatham and Mavora, Amherst; Cecky Ropelewski, Walkerton; Alan Sader, Bruington; Dawn Shank, Walkerton; Karen Tootelian-Westermann, West Point; Sewing Ladies of Walkerton, Jonathan Walsh, Aylett; Lawson-Marriott Elementary School and Central High School students.

The desk sculptures were first publically exhibited at the 2008 Wine and Art Festival at Locust Grove in Walkerton. Since then the desks have been exhibited at the Aylett Country Day School fair, Essex County Library, EVB Aylett and Tappahannock branches and Main Office, King William Library, King and Queen Community Pride Day, King and Queen Courthouse, Quirk Gallery in Richmond, Richmond County Fair, Rivahfest, Robinson/Olsson Auditorium in West Point, Walkerton Day and the West Point Library. On March 25th two desk sculptures were featured on the CBS 6 This Morning Richmond show.

KQCD would like to thank the following event sponsors: Ball Lumber, Bank of Essex, Coastal Development, LLC., Country Courier, Design Printing, Inc., Eastern Virginia Bankshares, International Training, Inc., V. Eileen Long – Attorney at Law, Scott's Store, West Point Glass, West Point Pharmacy, Wingmont Stables and Kennels, and the Women's Club of King and Queen. KQCD would also like to acknowledge the following businesses who served as ticket sale locations for the event: EVB Aylett Branch, EVB Main Office in Tappahannock, KQCD office in Walkerton, KQ Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse, and King William Pharmacy in Aylett. Cecky Ropelewski donated Locust Grove Wine glasses for the event.

Joe Mitchell's Band, 3rd Wave, entertained guests to the tunes of the 50s and 60s as attendees reminisced their old "school daze." The event theme, "Come as You Were," sparked some participants to dress like they did in high school with many styles of clothing from the 50s, 60s,

and 70s. Other live auction and silent auction items were also available. Included in the live auction was a tour of the U.S. Capitol and lunch for four in the Capitol dining room with Congressman Rob Wittman. A variety other items included horseback riding lessons, tennis lessons, pottery, wine and cheese party for four at historic Norwood in Bruington, tours of the renovated Virginia State Capitol by Sen. McDougle and Del. Chris Peace and a day of fishing on the Mill Pond in Walkerton. Bin Trice led the auction for KQCD. Additional event volunteers and food donors included: Bette Albert, Ann Chenoweth, Elizabeth Christeller, Crystal Davis, Jerry Davis, Wallica Gaines, Dawn Greggs, Jean Hachey, Lauren Hall, King and Queen Democratic Committee, Austin Lewis, Gus Lewis, Dave Litchfield, Gwynn Litchfield, V. Eileen Long, Alan Sader, Linda Shackelford, St. Margaret's School students, Dawn Shank, Randy Shank, Bin Trice, Bidy Walker and Missie Walker.

The King and Queen Community Development Corporation (KQCD) has completed Phase One of the Marriott School Restoration Project located in St. Stephens Church. Phase One included the demolition and stabilization of the site in preparation for the historic renovation. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register, the Marriott School signifies the history of rural public education in Virginia. The school will be used as a community and cultural arts center featuring after school programs for area children, workshops, classes and performances for the residents of King and Queen County and Middle Peninsula.

For more information about the Marriott School Restoration Project, please contact KQCD at 804-769-9656, email info@kqcd.org or visit the website at www.kqcd.org. Donations can be made online at www.kqcd.org or mailed to KQCD, P.O. Box 191, Walkerton, VA 23177.