

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 Responds To Hurricanes

Along with many thousands of individuals and organizations from across the United States, Elon Homes for Children responded to the devastation across the Gulf Coast following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Elon Homes President Fred Grosse offered bed space at both campuses for any child or family in need of shelter and care.

Lakeside Charter School students set up tables at Wal-Mart and Burlington Square Mall and raised \$266.63 to help those devastated by the storm.

Lakeside School leaders learned that five families from the affected area were taking refuge in Burlington and signed on to help one of the families with cash, clothing, food and household items.

In Charlotte, Kennedy Charter School students and staff received permission from an Arby's manager to hold a Saturday car wash on restaurant property. They also put out a penny jar at school and together with the car wash netted \$320 for hurricane relief.

The following week, students promoted a clothing drive among their families; several boxes of clothing were taken to the local Red Cross for distribution where needed.

In October, Elon Homes VP of Operations Jorge Aguilar drove to Biloxi, Mississippi, to begin planning for a mission trip to assist with the Back Bay area rebuilding efforts.

For decades, the United Church of Christ has maintained a ministry at Back Bay that employs homeless or indigent people in shrimp fishing and building occupations. The mission has served thousands. One of the mission's primary sources of funds has been shrimping, packing/freezing the shrimp and selling them via internet and mail.

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Kennedy Charter School staff and students held a Saturday car wash to raise funds for hurricane relief.



Elon Homes will be sending a work crew to assist with rebuilding efforts in the severely impacted area.



All office equipment and furniture of the Back Bay Mission was water damaged and had to be discarded.

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

On September 29, 2005, we said goodbye to Mrs. Louise Barringer and committed her to the Lord. The sadness and loss in the day for her family and friends was profound. The joy of the day in her arrival home and her reuniting with her beloved Mr. Barringer was well celebrated.

Elon Homes for Children, Inc. has been quite blessed to have been able to call Mrs. Barringer a close friend. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Barringer we were able to construct the Barringer Center. The Center has been well used for a variety of purposes and has offered a modern and attractive space for children and staff. Mrs. Barringer's love of children was unconditional and generous. From babies to teenagers,

from orphans to court ordered youth, her main concern was that some help was being offered. From this grounding in Christian love she gave of her time, talents and treasure to the mission of our home. Her long-term philanthropic generosity to our home has enabled us to offer programs and services which truly help children and families in a host of creative ways. Her unrestricted endowment fund will continue to provide funds annually which will help us meet the needs of the day.

We are a much better agency because of her and we will proudly carry the Barringer name into our future. A good friend, a life well lived, a humble servant now home. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Frederick G. Grosse
President

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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The summer 2005 issue of the *Alliance for Children & Families Magazine* features an article by Jane Grosse, VP for Institutional Advancement, and Dr. Fred Grosse. The article explains how the Policy Governance model of board governance has helped the Elon Homes for Children board of directors solve common obstacles to effective governance. The article can be accessed at www.alliance1.org/magazine.

Time to Relink Harris Teeter VIC Cards to Charter Schools

Please help support Elon Homes' charter schools by telling the Harris Teeter cashier to link your card to either Kennedy or Lakeside Charter Public School. Once your account number is linked, every time you shop 2% of your purchase will be contributed by Harris Teeter to the organization's account. The program does not interfere with your VIC savings or cost you any money.

Lakeside Charter Public School - 4992 • Kennedy Charter Public School - 5386

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

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



Response to Hurricanes

Continued from page 1

Back Bay needs financial help and many willing hands to help restore the community. Dr. Grosse early notified UCC officials that Elon Homes for Children would help in this challenging effort. Aguilar along with a team of students and staff will travel to Biloxi and partner with that city, Back Bay Mission and other organizations to construct replacement homes in the area.

The Elon Homes volunteers must take their own generators, water, food, cooking equipment, sleeping bags, tools and tents. They will work a week in November or December and plan a follow up trip in 2006. Donations to help underwrite the volunteer expenses will be gratefully received. Please use the enclosed green envelope for contributions and indicate on check that the gift is for Hurricane Relief.

Life has slowly begun to return to something like normal in the areas struck by the storms. Prayers, volunteer labor, money and many resources will be needed for a long time. The Elon Homes family will continue efforts to bring comfort and hope to fellow citizens in a time of great need.



L to R. Navie and Jerry Augustus relocated to Burlington after Hurricane Katrina. Lakeside School students Keara and Jennifer brought gifts of food and money from Lakeside School to help the couple transition to their new community.

Houseparent Patrick McDaniel Teaches Discipline Through Martial Arts

Patrick McDaniel spends his work days as a houseparent in one of the transition/sibling homes on Kennedy Campus. Presently, there are six children, ages 6 to 13 in the home who look to McDaniel for daily care, guidance, encouragement and affection. His time away from the campus, however, is largely devoted to kajukenbo karate, a passion he developed early in life.

McDaniel explains that a Bruce Lee movie and the opportunity to study with airman from Dyess Air Force Base in Texas sparked his interest in karate. "I got my black belt at 17," reports McDaniel.

Using his own techniques, he formed a kidokai method of fighting which he says means the noble way. Today, McDaniel shares his noble method with children at the Logan Center in Concord where he lives and with the children and staff of Elon Homes in Charlotte. McDaniel has opened up the program to Kennedy School students, staff



McDaniel demonstrates a fundamental punching exercise which helps develop strength, accuracy and timing.

and staff children who have responded with great enthusiasm to the twice weekly 6:30 PM classes. Elon Homes provided the traditional uniforms and all students are responsible for care of their uniforms including washing and ironing them.

Kenyetta Hill, assistant director at Kennedy Charter Public School and a participant, says, "This is a great opportunity for students as well as staff to learn self-defense. We have come together as a group and formed bonds that become stronger with every practice. I really enjoy each session. My son actually does a better job than me most days!"

"Martial Arts teach discipline. It's discipline for your entire life," McDaniel explains. He believes his instruction is a positive influence that will help children make better choices and enable them to be more disciplined about homework, chores, self care, and many facets of life. The program also helps improve attitudes, communication and respect for authority. McDaniel sums up the significance of this training saying, "Kidokai works for students because it has the benefit of two kinds of learning experiences, working as a team member and as an individual accomplishment."

Long-time Elon Homes friend and supporter Ty Boyd received the Master Influencer Award from the National Speakers Association, an honor previously presented to speechmakers such as Art Linkletter, Jack Kemp and Zig Ziglar. Some 1400 members were on hand in Atlanta this past summer to see Boyd honored. Congratulations, Ty!

Memorial Gifts

July 1- September 30, 2005

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

Mr. and Mrs. Owen W. Andes
Earlene A. Smith

Beatrice W. Andrews
Mrs. Frances P. Hunter

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Mr. and Mrs. John J. McGlinchey
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Ronald Weeks
Damon E. Woodson

Amy L. Zeinner
Mary Lou Heiden
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Noelcke

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July 1- September 30, 2005

Natalie Cohen
Gail Brinn Wilkins

Catherine Collins
Gail Brinn Wilkins

Mrs. Loyce M. Hensley
Mr. and Mrs. Oswald W. Dovel

Walter Miller and Mabel Miller
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Milholen

Fuzzy Nichols
Ms. R. G. Christopher

Steve Rogers
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GIVING ON LINE IS EASY!

Consider sending your gift to Elon Homes for Children electronically. Visit our website at www.elonhomes.org. On the home page, click on GIVE NOW, then select [Click here if you would prefer to give securely on line.](#) You may use your Visa or MasterCard to make your gift. Thank you!

www.elonhomes.org

Vacation Time for Students

Students from both Elon Homes campuses enjoyed a fun filled and enriching trip to Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens this past summer. They traveled in rented passenger vans and agency vehicles for the four-day trip and made the most of their time in Virginia. Reservations were made at the Comfort Inn Outlet Center which offered comfortable accommodations, free breakfast and a refreshing outdoor pool for relaxing.

Although the groups made the trip at different times, their itineraries were very similar. Both began their stay with dinner at Captain George's World Famous Restaurant and Haunted Dinner Theatre. Day two included a visit to Busch Gardens with its exciting rides and games and the sights and attractions representing many cultures from around the world. Each student was given spending money for souvenirs, a special treat.

The third day was a history lesson about life in 18th century America. The groups visited a gun shop, blacksmith, the gaol and the interactive Powell House and enjoyed the various displays scattered throughout the village. That evening the boys and girls and staff headed off to Water Country USA where they had a great time on water rides and in the famous wave pool.

After an IHOP breakfast buffet the next day, students and staff headed for home, tired but happy and appreciative of a special summer vacation. If asked in class to write about "what I did this summer," the students certainly have happy and enriching memories to share.



Enjoying the shade on a warm day at Colonial Williamsburg.



Taking a breather at Busch Gardens.



Just as colonial cooks did, Clotisha uses a mortar and pestle to reduce bulk cinnamon to a fine powder.



Students gathered under an ancient Williamsburg tree and wondered if colonial families also gathered under its spreading branches.

A SUMMER EVENT

Kennedy Campus sponsored a cookout and friendly game of softball with Snyder Campus last summer. Staff from both campuses prepared food as a preamble to the big game. It was decided that the opposing campus teams would be co-ed but with staff from both campuses on each team. Snyder players got their bats going for an early lead, but a few costly errors by the Snyder infield let the Kennedy Squad battle back for the win in the final inning. Both teams demonstrated good sportsmanship throughout the game and a good time was had by all.

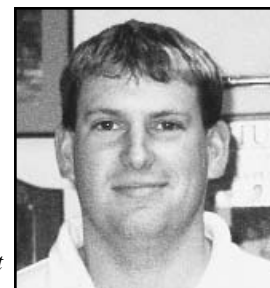
Curtis White

Welcome: Chris Trout

In August, Christopher L. Trout joined the Kennedy Campus staff as Director of Residential Programs. His undergraduate degree is from Penn State University, and he holds a Masters in Psychology from Marywood University. Trout has solid experience working with children in residential, community and treatment settings and brings a wealth of successful group home experience and clinical leadership skills to this position.

The Trout family, Chris, wife Aubrey, three daughters and three dogs, relocated to Charlotte from Holland, PA.

Chris Trout



Remembering Hattie McKinney Ledbetter

Elon Homes noted the July death of one of its early residents, Mrs. Hattie McKinney Ledbetter. In 1991, Mrs. Ledbetter was recognized with the agency's Outstanding Alumnus Award. At that time, she was believed to be the only living person who had known or met every CEO who had served Elon Homes since its founding in 1907.

The following is excerpted from an 1991 *Our Children* article.

Four-year-old Hattie McKinney came to Elon Homes for Children, then called The Christian Orphanage, in 1912 with a sister and brother following their parents' deaths. She remained for 17 years. Here, Hattie learned the importance of work, self-esteem, caring for others, respect for others and, perhaps most important, to accept what cannot be changed but to rise above circumstances and be the best one can be.

Never resentful about those years, Hattie McKinney Ledbetter said, "I may not have gone to school a day in my life if I hadn't lived at the orphanage." She appreciated the chance in life that Elon Homes gave her and has given thousands of other children.

Learning to tackle a variety of chores prepared Hattie for taking on the responsibility for the orphanage's milk house in exchange for room and board while she attended Elon College. Her days began at 5AM, and she never considered that the job would be too much for her 5 foot, 95 pound

frame. When she graduated in 1929, she was given \$100 in gold for being the first orphanage girl to complete college.

Marriage to her high school sweetheart, Wade Ledbetter, three daughters and demanding years while Mr. Ledbetter saw WWII service followed. In 1948 Mrs. Ledbetter began teaching at Gibsonville and a 23 year career in education. Because of her experiences as an orphanage girl, she had a special feeling for students, especially those with family difficulties. Mrs. Ledbetter influenced many young lives and is remembered with much fondness.

Mrs. Ledbetter recalled a wealth of information about the early years of the Home. Looking back, she said life was not easy for the children, but they had the essentials - food, clothing and shelter - and they knew Superintendent Johnson truly cared about them. Only the White Building and the farm buildings were there at the time.

Hattie McKinney Ledbetter was an inspiration to staff and children alike. She is survived by a daughter, seven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, ten great-great-grandchildren and a brother.

Mrs. Ledbetter's life is a testament to the commitment of Elon Homes for Children to those it has served over its almost 100 years of service and to the courage and character of Mrs. Ledbetter herself. She truly was an outstanding alumnus.

Prime Time for Soup and many other other Campbell's products.



Please save those Campbell's Soup labels for Elon Homes. We also collect labels from other Campbell's products: Swanson, Prego, V8, Pepperidge Farm and Franco-American. A list of eligible products can be found on the internet along with directions for what to save: front labels from canned food products and lids, UPC symbols or bottom panels from other products. Type Campbell's Labels for Education in the search line and click on view eligible products. You may also contact Lynette Kuehnel at 336/516-7633 for a list.

If your church, organization, business or club would like a collection box like the one pictured at left, call Lynette or Sharon Landis, 704/369-2510. The green and white collection boxes display the Elon Homes logo and are a great reminder to keep those labels coming.

Five From Kennedy Charter Public School Perform With Charter School Honor Choir

The North Carolina League of Charter Schools formed an Honor Choir to encourage and promote excellence in choral music by expanding educational and performance opportunities for North Carolina charter school students. Five members of the Kennedy Charter Public School Gospel Ensemble were chosen, based on their vocal/music talent and spirit, to participate in the choir's inaugural performance in early October at the North Carolina Charter School Conference held in Raleigh. The audience numbered over 500 teachers, legislators and administrators. Award-winning choral director Tim Rancont from American Renaissance Middle School directed the choir.

Chris Lee, director of the KCPS Gospel Ensemble, said the students were excited and nervous but performed beyond expectations. Justice and Robert were also chosen to play percussion instruments during one selection, and Director Rancont made special mention of the etiquette, behavior, passion and work ethic of the KCPS students. The five Kennedy students represented Mr. Lee and themselves with dignity, confidence and grace.

The performers had a rigorous schedule of rehearsals, quick meals, more rehearsals and performances. The students had a chance to meet and make new friends from other charter schools in the state.

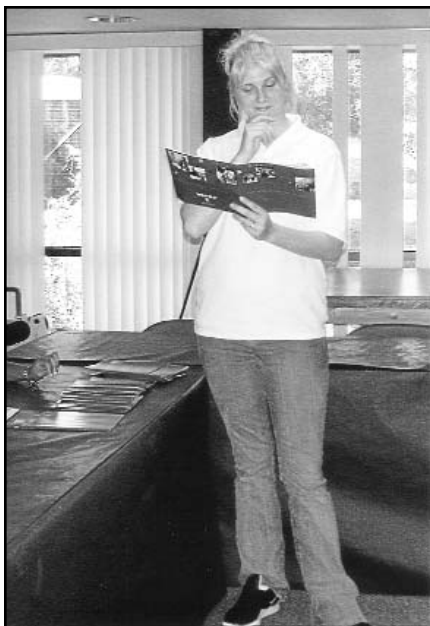
The Honor Choir will perform in February and May 2006 for the State Board of Education and the North Carolina State Legislature. The first performance of the Gospel Ensemble will be in December at *WinterFest 05*, a Kennedy Campus Charter School Christmas event featuring prose, dance and music. The Ensemble will also perform at Myers Park Presbyterian Church on December 6.



L to R: Robert, Alexis, Ray (back), Justice and Hope had a memorable time representing Kennedy Charter School in Raleigh as members of the Honor Choir.



Chris Lee, Director, Kennedy Charter Public School Gospel Ensemble



Above: Marissa studies literature provided by one of the five institutions that took part in the first Kennedy Charter School College Fair: Central Piedmont Community College, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dudley's Beauty College, Aveda Institute and Elizabeth City State University. KCPS plans to make the fair an annual event.

Giving Back In A Meaningful Way

The residents at Kennedy Campus spend time giving back to various agencies in the community. The youth have been volunteering at Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care, Classroom Central, Hunter Woods Retirement Home, Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

The students host bingo at Blessed Assurance and Hunter Woods where they are patient and kind to their older friends. The Kennedy Campus young people have been able to forge relationships with the residents and look forward to going to see their new found friends.

At Classroom Central the students help collect, store and distribute school supplies for area schools.

Each student has his or her own favorite place to volunteer, but the majority most enjoy their time at Loaves & Fishes. Staff members there state they assign a task, crank up the music and watch the students eagerly get to work.

Volunteering has been an empowering experience for the youth because of the sense of confidence they gain from each placement. Thanks to their positive experiences, many want to become lifelong volunteers.

Joye Harris

The Role of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, VP
Institutional
Advancement

Windows of Opportunity in Gift Planning

Fortunately, in response to the unprecedented events of 2005, Congress acted in September to temporarily suspend limits of deductions for gifts of cash to qualified charities made during the period beginning August 28, 2005 and ending December 31, 2005. Donors may deduct such gifts in amounts up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI), if so desired. Other limits that can reduce the value of itemized deductions by 3% for higher income taxpayers have also been suspended for this year.

A Sample Menu of Philanthropic Options

As you consider your 2005 giving priorities for year-end, please consider a gift to Elon Homes for Children. Here's a sampling of the powerful impact gifts of various sizes have in the lives of children.

Education

A Gift of \$25 = one new book for the school library

A Gift of \$50 = one new text book

All residential students and many community students attend one of our charter schools. Students learn integrity, strength of character and resiliency in their pursuit of an education. All students gain practical and customized vocational skills. This fall 14 of our 2005 high school graduates are attending a four-year or community college.

Educational and Psychological Assessments

A Gift of \$1,000 = Testing and a treatment plan for one student

One hundred percent of the children in our care need educational and psychological testing to determine areas of need. Following this assessment we can develop a treatment plan and goals and provide ongoing treatment.

Group Therapy

A Gift of \$250 = A full ten-week peer group therapy program for one student

Peer group therapeutic sessions are proving to be highly successful. We are running a ten-week program of group sessions to address anger management and appropriate social skills.

School Uniforms

A Gift of \$150 = Three uniforms for the school year for one student

Our charter schools provide school uniforms for the students attending. The uniforms are highly successful. They eliminate the distractions inappropriate clothing cause and create a sense of unity and school spirit. There is no funding for uniforms except philanthropic gifts.

Substance Abuse Prevention

A Gift of \$250 = A full prevention and education program for one student

Ninety-nine percent of the children in care come from substance abusing homes. Their likelihood of becoming abusers themselves is magnified due to life-long exposure to the ramifications of abuse. Because there is no fee for service funding to offer a substance abuse prevention program we rely on charitable funds to meet this identified, crisis-level need. The program consists of substance abuse education and prevention and drug testing.

Vocational Education

A Gift of \$750 = Completion of the full six week Vocational Education program for one student

The Vocational Education course consists of twelve classes over six weeks to improve participants' knowledge of job readiness and job maintenance. Students must apply to the program and be accepted. The classes include lectures, speakers, interview skills building and completion of the Quality Group Employability Skills computer program. Graduates are then eligible for camps-based jobs.

The Bike Program

A Gift of \$450 = One mountain bike, helmet, and jersey for a student biker

One of the most popular extracurricular activities currently is the mountain biking club for students who share an enthusiasm for biking. The students are participating in trips along local bike trails and competing in area races. We need additional bikes and helmets so more students can participate. Besides learning to mountain bike, students learn about teamwork and fair play and the importance of the self-care and self-discipline.