

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

Elon Homes Expands Services by 40% to At-Risk Children and Families

Elon Homes for Children has significantly increased its services to abandoned, abused and neglected children in this new year. President Dr. Fred Grosse stated, "In this year we will probably take care of 350 to 400 more children than we did last year. We are still in the process of diversifying our programs but our efforts in the past few years to be more community based and family-centered have been quite successful."

In 1996 Congress passed the Adoption and Safe Family Act which set the course for significant reform in the national child welfare system. This law required an almost fifty percent (50%) decrease in the number of children and families on welfare roles. This also meant that 50% less children would be placed for residential care at agencies like Elon Homes. The law was designed to help children and families get off government subsidized welfare and into productive jobs and living environments. The law also dramatically reduced the time a child could be in an out of home placement to 12 months and highly recommended that no child be removed by the court from his or her own home county while in care.

Elon Homes supports the reform effort and agrees, in general, that the system needed to be changed. There will always be the need for some children to live in a residential campus setting and to live away from their family. However, this should be the placement choice of last resort after interventions in the home and delivery of services to the family have proven fruitless or wholly inadequate. Compliance with the law and a desire to offer more effective services are the primary reasons our Elon residential campus program was closed last year. At the same time, Elon Homes was busy expanding its community based services by almost forty percent (40%) in five other counties.

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These Kennedy Charter Public School students, all of whom will be returning next year, are excited about a larger student body in the next school year when enrollment is projected to be 250 students. The increased number of students will make possible more electives, more extra curricular activities and, of special importance to the boys, a football team.



Bobby and Helen Johnson with their four adopted children. Originally, the children were placed as foster children in the Johnson's home. Elon Homes' foster care program has grown to serve 120 children in 75 homes.

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

I would like to offer a brief update on our plans at the Elon campus. Our further interpretation of the End of

Education at the agency is opening up this very exciting opportunity. The article on the front page of this newsletter talks about our significant expansion in child welfare services. In my column I would like to tell you more about the expansion of our ability and opportunity to offer a service to children in the community.

In 1907 this Home was opened as a Christian orphanage. The mission and purpose changed with the times as did the name of the Home. First we served orphans, then also half-orphans, and then children whose families did not have financial ability to raise them at home. For all real purposes, the Orphanage at Elon Homes closed in the early 1980's. From that time until 2002 the agency then cared for court ordered children with psychological or psychiatric needs and who were abused, abandoned or neglected. Since 2002 we have served in residential care only children in departments of social services custody. In this same time period we also served children in charter school education.

So the change at the Elon campus, while significant, is not the first change in use for the campus. It is, however, a very pronounced decision to return to our roots and serve children from the community on our campus. As a nonprofit agency we will also be offering scholarships to children who have academic ability but not full financial ability to attend the school.

The Elon School will be a 9th through 12th grade independent school opening in Elon in the fall of 2007. We have hired Dr. Ned Fox as our consultant to give guidance to the process of school formation and preparation for opening. Dr. Fox will also assist the school, along with a professional search firm, in selection of the founding Headmaster. The school intends to have the Headmaster and Dean of Admissions employed and working in early summer 2006.

We want the best independent school possible for our students, their families and our community. Our selection of Dr. Fox brings to our school one of the nation's most successful and committed leaders in the independent school field. Dr. Fox's leadership at Charlotte Latin for a quarter century brought national prominence to the school which is still known for the highest quality independent school education and high commitment to the success of its students.

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OUR MISSION

For the youth entrusted to its care, Elon Homes for Children offers

**SAFE HAVEN
LIFE SKILLS
EDUCATION**

OUR CHILDREN

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If you would like a copy of the Elon Homes for Children Annual Report for fiscal year October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005, please contact VP for Institutional Advancement Jane Grosse at 704/369-2506.

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ Transitional Residential, Level I
- ❖ Charter Public High School
- ❖ Kids Central of the Carolinas, LLC
- ❖ Preparation for Adult Living
- ❖ Family/Therapeutic Foster Care
- ❖ Spiritual Life

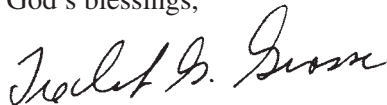


From Your President continued from page 2

After 25 years as Headmaster of Charlotte Latin School, Ned Fox has devoted the last five years to working with various schools across the Southeast and Southwest and occasionally abroad. He has been the president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and the Southern Association of Independent schools (SAIS) and has served as board member and Accreditation Commission member of NAIS. He has served as a school consultant to some 40 schools over the last 30 years. He has been very active in the area of school accreditation on the regional level.

Dr. Barbara Tapscott, chairperson of the board of directors, recently stated, "We have a beautiful campus and clear vision for the success of our independent school. The Elon School will greatly benefit from Dr. Fox's expertise which will help us meet the high standards for school excellence we have established."

God's blessings,



Frederick G. Grosse, President

Elon Homes Expands Services by 40%

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Kids Central of the Carolinas (owned by EHC) now provides psychological services to the Mecklenburg County juvenile courts, clinical staff to the department of social services in Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties, therapists to Kennedy Charter Public School and to the YWCA. These community based services are free to the children and families and are much easier to use because we send our staff to the family.

Kennedy Charter Public School (owned by EHC) has received approval from the State Board of Education to increase its student population from 103 children to 250 children in the next school year. This expansion will allow us to offer charter school education to a much larger student body which is in need of our type specialized educational opportunities.

EHC Specialized Foster Care has now grown to provide for 120 children in 75 homes in four counties. This program has proven very beneficial to helping a child continue to live in the community with a family while either working on reunification with his/her own family or moving toward guardianship or adoption. We are grateful to Peace UCC that we now have offices in the church to better serve our families in Alamance and Guilford Counties.

We thank our volunteers and donors who have loyally supported our Home during all times of change and transformation and are excited about these new ventures in service to at-risk children and families.

Elon Homes for Children's Family Foster Care Program Continues to Grow

In the year 2004 - 2005, there were 26,670 child victims of abuse and/or neglect in our state (*Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina*). As the number of children coming into North Carolina's foster care system continues to increase, Elon Homes has been expanding its program to meet the demand. Our agency currently provides living homes to approximately 120 children with more than 75 licensed foster homes in the Greensboro and Charlotte regions.

Along with a growth in our number of foster families, we have had the opportunity to provide permanent, adoptive homes to many children as well. Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Johnson of Charlotte recently adopted a sibling group of four children when it was determined that they would be unable to reunite with their biological family. There are many other families like the Johnsons who have adopted or are in the process of adopting children between the ages of 0-18 years.

If you are interested in becoming a foster or adoptive family with Elon Homes for Children, please contact Pamela Holley at (336) 584-0091 ext. 127 in the Greensboro area, or Rebecca Krypel at (704) 369-2500 ext. 531 in the Charlotte area.

You can make a world of difference in the life of a child!

From April Cranford, CROSS Director

The CROSS program, a ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, hosts groups at the church and plans missionary experiences for them in Charlotte. The groups, from all over the eastern part of the United States, average 15 youth and advisor participants. Weekend groups have been involved in the life and ministry of Elon Homes on Saturday afternoons, taking part in games and crafts and getting to know the residents through conversation. Of the 22 sites the CROSS program works with in Charlotte, Elon Homes has become a favorite. The youth director from First Presbyterian Church Asheboro, says that *his youth are still talking about the relationships developed at Elon Homes when they came in February of this year*. The CROSS summer program hosts groups for a week and the program looks forward to continuing the partnership with Elon Homes, sharing the love of Christ through actions and works.

Memorial Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2006

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

Mary Ann Atwater
Robert N. Atwater

Della McNeill Macon
Robert L. Macon Jr.

Frank Parks
Ruby Isom

Michael Dolan Talbert
Rev. and Mrs. Dolan A. Talbert

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Minnie Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Walsh

Erma Noah
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sasser

Mary Stewart
Dr. & Mrs. Mrs. Robert A. Diseker

Honor Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2006

Col. J. Quincy Collins
Michael Macomson

Ben and Wendy Franklin
Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Booth

Jane S. Grosse
Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. McAulay Jr.

Amy Marshall's Birthday
Damon E. Woodson

To name Elon Homes for Children, Inc. or any charitable organization in your will or trusts, give your attorney its full legal name to use. To make a bequest to Elon Homes for Children, Inc., use the following statement:

I leave to Elon Homes for Children, Inc., \$_____ (or, _____% of my estate or specific property) (or, all remaining assets and residue from my estate)."



Elon Homes for Children has leased office space from Peace United Church of Christ in Greensboro for the day-to-day administration of the family foster care program. The site will be used for training, meetings, referrals and telephone communications. This location will serve Elon Homes foster care families from Guilford and surrounding counties.

Kennedy Charter Finishes Season With 8 Wins, 3 Losses



Coach Jarrett Brobst

The Kennedy Charter School basketball team had a great season with an eight game winning streak that took the boys into the playoffs tied for the #1 seed. Kennedy Charter belongs to the North Carolina Charter School Athletic League (NCCSAL) and is coached by Jarrett Brobst. Brobst played college basketball at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, SC. After a loss in the semi-finals, the Eagles finished with the third best record in the league.

The well-rounded team had four players who averaged scoring in double digits, and each player contributed an equal amount of playing time. "From the players that returned from last year's team to the new players this year, I was amazed how well they came together and played as a team," said Coach Brobst.

The team shared an unforgettable victory when they came back from a seven point deficit in the last three minutes to beat River Mill Academy, 64-60. "Everyone contributed to that victory, especially the players that came off the bench with an attitude and an energy that would not let the team be defeated," reported Coach Brobst.

The Eagles were fortunate to have a player named to the NCCSAL All-Tournament Team, #33 sophomore Raheem Chisholm. Kennedy Charter finished with a record of 8 wins and 3 losses. With the addition of a new gym next year, the Eagles are looking forward to more games and more victories.



The long reach of a Kennedy Eagle helped the team to a 60-14 victory over Christian Faith Center, Creedmoor, NC.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Lauren Anderson and Tramiel Platt graduated from Kennedy Charter Public School in June 2005.

Lauren now attends Bennett College as a liberal arts major. She currently has a 3.5 GPA and could not be happier. Lauren and her father recently visited KCPS and again thanked the staff for all they did to aid her in her great accomplishments.



Tramiel has completed the Army Reserve military training at Fort Leonard Wood and is ranked military policeman. He now reports once a month to the US Army National Guard base in Charlotte. Tramiel has returned home and is looking for employment in Charlotte where he can be closer to his family.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Spring Break, A Time to Help



Students and staff take a break from sorting food items. The Loaves and Fishes staff complimented the students, saying they are hardworking and committed to the task.

During spring break, Kennedy Campus volunteer/mentor coordinator Joye Harris arranged for students to volunteer their time and services at three Charlotte facilities.

- At Loaves and Fishes, students sorted perishable and nonperishable items and were rewarded with snacks.
- At Southminster Assisted Living, students hosted an ice cream social. As they enjoyed the ice cream, residents and students shared stories about life in earlier times compared with today. Students also demonstrated the latest dance moves for the Southminster residents.
- At Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care, students read scriptures, sang hymns and joined the day care adults in Bead designs.



A Perler Bead Bear

The students found they like volunteering and want to keep helping in the community.

Photo courtesy of Loaves and Fishes

Midnight in Paris

Reported by Christopher Lee



A perfect prom photo: Sky and Will

April 21, 2006, was a night to be long cherished by all the students and faculty at Kennedy Charter Public School. George Sand, the famous French writer once said, "There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved." This sentiment could be felt at 7 PM when the doors opened to "A Midnight in Paris," the 2006 KCPS Senior Prom.

The day began with every KCPS student assisting the staff and faculty prepare the cafeteria for an enchanted evening. The students worked hard to decorate the walls, floors and ceilings. By day's end, the Paris skyline was complete. When the doors opened, students entered through the Gates of Versailles and strolled down a lighted path that led to the Eiffel Tower resting on a grassy knoll. Christmas lights became stars carefully arranged on a night skyline.



Prom Queen Alexis and King Donte.

The fellows sported tuxedos, suits and derbies while the young ladies were elegant in their formal gowns and dresses. In addition to the formal wear, the students wore proud smiles.....proud of their outfits and the spectacular setting they helped create. The dinner, the photography, and the music were excellent additions to this wonderful evening.

It is amazing each year to witness the senior prom and how it is put together. Most of us will not soon travel to France. However, those in attendance at the prom got a glimpse of the elegance and beauty of a midnight under Paris stars.

Children Benefit From Altrusa Club's Commitment to Service



Several Altrusa members, including Rita Arundell and Lynne White (far right), helped children dye Easter eggs. Children from both sibling cottages gathered in the main dining room for this always fun and traditional activity.



The club donated landscaping labor and plants for the cottages. The cottages are home to sibling groups in foster care. Linda Smith (left) and Robeta Rossi had help from young but eager gardeners.

Two pretty yellow and white houses sitting in the midst of the Elon Homes for Children Charlotte campus caught the attention of some gifted women who have a passion for giving and helping. These generous women have touched the hearts of both staff and children.

Altrusa has been a blessing to both sibling homes, and the members' interest and commitment have had a significant impact on the lives of the children in the sibling homes.

The Altrusa Club has given a tremendous amount of time helping the children learn and participate in campus activities.

As the children and club members cultivated the soil for flowers and shrubs to beautify the grounds around the houses, seeds of love were also being planted.

Easter was an exciting time and a special day for the children thanks to Altrusa. After egg dying, everyone enjoyed an Easter egg hunt.

The club has donated bath towels, school supplies, art supplies, and a generous gift to fund a summer camp experience for the children.

The first Altrusa Club was formed in 1917 in response to the prohibition against professional and business women joining men in civic organizations. An early organizer, Mamie L. Bass, promoted service to others and her philosophy is the cornerstone of Altrusa International today. The Charlotte Club, chartered in 1928, has worked with the Battered Women's Shelter, Florence Crittenton, Salvation Army and others. The club focuses on school and literacy through projects in elementary schools. In 2005, Altrusa decided to also work with foster children and began volunteering with Elon Homes for Children.

Photographs courtesy of the Altrusa Club



Artist Melanie Miller demonstrates how to begin a portrait using Jennifer as a model. She explains how to analyze the face by distinct areas.

Students Enjoy Special Opportunity

A fortunate group of eight Kennedy Charter School students have been studying with nationally noted artist Melanie Miller Longshore. Miller, who signs her work as Melanie Miller, has studied under famed artists in the states and abroad. Her pastel portraits and originals are found in private and corporate collections throughout the South. She is currently teaching at Queens University, Charlotte, and has recently been accepted for study at the internationally acclaimed Fine Arts League of Asheville, NC.

The eight students were selected on the basis of their interest and behavior and have met on numerous Mondays with Miller to learn about the values (basics) of painting and drawing.

Miller has helped the students see the beauty of the world through an artist's eyes while encouraging and training them to develop their own artist's eye. She is eager for these budding artists to reach for their own creative spirit. Mondays with Miller has been a transforming experience for the excited and inspired students.

The Role of Philanthropy

Award-Winning Architects Partner with Elon Homes

Laughing Dog Studio, a small multifaceted, award-winning architectural firm located in Charlotte's historic Plaza-Midwood neighborhood, has been a professional partner, donating or discounting its services, for a variety of Elon Homes for Children construction projects.

The firm, a seven year-old design and architectural practice, first partnered with Elon in 2003 when Elon Homes and Habitat for Humanity jointly constructed the two **Sibling House** residences on the Kennedy Campus. Laughing Dog Studio's architects assisted in the replatting and recording of the property that would later become home for up to twelve court-ordered siblings in need of residential placement. Brothers and sisters, ranging in ages 0-21, frequently are forced to separate from one another and be placed in individual residential care facilities, sometimes in differing states, when they are in need of shelter. The **Sibling House** changes all of that for the children admitted to Elon Homes. Laughing Dog Studio helped the facility work through the complex city planning process.

Elon Homes is proud to have Laughing Dog Studio's partnership and leadership in the design and construction of the **Multipurpose Educational Center of Kennedy Campus**. This facility includes a gymnasium that will house the formal physical educational program for the

projected 250 students attending the Kennedy Charter Public School in 2006-2007 and serve as a recreational/educational nucleus for Elon's foster and residential care population and Kids Central clients. National statistics show that eighteen percent (18%) of children in America are obese. This facility, along with a coordinated, comprehensive nutrition, health and fitness curriculum will help combat the trend of early onset of diabetes in youth.

Carrie Gault, RA, owner of Laughing Dog Studio, offered this insight into the firm's philosophy, "At our studio, we see architecture as a conversation, not a statement. Conversation is a dynamic, lively and engaging endeavor it requires a collaboration of parts, of people, of place. Serving the non-profit sector has been a mission of ours since the beginning. We believe that the amount of energy it takes for most non-profits to raise money and initiate projects often goes largely unnoticed by the architectural community. There are unique issues when dealing with those relying on others for money; we often end up being not only architects but also advocates for the various organizations we work with. Our desire as a firm is to do meaningful work with meaningful people in meaningful ways - and have fun doing it."



Laughing Dog personnel. Front row L to R: Donna Cole, Carrie Gault. Back row Bruce Berberick, Mike Romot, Darryl Hall. Not pictured Debra Ellman. Pictured dog house entirely made of recycled materials.

Please contact Jane Grosse (704.369.2506 or jane.grosse@elonhomes.org), Vice President for Institutional Advancement, if you would like information on gift and estate planning ideas that utilize the following:

- Wills and revocable trusts
- Memorial and tribute gifts
- Appreciated assets/stocks
- Retirement plan assets
- Life Insurance
- Gifts that provide income, tax, and other financial benefits