

# 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

## New Facility Opens, Delights Students



Located at 301 South O'Kelly Avenue, Elon, NC, the as yet unnamed new residential facility sits on a small rise on the Snyder Campus.

After Elon Homes' Snyder Campus broke ground in May 2003 for a new 14,000 square foot residential facility, students patiently awaited completion of the building. Along with staff and board members, neighbors, friends and passersby, they watched as the \$1.1 million structure, divided at its center with one half for female students and the other half for males, took shape. Finally in May 2004, students were excited to welcome guests to their new home as part of the dedication ceremony for the opening of the new building.

Elon Homes hosted a celebration luncheon in the Lakeside Charter School cafeteria followed by a dedication liturgy which included communion. President Dr. Fred Grosse, President Emeritus Dr. Walstein Snyder and UCC Southern Conference Minister Rev. Stephen W. Camp were co-celebrants for the liturgy communion service.

Following the service, students toured guests through their bright, sparkling new home. Each of the two separate and identical units has bedrooms for 16 students, a large common area, offices, storage area and kitchenette for snacks and some meals. Most meals will continue to be served in the central dining hall.

The new building replaces several cottages and will allow Elon Homes to more effectively serve residents while providing greater security for both students and staff.

As the day's events wound down, students were eagerly preparing to move in and add personal touches to their rooms. A Burlington Times-News article quoted Dr. Snyder as saying, "This is one of the nicest things that has happened to Elon Homes." The students couldn't agree more. Please see page 7 for "Our New Home," a poem written by one of the students.



L to R: Elon Homes friends Don and Sherry Scott, Board Members Hale Mast and Gaston Gage attended dedication.

R: Common area will be used for meetings, discussions, studying and socializing.



L to R: Dr. Grosse, Rev. Camp, Dr. Snyder

# From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

Pentecost is the season of Christian growth and resurrection hope. We give thanks this Holy

Season for the Spirit which proclaims to us that God above has a room in his scared home which is prepared for each of us and for all of us.

In the United States child welfare systems, and in fact in the issues of vulnerable and at-risk children worldwide, a place to call 'my room' or 'my home' is not a reality. In fact, for many it is not even a credible hope.

Pause and reflect a moment, if you will, on being homeless today. It is impossible for most of us to comprehend but through the lens of a nightmarish fantasy. Now couple that feeling with those of complete vulnerability and the innocence of childhood. One-year-old. Ten-year-old. Fifteen-year-old. No room to call your own. No home to call your own, and in most cases, no parents or family who care about you surrounding you with love and protection and standing with you in all phases and times of your life.

Often when we speak or listen to guests in our public relations, church relations, fund development efforts or community forum meetings, we find

many people never realized the extent of poverty and abuse among children in our nation. We also find that folks want to learn more about the children at Elon Homes as well as about children's issues in the nation and the world. One of the more hopeful aspects of working in the child welfare system is that when people learn about the horror and incredible suffering of children, many if not most people step forward to help the children. God's grace takes human form and we see it every day in our work. One child at a time anyone can make a difference. But it does take love and it does take generosity and it does take selflessness. All sound Christian disciplines of faithfulness.

Our Father's house has many rooms. The Lord has gone to prepare a place for each of us. In the time before the Second Coming, it would seem that it is our invitation and calling to prepare rooms and homes for children of his Kingdom here on earth until they are called home. An eternal home. With plenty of room. And unconditional love. In this interim time, however, please join with all who serve Him by offering the ministry of healing and compassion to God's children. Let the Spirit move you with joy and hope.

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 College, NC 27244

www.elonhomes.org

**Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Grosse, President**

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### Harris Teeter Says It's Time to Relink

To earn cash for our charter schools, ask the cashier to link your VIC card to number 4992 for Lakeside Charter or to number 5386 for Kennedy Charter. It's free and easy and does not interfere with your VIC savings at Harris Teeter. Schools receive 2% of your Harris Teeter brand purchases.

### SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ Residential Long-term, Level I
- ❖ Residential Treatment, Level II & III  
Assessment & Diagnosis
- ❖ Charter Public Schools
- ❖ Spiritual Life
- ❖ Family/Therapeutic Foster Care
- ❖ Family Care
- ❖ Preparation for Adult Living
- ❖ Behavioral Health



## Service Learning: Opportunities to Give and Receive

A major component of the Elon Homes program is the involvement of the youth in care in service learning projects that benefit other non-profit agencies, particularly those in the Mecklenburg and Alamance Counties areas.

Research shows that service learning benefits students in the following ways:

- boosts academic achievement
- fosters a lifetime commitment to civic participation
- improves social skills
- helps prepare students to enter the work force

Service learning projects also give students a sense of competence; they see themselves as active contributors rather than passive recipients of adult support.

Elon Homes values its partnerships with service organizations to enhance students' experiences while in care and to allow the agency to provide support to others within the non-profit field.

Nate Huggins, Executive Director of Blessed Assurance Adult Day and Health Care Center in Charlotte, stated, "These young adults from Elon Homes have touched the lives of our elderly and special population dramatically. We look forward to their weekly programming and personal involvement with helping the mentally and physically challenged enjoy some degree of quality of life. Only a child can warm a grandma's or grandpa's heart and these children are doing this twice a week at Blessed Assurance."

In the past year, Elon has collaborated with Kopper Top,



*Pre Adult Living students and Elon staff member Helen Troy (at head of table) enjoy assisting Hospice of Charlotte with a routine mailing.*

Allied Churches of Alamance County, Loaves and Fishes, New Beginners Church, No Sew Blankets for Project Linus, Big Sweep River Cleanup, DSS Senior Citizens Nutrition Program, Carolina Raptor Center, Joshua's Farm, Hospitality House of Charlotte, Trips for Kids of Charlotte, Our Children's Memorial Walkway and South Carolina's Tree Tops Camp. While on a trip to Savannah, students also worked for three Georgia non-profits: Union Mission Homeless Shelter, Bethesda Home for Boys and Tybee Island Beautification Society.

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## Lakeside Charter Public School Names New Principal



*Principal Dr. Suni Schulze*

A graduate of North Carolina A&T University, Dr. Suni Schulze, the recently named principal of Lakeside Charter Public School, began her educational career as a classroom teacher.

Schulze later earned a master's degree in Educational Administration and moved on to assume the responsibilities of an assistant principal. After several years in that role, she enrolled in the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program at Nova Southeastern University in 1992 and received her degree in 1998.

Most educators believe that "all children can learn" observes Schulze, who goes on to say that she knows that "all children DO learn." It is important, she believes, "that along with all that children learn, educators have to be sure that students learn the essentials to be successful at life and to grow as good citizens."

Schulze's vision for Lakeside School is that the school will become the "school of choice" in central North Carolina because of its ability to significantly raise student achievement.

A native of North Carolina and an only child, Schulze recently returned to the state from Richmond, Virginia, to be near her mother following her father's death.

In welcoming the new principal, President Fred Grosse said, "Dr. Schulze brings just the combination of academic excellence and compassion for children that our school needs. Her experiences in public school administration and at Bennett College show her to be a proven leader and authentic school leader."

# Memorial Gifts

April 1- June 30, 2004

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

**Alta Atkinson**  
Dorothy Ballinger

**William S. Barfield**  
Martha C. Stevens

**Kermit Barley**  
Rachel Troxler

**Charles W. "Zeb" Baugher**  
Oswell and Janice S. Dover

**Charles G. Boone**  
The Boone Family

**Mary M. Boone**  
The Boone Family

**Carl Bowling**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Grissom

**Frank Bryan**  
Evelyn and Buddy Roberts

**Richard Burwell**  
Mr. and Mrs. David Burwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burwell

**David Chamblee**  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward N.  
Gideon, Jr.

**H. Graham Chandler**  
Bobby and Linda King

**Henrietta Clements**  
Evelyn and Buddy Roberts

**India Comer**  
Claude Comer

**Joy Copeland**  
Joe and Peggy Burwell

**G. Norman Durham**  
Dorothy Ballinger

**Polly L. Edwards**  
Dr. and Mrs. James Brewer

**Woodrow Faucette**  
Ruth Ann and Bill Rogers

**O. C. Gibson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M.  
Carter

**P. P. Gibson**  
R. G. Christopher

**Glen Harris**  
Joe and Peggy Burwell

**Olive Harvey**  
Rebecca Troxler  
Rachel Troxler and Family

**Kathryn Elizabeth Holland**  
Jo and John Holland

**Jack Kirby**  
Frank and Sue Sasser

**Dr. William Kron**  
Richard Baggelaar

**Catherine Liner**  
Robert G. Robertson

**Pat Maness**  
Sue Sasser

**Janice Bauer Manheim**  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Mike Manheim

**Clinton Mann**  
Dorothy G. Latta

**Louise B. Marshall**  
John and Judy Shumate

**Norma McCleney**  
Gerry Pittman

**Marie Milton**  
Richard Baggelaar

**Judy Morrison**  
Friends at Wallace-Rose Hill  
High School, Teachey, NC

**Billy Parsons**  
Willard and Mamie Briggs

**Mallie J. Paschall, III**  
Bill Dickerson

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Joe and Peggy Burwell

**Edgar Poteat**  
Mr. and Mrs. David Burwell  
Joe and Peggy Burwell

**Mary Rich**  
Joe and Peggy Burwell

**Margaret Lane Rowland**  
Nancy and Douglas Hodgson

**Calvin W. Shaffer**  
Oswell and Janice S. Dovel

**George Shropshire**  
John and Judy Shumate

**Mary Simpson**  
Cynthia Brewer

**Mrs. Omie P. Snipes**  
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**Paul J. Squires**  
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**Kurl Stevenson**  
A. B. and Martha Wood

**Joseph and Pearl Tate**  
Glenda Tate

**Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Wade**  
Margaret Wade Wagoner

**G. Lawrence Wagoner**  
Dorothy Ballinger  
Martha and Jim Brewer  
Margaret Wade Wagoner  
Buddy, Buck and Bob Wade

**Donald DeCoursey Ward**  
William Hunt Ward

**George C. Welch**  
Joe and Pat Mallison

**Julian B. White**  
J. G. White

**Mrs. Thomas C. Worth**  
Martha C. Stevens

**Jack Wyatt**  
Martha and Jim Brewer

# Honor Gifts

April 1 - June 30, 2004

**Rev. Andrew J. Bierkan**  
Vicki, Beth & Brian Celenza  
Scott and Pam Leist

**Joanie Bischer**  
J. C. and Rita Bischer

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

**Cynthia Brewer**  
Rob and Beth Johnson

**Bobby and Phyllis Byrd**  
William and Teresa Bailey

**Christian Hunter Cobb**  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Cobb

**Bill Grigg**  
Mary Elizabeth Francis

**Frederick G. Grosse**  
Rowland and Anne Filer, Jr.

**Gracia Harrington**  
Erma Proctor

**Fathers of Hedrick's Grove UCC**  
Hedrick's Grove UCC  
Women's Fellowship

**David Horne**  
Helen E. Burleson

**Cheryl Hudson**  
J. C. and Rita Bischer

**John and Cindy Pruette**  
William and Teresa Bailey

**Dolores Truitt**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Robertson

# Memorials & Gifts of Honor



## Memorial Gifts

*Do you wish to remember a loved one or special friend in a meaningful way? Please consider a gift to Elon Homes for Children in their memory. Many find a memorial gift an especially thoughtful way to express their concern to the bereaved family. Your memorial gift will help provide safe haven, life skills training and a strong education foundation for the boys and girls on the Snyder and Kennedy Campuses. These gift are acknowledged promptly with a beautiful card and are shown in the quarterly newsletter. The gift amount remains confidential.*

## Honor Gifts

*To mark special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, births, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or to acknowledge your respect or love for someone, honor gifts to Elon Homes for Children provide a wonderful opportunity to convey your sentiment. Those who are honored often tell us how much they treasure these honor gifts that help the children in our care. The honoree is promptly notified of your gift with an attractive card; again the amount of the gift remains confidential. The honoree also receives a copy of our quarterly newsletter which lists memorial and honor gifts.*



*Your kindness and friendship will be greatly appreciated.  
Your generosity will impact the lives of children in many positive ways.  
To make a memorial or honor gift, please use the enclosed green envelope.  
Thank you.*

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## GIVING THROUGH YOUR WILL

You can continue to support the work of Elon Homes for Children beyond your lifetime by remembering us in your will. This is a thoughtful way to give which almost anyone can afford. You can give (1) a percentage of your estate; (2) a specific certain property such as real estate or stocks (such a bequest should be worded with caution); (3) part or all of the residue of your estate - what is left after all other beneficiaries have received their bequests; (4) a combination gift arrangement - a certain percentage plus the residue. 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)."*

## Taking a Break From Daily Routine for Campus Workdays



*L to R: Cynthia Alston-Atwater, Tina Miles, Jennifer Dickson (Elon University student intern), Will Stinnett, Fabio Aguilar, and Rose Cooper spread over 530 cubic feet of mulch in the rose garden.*



*Kennedy Charter Public School Director Stacey Rose climbs the ladder to touch up a corner where those rollers just can't reach.*

Members of the Snyder Campus and Kennedy Campus staffs took a day off from their usual responsibilities to lend a hand with some maintenance needs. At Snyder Campus (left photo), the group took advantage of a hot but beautiful day to work on the grounds including attention to the Byrd/Powell Rose Garden. They also weeded, mowed, picked up trash, and improved signage all across the campus. The Kennedy Campus folks also worked on their grounds. While the tasks were challenging, all agreed the work was rewarding. Delicious lunches were served to fortify everyone for the afternoon chores. After school was out for the summer, the Kennedy Charter Public School faculty (photo at right) organized to paint the school corridors and classrooms. Elon Homes is fortunate to have dedicated, hardworking staff members who regularly go above and beyond job descriptions to insure students receive the best possible care and services.

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## Students Attend Annual Carolinas Broyhill Youth Development Retreat

Fifteen students from the Snyder and Kennedy Campuses participated in the sixteenth annual Carolinas Broyhill Youth Development Retreat held at Belmont Abbey College, June 16-20. Over 150 youth, ages 15-21, benefited from the experience designed to foster positive self-image, encourage personal goal setting and introduce techniques and ideas to resist negative peer pressures.

In addition to learning a lot about themselves and their strengths, the teens enjoyed a talent show and outdoor events, heard humorous and inspirational speakers, and met teens from throughout the Carolinas.

Kennedy student Shakita was elected vice president of her group of ten girls. Her role, she said, was to help younger teens handle issues in the right way. Shakita went

on to say, "Broyhill helped me see that getting mad so easily is not a good thing. Now I hope I will be better able to think first and try to talk to the person who made me angry. Just getting mad doesn't solve problems."

Carolinas Broyhill Youth Development Retreat is a unique leadership training and personal development experience open to residents of children's homes, foster homes, or those under DSS custody in North and South Carolina.

Contributions from the Broyhill Family Foundation, numerous corporate and foundation sponsors, and individual contributors underwrite the major costs of the retreat. A nominal fee for students covered four nights' lodging, meals and a 200-page student workbook.

# Elon Homes' Charter Public Schools Graduate 12 Seniors 19 Eighth Graders Awarded Diplomas

In early June, Elon Homes held graduation ceremonies for 12 seniors and 19 eighth graders finishing middle school. Excited families, friends and staff gathered at Lakeside Charter Public School and Kennedy Charter Public School to recognize students for their achievement.

In traditional caps and gowns, students marched to "Pomp and Circumstance" as they arrived for the ceremonies to mark this important milestone in their lives.

English teacher Love Sessoms, keynote speaker at the Lakeside School program, entitled her remarks "You Are the Chosen One" and advised students to not forget where they came from so they will always recall where it is in life they want to go. Valedictorian Tanecia S. challenged the other three graduates, Josh A., Jonathan S. and Nathan C., "In ten years we will meet again, at the same time and place."

The Kennedy School ceremony was organized around presenting awards for outstanding work in subject areas. Sanchez C. was named Most Improved student; Daryl J. was roundly applauded when named student of the Year.

Several of the graduates have announced their goals. Josh plans to major in computer technology at SB Technical School; Nathan will study at Alamance Community College toward becoming an electrician; Tenecia will attend NC Central University as a nursing student; Jonathan is headed to the U.S. Navy and hopes to become a Navy Seal.

Eighth graders who will be entering high school in the fall participated in the ceremonies. At Lakeside, six students received diplomas: Jessica B., Jennifer C., Dustin D.,



*L to R: Kennedy Charter School graduates Conyeta R., Gederian M., Jamel F., Vontez T., Joshu B., Jerri J., and Christopher H. with Director Stacey Rose. Julius J. not pictured.*

Ashley E., Rashawn N. and Zachary P. Thirteen students were recognized at Kennedy: Ladarious B., Jovonte M., Shibeen F., Nekaya C., Takiyah M., Da'Vonn R., Alaura M., Randy H., Catherine C., Jordan B., James H., Yumeri D. and Joshua W.

All the students, both seniors and eighth graders, have met many personal and educational challenges in order to meet graduation requirements. The school faculties and staff members of Elon Homes for Children are extremely proud of the charter schools' 2004 graduates and extend congratulations and best wishes to each of them.



*Left: Following her hair cut, houseparent Patrick McDaniel expressed his admiration for Samantha's thoughtful donation to Locks of Love.*

## Locks of Love

Samantha, a Sibling Home resident who is blessed with long, beautiful tresses, first heard about Locks of Love, a nonprofit group that makes free, prosthetic wigs for children who have medical-related hair loss, on a radio talk show. Soon thereafter, she saw a Locks of Love notice at The Hair Cuttery and decided to become a donor. Samantha reports that her hair cut yielded 11 inches of hair times two ponytails, enough to help several children. Samantha still has lots of beautiful hair and plans to donate again to this outstanding service for children.

### Our New Home

Hard work and dedication from all involved  
A finished structure means a problem solved  
It's out with the old and in with the new  
A brand new safe haven for me and you.

I'm proud of our house built by loving hearts  
A castle of love, providing fresh starts  
A foundation for dreams that we call our own  
Thank you again for our brand new home.

*Nathan read his poem at the dedication ceremony for the new Snyder Campus residential facility.*

## The Role of Philanthropy

## An Invitation to Join The Legacy Society



Jane Grosse, VP  
Institutional  
Advancement

Many friends of Elon Homes for Children have arranged to leave a legacy that will benefit the children and families we serve long into the future. There are many ways to leave a legacy through a planned gift. Perhaps you would like to honor or remember someone special by establishing a named endowment that can be funded, for example, through a life insurance policy or a codicil in your will (see page 5). Most important, wise gift planning considers your family situation, tax implications, and your goals for the future.

I will be happy to work with you and your advisors to help make possible a gift that reflects your values and interests while benefiting the young people and families served at Elon Homes for Children. Please contact me whenever I can be of service.

Please consider the following invitation of our friend and generous supporter Mary Elizabeth Francis to join her as a member of The Legacy Society.

Jane Grosse, CFRE  
(704) 369-2506 • Charlotte Campus Office

## A Letter from Mary Liz Francis

It is my pleasure to invite you to join me as a member of The Legacy Society of Elon Homes for Children. The Legacy Society recognizes supporters who have made a current or deferred planned gift to benefit the children and families served at Elon Homes for Children.

The year was 1892. The donor was Mrs. J. P. Barrett. And though the 65 cents she gave wasn't exactly a princely sum - even for those days - it was enough. Mrs. Barrett's gift began a movement that resulted in the Christian Orphanage, now Elon Homes for Children, opening its doors in 1907. Her act of kindness blossomed into what Elon Homes is today: a loving, two-campus home for abused and abandoned youth, a place that offers therapeutic foster care and two charter public schools for young people challenged with behavioral or academic issues. Over the years, Elon Homes has prepared thousands of young people to confidently meet the future.

Since the first gift of 65 cents, Elon Homes has received donations of every size and description. In addition to contributions made during a lifetime, many generous supporters have made donations of lasting meaning through bequests and other planned gifts. Within the Elon Homes for Children Foundation are numerous named endowments established by contributors who remembered the children of Elon Homes through wills, life insurance policies, retirement plans and annuities.

I am pleased to be a member of the Elon Homes for Children Legacy Society and grateful to know that I can help young people in need long into the future by including Elon Homes in my estate planning. Elon Homes provides considerable literature and information about charitable gift and estate planning that is useful for contributors and their advisors. Jane Grosse, VP for Institutional Advancement, assists many donors with

their plans for charitable giving. Jane began her fund development career in 1981 and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Jane is committed to the highest standards

and ethical practices of the fundraising field and puts the needs and interests of the donor as the highest priority. Please call on her if she can be of assistance to you and your advisors in your planning.

We are very grateful for your support of the children and families served at Elon Homes for Children. Elon Homes is thankful and blessed by people like you who make a difference in the lives of children. Thank you for considering my invitation.

Mary Elizabeth Francis



Mary Liz Francis  
Trustee Emerita

### The Legacy Society Response Form

Please check all that apply:

- I have included a gift to Elon Homes for Children in my estate plans.  
(OPTIONAL: More specifically \_\_\_\_\_)
- You may include my name in The Legacy Society listings.
- I request that my name not be included in The Legacy Society listings.
- I am considering a planned gift to Elon Homes for Children and would like more information.

I would like additional information on:

- Giving stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
- Giving life insurance
- Giving through retirement plans
- Giving for life income. My date of birth is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Giving through my will

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience in replying.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Jane Grosse, CFRE

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Elon Homes for Children

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