

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

Advent Luncheons Honor Supporters

The Elon Homes for Children Foundation Inc. hosted Advent Luncheons, one at Elon University, Elon, NC, and a second at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, to honor individuals, businesses, civic groups, foundations and churches that supported Elon Homes over the past year with generous financial contributions or notable volunteers efforts.

In Charlotte, guests were welcomed by Judy Harrison-Barry of the foundation board and the Kennedy Charter Public School Ensemble provided music. Foundation Board Chair Dr. John E. Nance welcomed those attending the Elon luncheon; music was provided by the Sweet Signatures, students at the university.

President Dr. Leo M. Lambert of Elon University, delivered the lun-

cheon address for the Elon gathering. Myers Park Presbyterian Church Pastor/Head of Staff Dr. Steve Eason was the guest speaker in Charlotte.

At the Elon luncheon on December 8, Elon Homes for Children honored its long-time and special relationship with Wake Chapel Christian Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC, by presenting the Caring for Children Award, the agency's highest award, to the congregation. VP Jane Grosse presented the award and said, "The church's financial support has been extremely generous and ongoing, and members of the congregation have given many hours of volunteer service to Elon Homes." Several church members have served on the Elon Homes Board of Directors including the current pastor Rev. Ross Marion, Joe Fort and Ina Mae Powell.

Dr. Fred Grosse presented the Mary Elizabeth Francis Award to Catherine and Quincy Collins at the December 6 luncheon in Charlotte. The Collinses have given tirelessly and generously of time, talent and treasure and made a dramatic positive impact on the lives of children and families in need. The couple is serving as co-chairs of the Second Century Countdown Campaign which has raised \$1.4 million to help the agency meet its ends of Safe Haven, Life Skills and Education. They originated the "Celebrating the Good Life for the Good of Children" event held in November to benefit the campaign. Catherine serves on the Elon Homes Board of Directors, and Quincy serves on the Elon Homes for Children Foundation Board.



L to R: Quincy and Catherine Collins, recipients of the Mary Elizabeth Francis Award, Dr. Steve Eason, Pastor/Head of Staff, Myers Park Presbyterian Church.



Rev. Ross Marion of Wake Chapel Christian Church, Fuquay-Varina, accepts the Caring for Children Award on behalf of the church from Jane Grosse, VP for Institutional Advancement.

From Your President



Greetings to you in this Season of Christmastide. This special time in the liturgical year is set aside for us to celebrate the birth of our Lord, new life and opportunity and the start of a new liturgical season. Much spiritual growth must be done before we leave this Season and move forward through the year.

Elon Homes for Children, too, is in a season of new life. We are preparing ourselves for better and more long-term life of the agency so we can offer Safe Haven, Life Skills and Education to children and families well into our second century of service. For the past two years an ad hoc committee of board members and community supporters has been meeting to plan the future scenarios for success of our agency. Senior management staff has been meeting separately on this same subject. We have also been consulting with state and national organizations which have expertise in children's services.

It has been evident since 1996 with the passage in Congress of the Adoption and Safe Family Act that children's services were going to change in a significant manner. The laws and regulatory mandates that have come about in these past ten years are primarily focused on in-home and community based services for children and families in need. The former orphanage style campuses and residential settings are simply no longer valued as the best setting to help a child or family.

We agree with the major emphasis of the Act and have been preparing our agency for the changes over the decade. We have diversified our agency away from just residential treatment into a reduction of actual campus based beds from 107 to 60 beds agency-wide, added 100 foster care homes in four different counties, opened a community based counseling service for hundreds of children a year, and built two North Carolina charter public high schools. We also have been very diligent about the investments of our Foundation and have grown its net worth from \$2.3 million in 1996 to a net worth of over \$18.5 million today. Five percent of the annual growth of the Foundation is used to scholarship children in care.

In further preparation for the future, our Board of Directors and I have concluded that we must close all services on our Snyder Campus in Elon. The child welfare system has changed so much that our campus location and program are no longer a location of choice for our placement sources. This year our residential and school population has not risen to above 50% of the needed census. We had been prepared for this eventual reality and have properly ended our services from this one campus. All children have been properly transferred to appropriate next placements and school settings.

At the same time, we are serving about 300 more new at-risk or abandoned, abused or neglected children this calendar year than last year through our expanded services. The new birth of our programs in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union and

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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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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

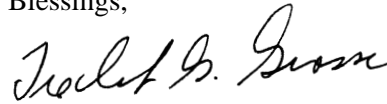
Continued from page 2

Guilford counties has quickly matured with good results. None of these services will be offered in Alamance County.

We very much appreciate your concern and compassion for children in need. Your contributions in the past have enabled us to serve a very needy and fragile population. Your continued support is needed and valued. We will continue to serve these same type children in many new areas and places. While we will not offer campus based services in Elon, we are growing as an agency and will be reaching more children and families than ever in the immediate future. Please know that your financial support continues to be vital to the effectiveness of our mission. A gift given to Elon Homes for Children benefits every child in care.

In February our Board of Directors will be hearing a report from outside consultants about future use of our campus in Elon. We have been preparing for two years to decide on a new use of our beautiful campus and should reach our decision in early February. I will keep you informed of our decisions and thank you for your continued support of our home.

Blessings,



Frederick G. Grosse, President

Celebrating The Good Life for the Good of Children

In early November, Elon Homes hosted an exciting fundraising event at the Charlotte Museum of History which included dining and dancing. *Celebrating the Good Life* for the Good of Children honored local excellence in four areas: Furnishings, Fine Food, Fashions and Floral Design. This year's honorees were Gail Brinn Wilkins Interiors, Harper's, Belk Stores and Elizabeth House Flowers.

Long-time Elon Homes friend Ty Boyd, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and Elon Homes President Dr. Fred Grosse presented the honorees with engraved crystal bowls in recognition of their selection for excellence in the honorees' respective areas.

The concept for the event, unique to the Charlotte area, originated with Catherine and Quincy Collins, co-chairs of Elon Homes' Second Century Countdown campaign. The campaign was launched to help the agency, founded in 1907, prepare for its second century of service to children and families.

Planning and organization began in early 2005; Kim Lucas and Stacy Sumner Jesso served as co-chairs of the planning committee. Members included Anne Benson, Natalie Cohen, Catherine Collins, Elizabeth Cunningham, Jane Grosse, Judy Harrison-Barry, Sharon King, Sharon Landis, Melanie Miller Longshore, Carolyn McMahon, Diane Lumpkin Peery and Martha Schmitt.



Party chair Natalie Cohen discusses Elon Homes and its mission with Wayne Edge (L) and husband Norman Cohen.



Celebrating the Good Life guests enjoyed delicious food and an evening of dancing with music provided by Take Note with Jim Calabrese.



L to R: Catherine Collins, David Stovall of Belk Stores with crystal award, Claudia Belk, Quincy Collins.

Photos by
Chip Padgett

Memorial Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2005

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

Jo Alfred June A. Knaup	Pauline P. Gibson Ms. R. G. Christopher	Francis Machita Mr. and Mrs. John P. McNally	George W. Trent Sr. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Trent Jr.
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	Helena D. Kyle American Legion Auxiliary Chapel Hill, NC	Dayle Hammer Stuart Sarah W. Hammer	
	Jack Lailey Roy C. Bradford	Pauline Andrews Sullivan Mr. and Mrs. William M. Rogers	
	Nora L. Lambert Cheryl S. Lambert	Dr. Mary Ann Taylor Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Diseker	

Honor Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2005

Our Children

Nancy Y. Thorp

Edith Bartley

Marvin S. Calloway Jr.

Kat Belk Cook

Mr. and Mrs. Ted B. Sumner Jr.

Bruce and Glynn Bell

Billie N. Harlin

Rick and Lee Booth

Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Jr.

Steve and Sammie Braxton

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Efland

Addie Mae Brooks

Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Cobb

Peggy Caviness

Dr. Erma C. Proctor

Joan D. Craven

Rev. & Mrs. Raymond C. Craven

Robert C. Crawford, M.D.

Carolina Birth Center, Nurse/
Midwives, High Point, NC

Jim and Anne Davidson

Mr and Mrs. Herman Moss

Elizabeth Elder

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Simpson

Mary Liz Francis

Mr. and Mrs. Alan P. Shaw
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Tate III

Scott and Cindy Hindsley

Dr. and Mrs. J. Pack Hindsley

Dr. & Mrs. Claude Hollingsworth

Mr. and Mrs. Ted B. Sumner Jr.

Dot Lambeth

Mr. and Mrs. Horace R. Faucette

Lilly R. McBroom

Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin A. McBroom

Fuzzy Nichols

Ms. R. G. Christopher

Sy and Vivian Pell

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Helen E. Bureson

Mr. and Mrs. Horace C. Powell

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Kristi and Joe Raymond

Dr. Thomas N. Stephenson

Will and Celine Stinnett

Fannie Mae Foundation
The Matching Gift Center
Stuart, FL

Jessica and Jacob Thomas

Mrs. Frances McNeill

Gail Brinn Wilkins

Diane Lumpkin Peery

Mike Wise

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. D. Chambers Jr.

Christmas Honors Program

Elon Homes is grateful to the friends listed below for their participation in the 2005 Christmas Honors Program. The Christmas Honors Program provides a meaningful way to recognize special personal, business and professional relationships. Honored individuals or businesses receive a beautiful card, which includes the donor's name and address, informing them that a gift in their honor has been made to Elon Homes for Children. These gifts help make the holiday season a warm and happy time for our children.

The Brady Foundation
Salisbury, NC

John R. McAdams Company
Charlotte, NC

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Schmitt
Charlotte, NC

Wayne Brothers Inc.
Davidson, NC

Louis R. Dickerson
Raleigh, NC

Mr. and Mrs. William Musgrave
Charlotte, NC

Sedgefield Interior Landscapes
Charlotte, NC

Mr. & Mrs. Gaston H. Gage Sr.
Charlotte, NC

Rays Amoco, Inc.
Charlotte, NC

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson
Charlotte, NC

Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Frederick G. Grosse, Charlotte, NC

Mrs. Ruby Robinson
Robbins, NC

Danny W. Trent
Reidsville, NC

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 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 Hosts 80 Child Care Professionals

In late November, Elon Homes hosted child care professionals and volunteers from North and South Carolina at a *Scenario Planning for America's Children* session at the Duke Mansion in Charlotte. The meeting addressed significant current and anticipated changes in services to children and families and offered realistic and positive responses. Decreased funding and an emphasis on community based services versus residential care requires agencies to diversify programs while increasing their advocacy for clients.

Peter Goldberg, President and CEO of the Alliance for Children and Families, was the keynote speaker. Goldberg's address was followed by a panel discussion which featured Dr. Austin Connors, Executive Director of the Children and Family and Services Association-NC; Brett Loftis, Executive Director of the Council for Children; Rhett Mabry, Director, Child Care Division,

The Duke Endowment; Dannette Smith, Director, Youth and Family Services, Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services; and Peter Goldberg.

At the close of the afternoon, Dr. Fred Grosse presented the Caring for Children award to Dr. Connors. Grosse said, "This award is given by Elon Homes as its highest honor and recognition of an individual or organization which embodies over the years the mission of the agency. Dr. Connors was selected this year as our individual recipient. Austin has had an exemplary personal and professional life which has always put the betterment of society and families ahead of self. His leadership of the state association over the past decade capped a career of service to society. Elon Homes benefitted greatly from his leadership and friendship and for that we are happy to select Austin as this year's recipient."



With Dr. Grosse moderating, Peter Goldberg (center) and Rhett Mabry (right) responded to questions following their presentations.



Elon Homes presented its highest award, the Caring for Children award, to Dr. Austin Connors for his outstanding contributions to children, families and society.

Kids Central of the Carolinas LLC Expanding Services

Kids Central of the Carolinas (KCC) LLC (www.kids-central.net) is a not-for-profit corporation wholly owned and operated by Elon Homes for Children. This service was created to enable the agency to diversity our business base into outpatient community based services and to have children of all income levels receive high quality testing and treatment services. We are very pleased with the changes in federal legislation that allow us to expand KCC services into communities where there are significant clusters of at-risk children and families in need of this unique service.

On January 2, 2006, KCC opened new off-campus sites of service in Mecklenburg County. We now have clinical staff serving at the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Court in a program with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, at the main branch of the Charlotte YWCA, and within the Youth Homes International offices at the Children and Family Services building. We continue to market and want to expand our KCC services in several North Carolina counties.

Kids Central staff will also continue to expand as we seek professionals with education and experience in the particular areas of service need of our program. Federal and state regulations demand a very pronounced decrease in campus based residential placements of children. Clinical evidence shows that a child who is not in immediate and imminent danger is better served within his or her own family or home setting. We agree with this reform and offer Kids Central as a manner in which children and families can receive therapeutic services while still remaining in their own home or home community. In addition to expanding our services to other locations and in partnership with other child serving agencies, we are expanding our KCC services within Elon Homes for Children itself so that in total this fiscal year we will probably see hundreds more children for care and treatment than we did last year.

Elon Homes and Friends Celebrate Christmas

The Christmas season at Elon Homes for Children was a joyous experience for all who were blessed to be a part.

Many of the children served at Elon Homes missed sharing Christmas with their families this year. Thankfully, wonderful volunteers helped make Christmas bright from beginning to end. The season kicked off with help from several life groups from Forest Hill Church. One enthusiastic group gave of time and creative talent to help the residents make lovely ornaments. The boys and girls decorated the Christmas trees in the units and the sibling houses with their handmade ornaments.

Complimentary tickets enabled many of the children and young people to enjoy the *Chronicles of Narnia*, *A Christmas Story* and *The Singing Christmas Tree*. Just before Christmas Day, many of the Christmas sponsors joined the children and staff for a jubilant party.

The tremendous generosity of churches, organizations, companies and individuals made Christmas truly special for the boys and girls at Elon Homes. Thanks to all who contributed to help our children have a happy and memorable holiday.

Tim Griner
 Holiday Evergreens Nursery
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Osman
 David Overman
 Saundra Russ
 Amanda Hollingworth
 Jeff Gordon Foundation
 Wendy Ness
 Ann Wilcome and Friends
 Comedian Minister P
 Decision One Mortgage
 Edwin M. Rollins, Inc.
 Family Christian Stores
 Friendship Missionary Baptist
 Church

Federal Express
 Kay Johnson
 Lance Duguay
 Ralph McCormick
 Zeta Phi Beta
 Fuel Pizza
 Mecklenburg South Rotary Club
 David Yarbrough
 St. Matthew Catholic Church
 Woodmen of the World Lodge 310
 Drs. Steiner, Pappert & Linger &
 Staff
 George Baldwin
 Linda Howle
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Cooper

Ashley Payne
 Joe Jordan
 Kelly Ellis
 Angie Michaud
 Joseph Mettler
 Rich Miller
 Cindy McCain
 Katie Bennett
 Kristen Mercer
 Pam Hanson
 Anne-Marie Davis
 Cathy Griesbacher
 Antonio Hodges
 Bob Burris
 Kim Stephenson

Johnsons
 Karen Barnette
 Ashley & Susan Campbell
 Kathi Alexander & Rob Banuelos
 Jack Galen
 Suzanne Helmers
 Caroline Doyle
 Sara Harb
 Maria Didonato
 Denise Kiker
 Sheila McKay
 Donna Jentiten
 Matthew Blizard
 Susan Rothenberger
 Jerry Norman

Apologies to anyone we failed to list. Please contact Joye Harris, Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator (704/369-2517), if we failed to include you and give us the opportunity to acknowledge you in the next Our Children.



Several "elves" attended the Christmas party including Joe Jordan and representatives from Zeta Phi Beta. The sorority donated a teddy bear for each child.



It wouldn't be Christmas without carols.



Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Carter attended the Elon Homes Foster Families Christmas party with their foster twins.



What boy doesn't love cars? The more the merrier.



Already excited children were thrilled when Santa put in an appearance at their party.

The Role of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, VP
Institutional
Advancement

A GUIDE TO GIVING

Each year millions of Americans voluntarily contribute their time, energy and other resources in support of our nation's many philanthropic endeavors. We at Elon Homes for Children are very grateful for the many generous contributors who support the mission and the children and families served through Elon Homes services. Following are a few tips that I hope will be helpful as you consider your 2006 charitable giving.

1. If you are now at an age when you are required to withdraw funds from qualified retirement accounts, you may find that using the withdrawal amounts to make charitable gifts can be an excellent way to minimize or even eliminate taxes on the withdrawals. Recently proposed changes in the law may add to the appeal of making gifts from retirement plan accounts. Check with your advisors for the most current information.
2. If you own securities or other property that have increased in value since you have owned it, you may want to consider using that property to make your charitable gifts. Gifts of securities, real estate, or other appropriate property can be a way to make meaningful gifts that result in maximum tax savings with little or no effect on your spendable income. When you give qualified property you have owned for longer than one year (for example, securities that have increased in value), you are entitled to an income tax deduction for the full value of the asset, not just the amount you paid for it. Also, you will never have to pay the capital gains tax that would be due if you sold the property.
3. If the value of securities or other property you would like to give is *less* than the original cost, it is usually best to sell the property and donate the cash proceeds. You may then be able to claim tax benefits for both the capital loss and the charitable gift, effectively deducting more than the current value of the asset.
4. Giving through life insurance can allow you to make a gift of assets you no longer need to assure your economic security. If you will owe less in estate taxes, if loved ones no longer need the protection, or if you have life insurance policies that have otherwise outlived their original purposes, consider making a charitable gift of their accumulated value. As an alternative, you may name a charitable beneficiary to receive all or a portion of policy proceeds at death. Income and estate tax benefits may result from such gifts.
5. Funds remaining in your IRA or certain other retirement accounts can be subject to estate tax rates of 46% or more. Unlike other assets, after payment of estate taxes your loved ones may also be liable for income tax on those amounts. The combined impact of estate and income taxes can actually absorb up to 65% of retirement assets. That is why many choose to use retirement funds to make charitable gifts through their estates and leave other, less heavily taxed assets to heirs. This can usually be done by completing a simple change of beneficiary form available from your plan administrator.

Please let me know if I can send you, or your advisors, further information.



Elon Homes for Children

Please send me more information on gift and estate planning ideas that utilize the following:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wills and revocable trusts | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts that provide income, tax and other financial benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Life insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial and tribute gifts | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement plan assets | <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciated assets/stocks |

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone (optional) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- I have already included Elon Homes for Children in my will or other long-range estate plans.
 I would consider including Elon Homes for Children in my will or other long-range estate plans.