

Our Children

ELON HOMES FOR CHILDREN

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

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

Kennedy Charter Public School Expands to Serve More Students

A big yellow bus filled with eager students turns right into the entrance. As the bus stops, students with bright eyes and backpacks bound off and make their way down the steps. The bus continues around the building. The last of the students scurry to the door and wait as each student passes through the metal detectors at the door. Inside, over two hundred high school students are in line in front of the renovated reception area to get their schedules. Where is civics and economics? Where is Ms. Franklin for Algebra I? Freshly painted walls and enthusiastic teachers welcome students as they make their way to their first class of the 2006-2007 school year.

Kennedy Charter Public School opened for its ninth year on August 21, 2006, with over 250 students and 31 staff members. Seventeen previous staff members returned, but new teachers almost outnumbered the veterans. Coming from as far away as New York and Ohio, the teachers are well prepared to teach and share their knowledge.

This year the school is divided into middle and high school. The middle school has 50 students, most of whom are community students new to KCPS. Middle school classes are held in an area separate from the high school. With a ratio of less than ten students to one teacher, the middle school will focus on interactive and individualized instruction throughout the year.

After a summer of advertising and registering new community students, the high school has expanded to over 200 students. To accommodate all the students, electives such as Spanish and music were added to the schedule. The teaching staff for the high school includes two core subject teachers for history, math, science and English along with two physical ed/health teachers and a computer teacher. A freshman seminar, headed by Christopher Lee, was also added to aid students in the transition to high school.

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The increased enrollment requires four lunch periods and a food service staff of four.



KCPS has four bus routes for students. Some students take public transportation and parents provide rides for a few.



KCPS features small classes and individualized attention in a highly structured setting that is conducive to learning.

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

Recently my wife Jane and I attended a very special worship service at Wake Chapel Christian Church in Fuquay-

Varina. The congregation, led by Rev. Ross Marion, was celebrating its 150th anniversary. The visiting preacher used the theme of 'coming home to God' from Genesis 35. It struck me as I listened to the sermon that this message applies to the decade-old welfare reform effort in our nation.

The text unfolds in a way that is applicable to us today. Nearly thirty years have passed since Jacob vowed to return to Bethel where God had revealed Himself to him during his flight from Esau to Paddan-aram. But he had yet to fulfill his pledge of returning to God. Jacob had built an altar at Shechem (33:20) so there must have been some kind of religious observance there. Spiritually, however, Jacob was not near to God at all. Jacob told Esau he would meet him at Seir (33:14), but he went the opposite direction to Succoth, then to Shechem. Jacob somewhat passively accepted the rape of his daughter and even entered into an agreement whereby the purity of the covenant people of God would be lost (chapter 34). Jacob was preoccupied with prosperity and security at the expense of purity and piety. He is near Bethel but not near to the God of Bethel - at least not in chapter 34.

Thirty miles separate Jacob from Bethel. He is that close to fulfilling his vow to God. But he is not close to

God. He lives a purely selfish and self interested life.

In this newsletter we have reprinted, with permission, an article from The New York Times because it well captures the reform of welfare in our nation. There are profound consequences of this reform. Among them is a legislative call for parents or kin to take care of their own children. Reform also has the intended consequence of shrinking the child welfare system and agencies so that families, not institutions, care for our young. This reform is the bedrock reason we closed our residential program and school in Elon last year. It is also the reason we continually strive to have our agency reformed and much more family and community centered.

At its core this reform is a call to Bethel. It is a call home for those who have created life to be responsible for that precious and vulnerable life. Jacob was only thirty miles away from God's self-revelation at Bethel but his faithless living made it more like three million miles from God. Today we have parents living three miles from their own children and not taking one step toward raising them. Welfare reform is the call to come home to Bethel for negligent parents. No longer will institutions do the work of parents or kin. It is a responsible and timely call and shift in national delivery of child welfare services. There exists no replacement or substitute for the love of God. For Jacob this was revealed at Bethel. There exists no replacement or substitute for the flesh and blood love and touch of a parent or kin. For all children this will be revealed in the sight and touch of their parents or kin.

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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

Published quarterly by

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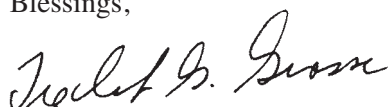


SERVICES & PROGRAMS

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

May God grant us the wisdom and guidance through our work at Elon Homes to direct parents and their children to their own Bethel. Not only will parental love be revealed but the Incarnation of Christ will also be known.

Blessings,



Frederick G. Grosse, President

End Welfare Lite as We Know It

By Douglas J. Besharov

It's been nearly 10 years since President Bill Clinton signed the landmark 1996 welfare reform law. The anniversary has been occasion for various news stories and opinion pieces, most of them praising the law's success in reducing welfare dependency.

And it's true: welfare caseloads have fallen an astounding 60 percent since reform efforts began. But even as a strong supporter of welfare reform, I find it difficult to muster unqualified enthusiasm for the law and how it has been carried out.

In the years immediately before the law's passage, welfare dependency seemed out of control. From 1989 to 1994, for example, caseloads rose 34 percent. Analysts argued over how much to blame the weak economy; worsening social problems, primarily out-of-wedlock births and drug addiction; and lax agency administration. But few claimed that another 1.3 million people on welfare was a good thing.

Responding to the growing concern, Mr. Clinton campaigned for president on a promise to "end welfare as we know it." But he had in mind something far different from what the Republicans handed him in 1996. Nevertheless, he signed the legislation that ended the welfare entitlement and gave states wide discretion, as long as they put 50 percent of recipients in work-related activities and imposed a five-year limit on financial aid.

Many feared a social calamity. But in the years since, although researchers have strived mightily, they've found only small pockets of additional hardship. Even better, the earnings of most single mothers actually rose.

These twin realities - decreased caseloads and little sign of serious additional hardship - are why both Republicans and Democrats think welfare reform has been a success.

But the results are more mixed. Caseloads fell, yet they did so seemingly regardless of what actions the states took. They fell in states with strong work-first requirements, and those without them; in states with mandatory work programs, and those without them; in states with job training programs, and those without them; and in states with generous child care subsidies, and those without them.

In fact, the consensus among academic researchers is that it took more than welfare reform to end welfare as we knew it. If one looks at all the studies, the most reasonable conclusion is that although welfare reform was an important factor in caseload reduction - accounting for 25 percent to 35 percent of the decline - the strong economy was probably more important (35 percent to 45 percent). Expanded aid to low-income, working families, primarily through the Earned Income Tax Credit, was almost as important (20 to 30 percent).

What's more, the best estimates are that only about 40 to 50 percent of mothers who left welfare have steady, full-time jobs. Another 15 percent or so work part time. According to surveys in various states, these mothers are earning about \$8 an hour. That's about \$16,000 a year for full-time employment. It is their story that the supporters of welfare reform celebrate, but \$16,000 is not a lot of money, especially for a mother with two children.

What about the other 50 percent of families who left welfare? Well, some mothers did not "need" welfare, perhaps because they were living with parents or a boyfriend, and some left because of intense pressure from caseworkers. More troubling, about a quarter of those who leave welfare return to the program, with many cycling in and out as they face temporary ups and downs.

In addition, when they're off welfare, some of these families survive only because they still receive government assistance - through food stamps (an average of more than \$2,500), the Women, Infants and Children program (about \$1,800 for infants and new mothers), Supplemental Security Income (an average of over \$6,500), or housing aid (an average of \$6,000). Their children also qualify for Medicaid. In reality, these families are still on welfare because they are still receiving benefits and not working - call it "welfare lite."

So, yes, welfare reform reduced welfare dependency, but not as much as suggested by the political rhetoric, and a great deal of dependency is now diffused and hidden within larger social welfare programs.

As a result, public and political concern about dependency has largely disappeared.

The tougher work and participation requirements added in this year's reauthorization of the law could help states address the deeper needs of welfare families. But many states are already planning to avoid these new strictures with various administration gimmicks, like placing the most troubled and disorganized families in state-financed programs where federal rules do not apply. This would only further obscure the high levels of continuing dependency.

For now, welfare reform deserves only two cheers. Not bad for a historic change in policy, but not good enough for us to be even close to satisfied.

Douglas J. Besharov, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, is a professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy.

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Published August 15, 2006

Memorial Gifts July 1 - September 30, 2006

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

Horace Bennett
Cynthia Brewer

Anne Bleecker
Patricia Mullins
Linda G. Taylor

Helen Cothran
Mr. and Mrs. John Fica

Helen Andrews Cranford
Ruby Baldwin

Donovan Darnell
Margaret Wade Wagoner

Susan W. Dreyer
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Walsh

Brenda Driggers
Donald L. Driggers

Rudene Forrester
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Walsh

Pressley Foushee
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Coggins

Randy Frederick
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Dickson

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Funderburk
Mr. and Mrs. Reid P. Kerr, Sr.

Pauline P. Gibson
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Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Kerns
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Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McNeil

Mallie J. Paschall
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Dickerson

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Mr. and Mrs. Daniel LaRue

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Crump Shankle
Mr. and Mrs. Reid P. Kerr, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Shankle
Mr. and Mrs. Reid P. Kerr, Sr.

Anna S. Shelar
Ruby Isom

Warren Wade
Mr. and Mrs. Willard W. Briggs

Christine H. Wagoner
C. S. Wagoner, Jr.

G. Lawrence Wagoner
Margaret Wade Wagoner

James Edward Wallace
Billy Joe Lambert

James Virgil Whitley
Martha C. Stevens

Honor Gifts July 1 - September 30, 2006

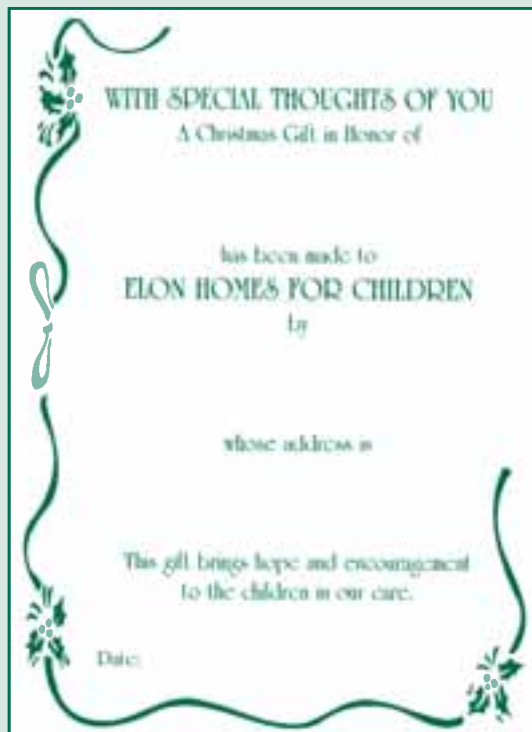
Ruth Blaleck
Wilma E. Proffitt

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Smathers

Jane S. Grosse
Pat's Place Child Advocacy
Center, Charlotte, NC

Dr. Stephen Ruehle
Mr. and Mrs. Burl T. Kenner

Christmas Honor Gifts Recognize Special Relationships



The upcoming season is a time of spiritual renewal and hope and a time to reach out to help others. Elon Homes for Children invites friends to become a part of its community of Christian healing as one expression of their Christmas celebration. Through its Christmas Honors Program, Elon Homes offers a meaningful way to recognize special personal, business and professional relationships. Christmas Honor gifts create good will and spread cheer among those honored while providing much needed support for the children and young people in care.

Individuals and businesses provide the names and addresses of those they wish to honor. In early December, Elon Homes mails each honoree the handsome card shown here with the message that a gift in their honor has been made to Elon Homes for Children. The gift giver's name and address are included as well.

Please contact Brigitte McKee at 704/369-2507 if you are interested in celebrating the true spirit of Christmas in this way. Your gift will be used to bring hope and joy to the lives of children and will be much appreciated by those you honor.

For each person honored,
we respectfully suggest a minimum donation of \$25.

Kennedy Charter School Expands continued from page 1

Administrative changes have also been made. School Director Stacey Rose and Assistant Director Kenyetta Hill now have the support of a second assistant director, Dena McFadden. Christopher Lee is student activities coordinator, and Todd Penree and his behavior support staff, along

with two resource officers, help manage the vibrant environment in and around the school.

Students and staff are looking forward to a great year at Kennedy Charter where “the future starts here.....on the road to success.”

KCPS Eagles Dominate in Season Opener

On September 15, Kennedy Charter made history when it fielded its first football team and defeated Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy 44-0. There was intense anticipation as game time approached; students could hardly contain their excitement. Tension was high as players and coaches loaded the bus and headed for Harding University High School where the game was played.

The Eagles scored on five of their first six possessions and never looked back. Head coach Eric Jeter said, “The team played hard and showed a tremendous amount of enthusiasm.” He added that the team is a work in progress but is making great strides. Defensive coordinator Jonathan Parsons acknowledged, “Defensively we have some work to do, but I was pleased with the defensive line and the linebackers played well.



The team has a challenging five game schedule in this first year.

Offensive coordinator Christopher Lee was extremely pleased with the players’ work ethic, on and off the field.

Congratulations Eagles on an impressive win.

Golf Tournament Proceeds Benefit Elon Homes, Others

On September 25th, North Carolina experienced one of its spectacular fall days that golfers truly appreciate when 93 players met at the Raintree Country Club in Charlotte for the fourth annual golf tournament hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Pineville/South Mecklenburg.

Thirty volunteers provided support for the event which featured great golf, lunch, dinner, and refreshments. Lance and Kellogg’s were major sponsors. Lunch was sponsored by Joe’s Crabshack Restaurant and dinner was sponsored by Texas Roadhouse Restaurant.

The club is pleased to report that the tournament raised the most money ever. Samaritan’s Feet, several schools, ARC and Elon Homes for Children will share in the tournament proceeds.

Thank you Kiwanis Club of Pineville and South Mecklenburg for your continued support.

photo courtesy of Kiwanis Club



On a bright, beautiful morning volunteers are ready to register players for the Kiwanis Club of Pineville/ South Mecklenburg Golf Outing.

Virginia Is For Great Vacations



Vacation memories: replica ships at Jamestown (the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery); an early cannon; a refreshing dip in the motel pool.

In late July, 14 Kennedy Campus residential students and seven staff members boarded three vans and headed up I-85 for a memorable vacation that included early colonial history, enriching experiences, fun and good food. Their destination: Busch Gardens and the historical area around Williamsburg and Jamestown, Virginia.



On their first evening the group attended a play at a local dinner theater. The young people found it



reminded them of the board game Clue as they tried to guess the cunning murderer. Staff noted that students took full advantage of the large and delicious buffet offered before the play.

The following day was spent at Busch Gardens, always a big hit with teens. The roller coasters brought forth loud screams from both students and staff but they overcame their trepidation to get the maximum excitement from the rides.

On Tuesday, the group toured historical Jamestown accompanied by an “awesome” guide who shared his in-depth knowledge of the early settlement, its culture and population. There was time then for a visit to Water Country USA which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

On the return trip home, the students expressed a “want to go again” wish. They had a wonderful time and will be talking for a long time about their summer vacation trip.

David Fox Helps Students Discover Chess



Chess fans in the making.

In preparation for his Bar Mitzvah on September 16th, David Fox visited Kennedy Campus for two months to introduce students to chess, one of his favorite activities. David excels at the game which he began playing in the first grade.

Young men preparing for Bar Mitzvah are required, in addition to eight years of study and schooling, to implement a project that benefits the community. Elon Homes was delighted David chose Kennedy Campus students to benefit from his special project.

David, along with his father Marty Fox who directs David’s chess club at charter school Queen’s Grant, came every Thursday evening and worked with a dozen residential students. It quickly became apparent that the students, too, found chess to be an exciting game and a stimulating challenge.

The culmination of the project was a chess tournament held at CiCi’s Pizza. Thanks to David Fox for introducing our students to chess and a possible life-time interest.

Important New Instructions from Campbell's



Please clip *both* the UPC and the Campbell's logo and show the UPC is from a Campbell's product. UPC's and logos are found right on the labels of Campbell's products.



Front panel labels are OUT, UPC's are IN.

The Campbell's Company has begun accepting only UPC's (universal product codes) and lids for redemption in its Labels for Education program. Going forward, the company will no longer accept front panel labels. Clipping the UPC's, found right on the label, will be easier and mailing them will be less expensive.

It is important that Elon Homes receive all front panel labels by December 1, 2006. We have one more opportunity to redeem front panel labels, but all labels must be mailed in a single shipment. Please send front panel labels, UPC's and lids to Brigitte McKee, Elon Homes for Children, 1717 Sharon Road West, Charlotte, NC 28210, asap.

Kennedy Charter Public School benefits from the Labels for Education program. Most recently, the school redeemed labels to obtain urgently needed instructional equipment to accommodate its increased enrollment.

UPC's and lids from eligible products are a great way to support Elon Homes. Please keep them coming as they do make a difference in the lives of children, young people and families. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Visit www.lablesforeducation.com for a list of eligible products and what to save from each.



History teacher Kreg Goad and Assistant Director Kenyetta Hill with new 27" televisions, DVD and VCR combinations, mounted on portable carts. These instructional items were obtained through the Labels for Education program by redeeming 110,800 labels from Campbell's products.



October 1st Proclaimed Wake Chapel Church Day

Wake Chapel Christian Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC, celebrated its 150th anniversary on October 1, 2006. The congregation, led by Senior Pastor Rev. Ross E. Marion, who is also an EHC board member, held a day of worship and celebration for this milestone in its service to the Lord. Church members, former clergy and friends of the congregation gathered for a day of wonderful remembrances and praise of God. From its beginning at the Brush Arbor Revival in 1856 to its service today, the congregation strives to serve the Lord in a vast and variety of ways, big and small. The church was also honored with a proclamation by the mayor who proclaimed the day "Wake Chapel Church Day" from sun up to sun down!

L: Senior Pastor Rev. Ross E. Marion, Wake Chapel Christian Church photo courtesy of Fuquay-Varina Independent

The Power of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, VP
Institutional
Advancement

New Law Brings New Opportunities

Congress has recently taken important steps to strengthen American's retirement system while also encouraging additional charitable giving. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 may offer you new opportunities for tax-free charitable giving.

Our nation's tax system has long encouraged charitable giving. Gifts to qualified charities, for example, may be deducted from income that could otherwise be subject to tax under federal law and the laws of many states. Some taxpayers, however, may encounter limits on the amount of charitable gifts they can deduct and see other benefits phased out as their incomes increase.

Retired persons may also find that increases in income can cause more of their Social Security benefits to be taxed. In other cases, they may not be in a position to fully benefit from their charitable deductions.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) gives those at least 70½ the opportunity to help overcome these and other challenges by making tax-free charitable gifts. Making gifts from IRA funds that would be subject to tax if withdrawn voluntarily or under mandatory withdrawal requirements may be wise for many this year and next.

For 2006 and 2007, Congress is allowing these individuals with traditional or Roth IRA's to make tax-free gifts directly to qualified charities. To qualify, gifts must be made directly to qualified charities and may not be given to donor advised funds, private foundations, or supporting organizations. Donors may choose to make charitable distributions

in any amount up to \$100,000 per year, if so desired. A couple with separate IRAs could each give up to that amount. (Check with your advisors to determine if you can transfer funds from another retirement account, such as 401(k) or 403(b), to an IRA and then make charitable gifts.)

Individuals who are required to take unneeded IRA withdrawals, and others who have experienced limitations on tax benefits in the past, will find the new law of particular interest.

Recall also that assets held in Individual Retirement Accounts are not only subject to income tax when withdrawn during one's lifetime or by survivors, but they may also be subject to estate tax if left to loved ones other than a spouse. For that reason, IRAs may be a good choice for some when deciding how to fund charitable gifts.

If you are over the age of 59½, funds may not be distributed directly to charity but can be withdrawn from IRAs and other retirement accounts and then donated to charity without payment of a 10% penalty for early withdrawal. While amounts withdrawn and donated in this way are reported as part of your income, they can then be deductible as charitable contributions, which generally results in a "wash" for federal income tax purposes.

To enjoy the full benefit of this two-year opportunity, you must complete each year's transfer prior to December 31 of that year. Check with your advisors about the best ways to take advantage of these new giving opportunities. Everyone's circumstances are different, and state as well as federal laws may affect your plans.

As always, we will be pleased to assist you in any way possible. Please contact Jane Grosse at 704/369-2506 for assistance.

If you are interested in learning more about estate planning and charitable gift planning, fill out the information below and send to Jane Grosse, VP for Institutional Development, 1717 Sharon Road West, Charlotte, NC 28210 or use the enclosed green postage paid envelope.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please send me information about the following (check all that apply)

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving Life Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving for Income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving Through Retirement Plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving Through Wills |