

# Our Children

ELON HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Snyder Campus • 201 South O'Kelly Avenue • Elon, NC 27244 • 336/584-0091

Kennedy Campus • 1717 Sharon Road West • Charlotte, NC 28210 • 704/369-2500

## Kids Central of the Carolinas, LLC to Open

Elon Homes for Children is proud to announce that Kids Central of the Carolinas, a full service outpatient mental health treatment facility for children, adolescents and their families, will open its doors to clients on December 1 at 1535 Queens Road in Charlotte, NC. Although connected to the parent agency of Elon Homes, Kids Central is a separate corporate entity and will offer outpatient services for children from North and South Carolina.

The agency is enthusiastic about this venture in that Kids Central expands the vision of Elon Homes to also include in its services continuum middle and upper income children and families in the region who are in need of outpatient services. The new program will meet a community need and help Elon Homes reach a whole new population of children. Research and anecdotal data show that children from families of all income levels have many similar psychological or academic testing and treatment needs as do at-risk children and court ordered children.

Through the services of licensed doctoral and masters level psychologists and counselors, Kids Central has as its goal to be the “hub of a wheel” when it comes to assessing, remediating and treating the academic, behavioral and emotional needs of children. Kids Central will first thoroughly assess the child to target strengths and weaknesses and then either provide or coordinate the ongoing treatment needs of the child and family. The program will provide service from “start to finish” and do so by establishing a warm and collaborative relationship with the children and families in treatment. A distinction of our facility is that it is committed to a biblically-based mode of treatment. The staff brings 40 years of experience to the task of service delivery to children and families.

“Children and families in the community will receive healing and hope through Kids Central. Our research and planning shows this to be a much needed service. The combination of psychological assessments and academic testing at one central location will help families focus on their concerns and eliminate the need to go to several locations for different tests. We have employed highly competent, seasoned, caring staff who will well meet the needs of children and families

and who will ‘go the extra mile’ for our clients. We are very pleased to be locating our Kids Central office and services on the campus of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, a leading church in the community and a central location in Charlotte,” said Dr. Grosse, President of Elon Homes for Children.

Clients will pay for the necessary testing and counseling services through their insurance and/or fee for service arrangements. Surplus revenue from the clinic will be directed back to the residential programs at Elon Homes to provide scholarships for children needing residential treatment but who otherwise could not afford such care.

Elon Homes will be offering seminars and workshops in the coming months on various topics of relevance to kids and family life. If you are interested in joining the mailing list, please contact Jeannie Seals, Director of Practice Management, at 704/688-2982. Dr. Steven Wyatt, a licensed psychologist, is the Clinical Coordinator of Kids Central. Licensed psychologist Dr. Lisa Seropian is also on staff.



*The Kids Central of the Carolinas building at 1535 Queens Road, Charlotte, has undergone minor renovations and is scheduled to be ready for clients on December 1, 2004.*

# From Your President



*So, this is how it is in foster care, you always have to move from foster home to foster home and you don't have any say in this and you are always having to adapt to new people and new kids and new schools. Some times you just feel like you are going crazy inside. And another thing, in foster care you grow up not knowing that you can really be somebody. When I was in foster care, it didn't seem like I had any choices or any future. All kids deserve families. They need a family, to have someone, this is father, this is mother - they need a family so they can believe in themselves and grow up to be somebody. This is a big deal that people don't realize. I wish everyone could understand.*

- Former foster youth, as quoted in the Executive Summary report of the Pew Commission. From this same document we read, "The non-partisan Pew Commission on Children and Foster Care was launched in May 2003. Supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts to the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute, the Commission's charge was to develop recommendations to improve outcomes for children in the foster care system -- particularly to expedite the movement of children from foster care into safe, permanent, nurturing families, and to prevent unnecessary placements in foster care."

The Pew Commission has completed a commendable and exhaustive task in its review and analysis of the child welfare system. The ten (10) final recommendations of the Commission, taken as a whole, could radically transform the system and therefore offer to significantly increase hope and healing for children and families in need.

I commend the report to all of you. Our agency is a member of the Child Welfare League of America and the Alliance for Children and Families. Both of these national organizations are helping spread the work and influence of member agencies in interpretation of and support for the Pew Commission report. Elon Homes for Children is proud to be a supporting member of these organizations and to also be very supportive of these findings. The entire report can be found at [www.pewfostercare.org](http://www.pewfostercare.org)

The former foster home youth quoted above may represent more the rule than the exception in our system today. Nobody familiar with child welfare could say any different. While the Pew Commission report will not end child abuse and abandonment, the ten recommendations, if enacted into law and regulation, will go a long way to reduce the pain and suffering of those lost within the system itself. While one child in this condition is too many, over 500,000 currently in the system today is intolerable. We can and must do better for them and for our society.

God's blessings,

Frederick G. Grosse, President

## OUR MISSION

To provide a continuum of services that enhances the quality of spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and relational well-being of youth and their families.

We endeavor to provide an opportunity for those we serve to live a more caring, responsible and productive life through our commitment to excellence.

## OUR CHILDREN

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**Elon Homes for Children**

201 South O'Kelly Avenue

Elon, NC 27244

[www.elonhomes.org](http://www.elonhomes.org)

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- ❖ Charter Public Schools
- ❖ Spiritual Life
- ❖ Family/Therapeutic Foster Care
- ❖ Family Care
- ❖ Preparation for Adult Living
- ❖ Kids Central of the Carolinas, LLC

## Lakeside Charter School Welcomes Elon University Tutors

Elon Homes' close relationship with Elon University enabled Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Lynette Kuehnel to recruit volunteers from the university's student body. The faculty of Lakeside Charter Public School is excited to have so many volunteers this year who are helping students in the classroom. Eleven tutors work one-on-one with Lakeside students.

Kuehnel attended an Academic Service Learning workshop which produced two volunteers for Lakeside School. One works one-on-one with a student for six hours a week and also serves as the student's mentor. The second volunteer assists the P.E. teacher and provides support during sports activities.

The other nine volunteers were recruited through the Teaching Fellows program when Exceptional Children Coordinator Tara Simoncini and Kuehnel spoke to students at a Teaching Fellows meeting. They discussed the agency's need for dedicated individuals that could work

with Lakeside students who often have trouble concentrating. Each tutor volunteers approximately 1-3 hours per week and is required by the university to complete from 10-40 hours of tutoring per semester.



*Elon University tutor with student.*

In tracking the success of the tutoring program, it became clear that most university students stay past the required hours and continue to volunteer their time working with the Lakeside students. Elon University is a valuable resource and its student volunteers who help Lakeside students achieve their educational goals are greatly appreciated.

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## Current Volunteer Opportunities at Kennedy Campus



Are you culturally aware? If so, share this knowledge with our staff and youth by providing fun and interactive socials from around the world. Plan and follow through with a monthly themed event on campus. The best days and times are Monday through Friday, 3pm to 5pm or 6pm to 8pm.



Inspire our youth to read more by leading a book club! Work with a group of 6 to 8 students over 6 to 8 weeks meeting for one hour per week to read and discuss the classics, motivational books and topics of interest to our youth. Open times for sessions are Monday-Friday, 3pm to 5pm or 6pm to 8pm; Saturday or Sunday afternoon or evening.

Contact Zaneta Wood, 704/369-2511, to explore these exciting volunteer opportunities.

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## Miss Queen City 2004 Brings BELIEVE Message to Campus

Leslie Beaver reaches out to at risk children to let them know they can have hope and a future. Kennedy Charter Public School girls were treated to a morning with Leslie when she brought her *Seven Point Believe Program* to the campus. Beaver states, "The need for caring adults to just 'be there' for children is very great. There must be genuine role models with a passion to make a difference in lives of others. It's not enough to say you care, you must do something. You must actively take the time to listen, to mentor when possible and above all to give a winning smile that encourages a child to believe."

Since age 3, Leslie has traveled the country with her family in a ministry that reaches thousands of people. Through satellite network TV, she has touched many lives through her singing appearances.

**B**elieve in yourself  
**E**njoy life  
**L**ive everyday with expectation  
**I**nvolve others in your plans  
**E**xpect something good  
**V**ision with dreams  
**E**ndurance ... stay on course and you can fulfill your dream



*Leslie Beaver  
Miss Queen City 2004*

# Memorial Gifts

July 1 - September 30, 2004

(Names in bold are those being memorialized or honored. Names of contributors follow.)

**George E. Badgett**  
Joyce Carr

**Robert Bauman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Knight

**Geraldine T. Blackwell**  
Mr. and Mrs. Clifton White

**Wayne Brooks**  
Willard & Mamie Lou Briggs

**Genevieve Burgess**  
Lucille P. Wofford

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Joe and Peggy Burwell

**G. W. Burwell**  
Joe and Peggy Burwell

**Richard Caddy**  
Paul H. Walsh

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**Wayne Cole**  
K. R. Harder

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Bonnie and Lonnie Breeden  
Oswell and Janice Dovel

**John F. Dellinger**  
Rev. and Mrs. Raymond C.  
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**Hobert W. Derrer**  
Bonnie and Lonnie Breeden

**Gail R. Dodson**  
Doug Dodson

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Mary F. Wesson

**Nolan S. Faucette**  
Rebecca H. Bishop  
Jack Coltrane  
Nancy Gordon and Family  
Mildred P. Smith

**Dean Ferguson**  
Paula R. Ferguson

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**Danny Howell**  
K. R. Harder

**Bob and Lucy Kornegay**  
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**Ruby E. Warlick**  
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**Harry Willey**  
Donald S. Coeyman

**Marshall Wilson**  
Joe and Peggy Burwell

# Honor Gifts

July 1 - September 30, 2004

**Charles R. Anderson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wells

**Gertrude Barrett**  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Cobb

**Oie B. Boyce**  
Benjamin F. Black

**Bobby King**  
Mr. and Mrs. Dave R. Ebert

**Dolores and John Truitt**  
Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Bolden

# CHARLOTTE GOLF TOURNAMENTS BENEFIT ELON HOMES



In September, the Kiwanis Club of Pineville/South Mecklenburg held its second annual golf tournament, chaired this year by Harvey Auger, at Raintree Country Club. Over 60 golfers including four from Elon Homes began play with a shotgun start at 1:00pm. The event raised over \$3800 to support the club's charitable activities which include three Terrific Kids programs, two Key Clubs, two \$500 high school scholarships and the monthly ice cream social for Kennedy Campus students.

Lunch was supplied by Courtney's and dinner by Texas Roadhouse. Thanks to generous sponsors, over 100 gifts were given away including prizes for eight teams. The Charlotte Checkers Hockey team, one of the major sponsors, had three members playing the course as floaters to improve team scores.

Auger stated, "Kiwani thanks everyone who made the tournament another successful event for the children in our community, and the club hopes each team will bring another team next year to one of the best golf events in the area."

## 8th Annual Charlotte Civic Partners Charity Golf Tournament Providence Country Club, Charlotte October 4, 2004



Charlotte Civic Partners and  
Elon Homes for Children  
gratefully acknowledge the  
tournament's lead sponsors

### **Gold**

Hacker McShank  
Miller Brewing Company  
The Charlotte Cafe

### **Silver**

Bealer Wholesale  
Cunningham Wholesale  
First Citizens Bank  
Pepsi  
Scott Jaguar  
Trizec  
Wachovia Bank, NA

Tournament photos  
courtesy of Bill  
Schinman, Studio South

## Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off to Orlando

Students agreed their big summer trip to Disney World was a "magical experience." First the boys from both campuses rode by bus to Orlando using the travel time to get acquainted. Then in mid July the girls from both campuses made the trip, and the bus was again filled with music, slang, laughter and an occasional snore.

During their Disney World adventure, students visited the Magic Kingdom, the Animal Kingdom and MGM Studios. On the fourth and final day, everyone went to souvenir shops to buy gifts for special people in their lives.

The groups had wonderful accommodations in rental houses which included gleaming, modern kitchens where staff and students demonstrated their outstanding culinary skills.

Each day brought new grand adventures and high spirits which could not be dampened by rain or depressed by the scorching Florida sunshine. Staff members were pleased the students used what they had learned about manners, hygiene, and doing chores promptly to help make the trip go so smoothly. Students grew in appreciation for the commitment of staff in helping them develop and mature in positive ways.

No wonder the summer trip is remembered as a "magical experience."



*At the Magic Kingdom, Latonya got a big hug from The Lion King's wise old baboon Rifiki.*

# Thanks!

Elon Homes For Children wishes to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many participants who helped to make the 2nd annual "Swing for the Kids" golf tournament such a success. You have had a direct influence on the life of a child in need.

**Sponsors:** The Ameritech Group USA, Inc. • Alamance-Gaddy Tree Service • Gem & Co. • Dolores Iruitt • Elon University • James & Anne Powell • Anonymous • Glen Raven, Inc. • H.E.A.D.S., Inc. • McPherson Cleaners, Inc. • Wendy's • Dick Shirley Chevrolet-Cadillac-Mitsubishi • Stearns Chevrolet • Willic Saul & Son Plumbing, Inc. • Jerry & Betty Dillashaw • Alan & Lisa Norton Family • Chandler Concrete Co., Inc. • Special T Hosiery Mills, Inc • Dave Westcott Buick-Pontiac-Isuzu-GMC • Mid-Carolina Bank • The 360 Group of Smith Barney • Trust Company of the South • Wachovia • Elon Homes for Children Foundation • Lakeside Charter Public School

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Children

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## Transition Home: Serving Children from Birth to 21 and Their Families



*Houseparent Alicia Beyah-Johnson brightens the day for Kennedy Campus administrative staff with visits from the twins.*

These charming twins are the youngest children yet served by Elon Homes for Children's Transition Home for Boys and Girls. The houseparents are understandably very fond of the three-year-old boys and their two older sisters.

Transition Home is geared to serve children ages 0-21 who have experienced abuse, neglect, delinquency, abandonment, drugs, alcohol etc. The program's primary focus is to establish family reunification within 6 to 18 months. Therefore, in addition to program specific services, the staff works closely with parents, extended family, probation officers, social workers, courts and all other allied treatment providers,

Transition Home services are offered through in-home and community based services in a family environment that preserves and rehabilitates the family while assisting its members to achieve self-sufficiency, productivity and responsibility.

Case management services are incorporated into the plans of care for the child and family. A coordinator is assigned to each child and family. Staff concentrates on assisting the child and family to connect with naturally occurring support systems within the family's environment and on teaching them to be productive in their home and community.

After discharge from the program, the case manager continues to direct resources to the family and monitor progress. After care services are offered for up to six months.

Transition Home services include Parent Skills Training, Social Support Groups, On-Call Support, Supervised Visits, Family Assessments, and Education Training.

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## Kennedy Charter Begins Seventh Year With Big Gain in Community Students

Kennedy Charter Public School has experienced considerable enrollment growth in students from the community. As the new school year opened, Kennedy Charter greeted 14 returning community students and welcomed 47 new community students. Residential students numbered 37.

Thirteen-year-old James is one of the new 7th grade students and by all accounts he is off to a great start.

James was home schooled during elementary school before moving to a traditional public school setting. After two unhappy years there, his parents sought a charter school placement for him. They met with School Director Stacy Rose, explained their concerns and received assurance that Kennedy Charter staff members would do all they could to insure a successful year for their son. Rose pledged James would find a safe, warm and positive environment at Kennedy Charter.

Testing had earlier identified James as being dyslexic which made learning to read difficult. He received additional help in a special education class but his parents saw that lead to bullying and name calling by unkind peers. In turn, James became reluctant to go to school at all. James' mother was thrilled to note a tremendous change in her son within the first week at Kennedy Charter.

The school staff assigned a "senior mentor" for James, someone he could look up to and count as a friend. He also quickly hooked up with Nick who has become his good

friend. By early October, James had lots of new friends to talk about at home including a favorite, long-time school bus driver Clarence Robinson.

James' parents say they are impressed by the Kennedy Charter faculty and leadership. They feel their son is being given valuable coping skills as well as being taught essential character traits such as responsibility, respect for others and the importance of integrity along with the vital academics. They appreciate that Director Rose frequently visits in the classrooms, and that staff members freely offer praise and compliments as encouragement for students.

The faculty has found James to be a serious and able student, very personable and one of the most "laid back" boys in the student body. He is well liked by the other students and is now eager to get to school everyday.

While it is early to assess academic progress, James feels confident he is learning and that his grades will reflect solid academic achievement.

When James and his parents initially came to visit the school, the students were leaving on a field trip to the circus. James decided to go along. He had a wonderful time and has been an eager, enthusiastic Kennedy Charter Public School student ever since.

# The Role of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, VP  
Institutional  
Advancement

*The end of the year is a good time to review important financial matters, including one's charitable gift commitments. For many people this will be especially true in 2004. The past year has seen changes that can influence when and how we make our charitable gifts. Careful planning today can help you balance your personal and philanthropic goals for the remainder of the year and beyond.*

## Act Now for Tax Savings

Now may be an opportune time to examine the amount and timing of your gifts in order to maximize your tax savings this year. Your charitable deductions are one of the few tax-saving opportunities that are totally within your control. Recent tax law changes have reduced tax rates for most Americans. By carefully planning your charitable gifts and completing them by December 31, you may find you can even further reduce the amount of tax you will owe next April.

### What Can You Give?

- **Cash.** Charitable gifts are most often made in the form of cash and checks. If you itemize your tax deduction, gifts of cash can serve to eliminate tax on up to 50% of your adjusted gross income (AGI).
- **Appreciated property.** Giving securities (individual stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds) and certain other types of property that have increased in value can bring extra tax savings. Such gifts provide multiple tax benefits. Not only

are they generally deductible from income tax at full fair market value if owned for longer than one year, giving in this way also enables you to bypass capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if the donated assets were sold. Gifts of such assets are deductible in amounts up to 30% of AGI.

If you believe a security will continue to increase in value, you may wish to donate it and use the cash you might have used to make your gift to instead repurchase the same investment. In so doing, you can continue to own the same security, but you enjoy a new, higher cost basis. As a result, you could have less gain to report on a future sale at a higher value. You may also benefit from deducting losses should the security decline in value in the future.

- **Depreciated property.** If you own an investment that has *decreased* in value since you have owned it, consider selling it and making a charitable gift of all or a portion of the cash proceeds. In addition to an income tax deduction for the cash contribution, this creates a loss you may be able to deduct from other taxable income. The combined amount of the deductible loss and the charitable deduction could actually total more than the current value of the investment.

Whether you make your gift in the form of cash or other property, deductions may reduce your taxes in as many as six years. Your financial services provider can furnish you with additional information and the forms necessary to complete your gift in a timely and tax-efficient manner.

Please let me know if I can assist you or your advisors in any way.

## Gifts That Honor and Bring Hope and Joy



For many years Elon Homes for Children has sponsored a Christmas Honors Program. The program offers an opportunity for supporters to recognize special personal, business and professional relationships in a meaningful way during this most celebrated time of the year.



Individuals or businesses that participate give Elon Homes the names and addresses of those they wish to honor. For each honoree, Elon Homes suggests a minimum donation of \$25. In early December, Elon Homes will mail each honoree a beautiful Christmas card with the message that an honor gift in their name has been made to Elon Homes for Children and includes the name and address of the gift giver.

Please contact Nancy Hall at 704/369-2507 if you are interested in using the Christmas Honors Program to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas. Your gifts, which will be used to bring hope and joy to the lives of the children in Elon Homes' care, will be sincerely appreciated by those you choose to honor.