

# Our Children

ELON HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Snyder Campus • P.O. Box 157 • Elon, NC 27244 • 336/584-0091

Kennedy Campus • P.O. Box 472527 • Charlotte, NC 28247 • 704/542-3310

## Elon Homes Receives Surprise Gift of New Van

The girls and staff of Francis Cottage at Kennedy Campus are enjoying a beautiful new 15-passenger van to take them to appointments, recreational events, church services, home visits, and other activities. The van is a generous gift from The First Church Congregational UCC in Malden, Massachusetts. How Elon Homes for Children became the recipient of this wonderful gift is quite a story.

Last September, Elon Homes Administrative Assistant to the President Kim Futrell mailed a flyer to agency friends explaining that Elon Homes had collected 1,192,170 Campbell soup labels toward a new 15-passenger van but the current requirement for a van had increased to 1,500,000 labels. The flyer asked friends, organizations and churches to continue collecting labels as the goal was within reach in the next year or so. The flyer also listed free educational merchandise such as computers, audio/visual equipment, sports equipment, reference books, child care accessories, and musical instruments that are available through the Campbell's Labels for Education program.

Rev. Randy Ferrara of The First Church in Malden received one of the flyers. Rev. Ferrara and church members had been "deeply moved" by the events of September 11 and were looking for a way to reach out beyond the confines of their community and state. One of the defining features of the Malden church is its well-supported youth program, and there was much interest in funding efforts that would benefit young people.

When The First Church staff and members heard about Elon Homes' shortfall of labels, they decided they had a cause needing support. Already familiar with Elon Homes' ministry to children and families, they voted unanimously to use funds from investments to purchase a 15-passenger van for Elon Homes.

Not only does the van fill an immediate need, but the gift allows Elon Homes to redeem its accumulated million plus labels for other much needed items including a smaller van.

As Rev. Ferrara prepared for the 13 hour drive to North Carolina in the new van, church members filled it with towels, sheets and hygiene items for students.

Elon Homes President Rev. Dr. Fred Grosse stated, "This van is a wonderful symbol of the partnership that exists between our home and our churches. Randy and the folks at First Church in Malden truly made their faith come alive through this generous and wholly unexpected gift. We depend upon, and greatly appreciate, the generosity of our congregations of the UCC. This gift will enable us to expand our program delivery to

*continued on page 3*



*The First Church in Malden, Congregational*



*Rev. Randy Ferrara drove the gift laden van from Malden, Massachusetts, to North Carolina.*

# From Your President



In the book of Jeremiah, chapter 32, verses 1 through 15, we read of the purchase of a field at Anathoth by the prophet Jeremiah. The circumstances of this purchase are

what make the entire account richly profound. The prophet had preached that the people's sin would cause their downfall, and the King did not like this preaching. King Zedekiah of Judah imprisoned Jeremiah on falsified charges of insurrection and treason. At the same time, the armies of the king of Babylon appeared and laid siege to Jerusalem. The city was under assault and occupation by foreign forces. The city was overthrown and the exact things that Jeremiah had spoken about had come true.

While in prison, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah. The Lord told him to purchase a field at Anathoth. This land would be in the exact territory overthrown and controlled by the Babylonians. In one of the Bible's greatest testaments to faithfulness, Jeremiah follows the Lord's command and buys the field. This purchase, a rare real estate transaction recorded in Scripture, is profound. To purchase land about to be conquered makes no sense. But from the perspective of Jeremiah, it made complete sense. God promised the siege due to sin, but God also promised restoration due to God's grace. Jeremiah purchased the land, foreign forces occupied it, eventually they were overthrown and the land was restored to Jeremiah and the people of Judah.

Elon Homes for Children, Inc. has purchased the former Amethyst building at 1717 Sharon Road West on faith in God and the hope of restoration. We commit ourselves to the children and families in our care. Our children and families have been overrun by foreign forces - neglect, abandonment, drug and alcohol abuse, physical and sexual violence, illiteracy and despair. Because of our sin, as a community and as individuals, there is suffering in our world and here in Mecklenburg County. But God promises restoration. God tells us, like he told Jeremiah, to purchase lands of hope in the midst of suffering because restoration will come.

Our new facility will be a place of restoration for children and families. In faith we strongly and confidently know that suffering does not have the last word. God does. And God wants our help to end the presence of foreign forces in our land and to welcome back the love and joy of people restored to healing and wholeness. The Kennedy campus is the Anathoth of our day. We purchase this land as a sign of our commitment to God and our faithfulness to His Word. We want our children and families to come back home and enjoy the wonder and splendor of God's restoration. The very bodies and souls of those in our care cry out this day. Join us, and all people of faith, from Jeremiah's time to our time, in purchasing this place of hope and restoration.

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**

103 Antioch Street

Elon, NC 27244

[www.elonhomes.org](http://www.elonhomes.org)

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

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## SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ Youth- and Family-Centered Residential Care
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- ❖ Charter Public Schools
- ❖ After School Programs
- ❖ Child Development
- ❖ Specialized Foster Care
- ❖ Family Care
- ❖ Spiritual Life



## Surprise Gift continued

children and families in need. Our Elon Homes youth enjoy traveling to New England each summer and participating in work camps and volunteer activities. The gift of this van from Massachusetts completed the circle of service and friendship and closes the miles of geographical separation with unity in Christ.”

And that’s how a beautiful new van, purchased in New England and filled with presents, found its way south to provide safe, dependable, comfortable transportation for Elon Homes students and staff.

At the same time The First Church congregation voted to purchase the van, members also dedicated funds to support a physical therapist for a clinic that provides health care to the poor of Rio de Janeiro.

Rev. Ferrara says of his church members, “They think of these gifts, the van and the staffing of the Brazilian clinic, as a response to the call for peace and justice and a proclamation that all are part of the family of God.”



*When Elon Homes Minister in Outreach Rev. Dr. Jean Simpson (far left) preached at The First Church in Malden in January, she took Elon Homes T-shirts to the youth and their leaders.*

## A Commitment to Excellence Campaign Continues Successful Progress

Just a few months after the start of the *A Commitment to Excellence* campaign, Elon Homes is pleased to announce that over \$700,000 has been raised.

With a goal of \$1.3 million, this effort has generated overwhelming interest and support from several lead contributors. Numerous individuals and foundations have recently visited to learn more about this critical endeavor and have responded favorably. The campaign team has submitted a significant number of proposals to foundations and is encouraged by preliminary feedback from several of them.

Plans are underway to kick off the second phase of the campaign in May, focusing efforts on the Board of

Directors, Board of Visitors, volunteers and other individuals. A kick-off celebration event, hosted by Amy and Tom Okel of the campaign leadership team, took place May 8 at Myers Park Country Club. Once again, attendees expressed their interest in supporting this worthy cause.

Naming opportunities within the new facility are still available for gifts of \$5,000 or more. Gifts of cash, stock, memorial and honorarium tributes and bequests are welcome and can be paid over a five year period.

To make a gift or for more information about this campaign, please contact Shana Plott, Director of Marketing and Development at 704.369.2507 or Jane Grosse, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, 704.367.9684.

### CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOT

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Purpose</b>              | To secure funds necessary to renovate the new facility and campus and enhance programming, providing the best possible services for our children.  |
| <b>Goal</b>                 | \$1.3 million  |
| <b>Time Frame</b>           | Beginning in February 2002, the campaign will span a six-month period. During this time, the campaign cabinet will focus on gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations and community advocates. |
| <b>Methods of Giving</b>    | Gifts may include cash, credit card, stock, memorial and honorarium gifts, and bequests. Other planned gifts are also welcome.   |
| <b>Payout Period</b>        | Gifts can be paid over a five-year period.   |
| <b>For more information</b> | Please contact the Development Office at Elon Homes for Children, 704.369.2507.  |

# Memorial Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2002

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

**Cornelia S. Adams**  
Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Harder

**Ira William Allen**  
Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Harder

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**Ruth S. Young**  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Dove  
Jim Dutton  
Kathy L. Pope

# Honor Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2002

**Rev. and Mrs. Andrew J. Bierkan**  
Carol Telljohann

**Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bivens**  
Julien and Kelly Booth

**Mr. and Mrs. Rick Booth**  
Julien and Kelly Booth

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

**Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Grosse**  
Myers Park Presbyterian  
Pack 55/Den 1 & 6,  
Charlotte, NC

**Lura N. Marshall**  
Goodwill/Belews Creek ECA,  
Belews Creek, NC

**Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Ranson**  
Julien and Kelly Booth

**Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ranson III**  
Julien and Kelly Booth

**Rev. Dr. Jean M. Simpson**  
Donald H. Lovell

**Ray and Cathy Wallen**  
Mr. and Mrs. Reid P. Kerr Sr.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

In celebration of this exciting time in the life of Elon Homes for Children, two special events are planned.

## **Farewell Celebration** Sunday, May 19 3-6 PM

Join us at the Ardrey Kell location as we say “so long” to this campus in anticipation of the move to our Sharon Road West location. Bring your family and a picnic blanket. We’ll provide the rest. You’ll enjoy a barbecue supper and games and activities for all ages. To make your reservation, please call or e-mail

Shana Plott at 704.369.2507  
Shana.Plott@elonhomes.org

## **Grand Opening Celebration** Friday, July 19 5-7 PM Open House 7-9 PM Party for Students

Plan to attend our Open House at the brand new location at 1717 Sharon Road West. Tours, entertainment and plenty of refreshments will be offered. Watch your mailbox for further details on this exciting occasion.

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## Eleventh Annual Dinner Honors Volunteers



*Amy Okel (R), one of the drawing winners who took home a Beta fish centerpiece, gave volunteer Lee Llewellyn (L) and speaker Cam Marston a closer look at her new family pet in its aquatic home.*

Kennedy Campus hosted its eleventh annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner in late April to coincide with National Volunteer Week. The dinner theme was *Volunteers Make Lasting Impressions*.

A large crowd of volunteers, guests, students and staff were treated to great entertainment and an outstanding message from Cam Marston, President/CEO, Marston Communications.

Volunteer and choreographer Clarissa Stewart worked for several weeks with students on dances that demonstrate the multi cultural diversity of the campus. Their performance featured Latin, Modern and African/Caribbean dance styles.

Speaker Cam Marston urged students and guests to learn to distinguish between charisma and character and to seek role models that exhibit true character. He also challenged listeners to not wish for easier tasks and goals in life but to wish that they as individuals were better. Students were also challenged to strive to accomplish great things in life to fulfill the expectations for their generation.

This year’s volunteer gift bag included a Kennedy Campus mug with the printed dinner theme, a Kennedy Campus pen, note pad and candy. The students compiled their thoughts about volunteers into a booklet which was in the bag.

There was unusual interest in the centerpieces which were distributed by a drawing at the end of the evening. Lucky guests took home a live Beta fish and plant in glass bowl. Board of Visitors member Amy Okel emceed for the evening. Rev. James E. Humphrey, Board of Directors, gave the invocation. As always, the kitchen staff served a delicious meal.

*Volunteers do make a lasting impression on youth. At Kennedy Campus, they have stimulated an interest among residents to extend a helping hand back to the community. Each cottage selects a service learning project that benefits others. For example, Francis Cottage girls volunteer at Sunrise Assisted Living Facility in Pineville. At Sunrise, the girls adopt a ‘grandparent’ with whom to spend time. This may mean just sitting and talking, giving a manicure, or providing a game night. The Sunrise residents look forward to the young ladies’ bimonthly visits.*

*Other Kennedy Campus volunteer sites: Hands On Charlotte, Joshua’s Farm, Florence Crittenton, Bethlehem Center*



## A Camping They Will Go.....

Once again, Elon Homes for Children will be sending a delegation of students and staff on a summer adventure in the New England area. The students will be attending a camp session entitled “Sing to the Lord” at Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon, Connecticut, in the beautiful Berkshires. It will be Christmas in July with the focus on Christmas music.

This camp is designed to utilize the magic of music by drawing out talents and abilities in campers while they organize, choreograph, and present an end-of-the-week talent show. Teens from Connecticut will be attending also.

There are many recreational opportunities, including canoeing, archery, swimming, and ropes course, at Silver Lake to keep the students busy. The camp staff guarantees



## A Camping They Will Go.....

students will not have a problem winding down and falling asleep at night.

We are especially excited about this year’s trip as both Kennedy and Snyder Campuses will participate simultaneously during the week of July 21 through July 27.

Minister in Outreach Rev. Dr. Jean Simpson was responsible for suggesting the camp and has been hard at work on making arrangements.

The students are already busy coming up with fundraising ideas and, as always, will be invested in the summer trip that has become a tradition at EHC.

Please let us know if you would like to contribute to the annual summer trip or have any fundraising ideas for the youth and staff.

### Promotions:

**Robert Alexander** has been promoted to Vice President for Programs. Alexander will have responsibility for the campus based programs of the entire agency and service delivery for mental health and DSS as well as supervision of all program staff at both Snyder and Kennedy Campuses.

**Jorge Aguilar** has been promoted to Vice President for Operations. Aguilar will continue to have responsibility for all facilities and property of the agency and for supervision of all facility staff at both the Snyder and Kennedy Campuses.

## Barringer Center Highlights

The Week of the Young Child was celebrated April 8-12. Early in the week the boys and girls decorated T-shirts and made noisemakers in preparation for the big parade on Wednesday. Many parents were on hand to join in the celebration and the children enjoyed the lengthy jaunt. On Thursday, Special Visitors Day, the 3- and 4-year-olds were captivated by a presentation given by one of the state troopers. The week ended with “Great to be a Kid” parties in each classroom.

*See below:* The BCCD annual Easter Egg Hunt was held March 28, a beautiful sun-shiny day. Parents donated eggs and candy for the special event. All the children were very pleased with their “egg treasures.”



## Snyder Campus Events

During Black History month, students were pleased to welcome Rev. Vernon King and his wife to Snyder Campus. Rev. King, a nephew of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., shared personal stories about his uncle and spoke about how young people today still need to have a dream. He emphasized that commitment to one's dreams is the path to success. Students found the program uplifting and inspiring. The program included song selections by members of the Elon Homes Youth Choir who were joined by work group volunteers from Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC, Seekonk, Massachusetts.

The eighth grade English class thrilled and awed 4-year-olds at the Barringer Center with its talented display of puppetry. The class researched puppetry skills and suitable scripts before choosing "The Three Little Pigs" and Native American and East Indian fables to present to the children. The children cheered and asked repeatedly, "Can you do another one?"

All the cottages pitched in to help with a cultural lunch that featured many foreign foods. The food was authentic and very tasteful. One of the eye opening parts of the lunch was the preparation of the food. Students learned how much care, energy and hospitality go into meals around the world.

Lakeside Charter Public School held its first spelling bee in the gym with four middle school and five high school contestants competing. Students and staff alike enjoyed the tension and suspense as the nine students remained focused on "getting it right." Oscar won for the middle school; Kim won the high school division. Following the main event, social studies teacher Joel Medley demonstrated his spelling abilities and beat out other faculty members. English teacher Denise Marti promises another bee next year and urged students to get out their dictionaries and start studying.

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### Wachovia Hosts Annual Golf Challenge

Wachovia Securities hosted their 2nd Annual Golf Challenge at Ballantyne Resort with Elon Homes for Children as one of the beneficiaries. The event was structured in a tournament fashion with each team representing a non-profit agency. The team representing Elon Homes was the eventual winner.

The proceeds from this event will enable Kennedy Campus to send ten residents to Family Foundations Camp which is a seven-day summer camp held at "Treetops" in Lancaster, South Carolina.

This new facility is owned by the Family Center of Charlotte and affords children the opportunity of attending a camp designed to provide both a therapeutic and enriching experience yet is close to home and a whole lot of fun.

Kennedy Campus is grateful to Wachovia Securities for including the agency in this event and eagerly anticipates next year's Golf Challenge.

### A Specialized Foster Care Success Story

Specialized Foster Care placed Regina with Pastor Billy and Annette Gore in early 2001 following her stay at Kennedy Campus.

Over the past year Regina has had many successes. She has improved her grades and become involved in school activities including the step team and ROTC. Regina is very involved at her foster parents' church and has even preached on Sunday.

Currently, Regina is working on her independent living skills and hopes to have a job over the summer. She is also going to attend a church sponsored educational conference in July.

As a result of her progress, Regina is considering college and wants to become an adoption counselor.

The Gores plan for Regina to stay with them for as long as she desires. Regina is very happy with the Gores and plans to remain with them at least through college.

Annual reports for Elon Homes' fiscal year October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001 are available. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact Kim Futrell at 336.584.6121.

# The Role of Philanthropy

## Interview with Helen Alspaugh, Chair of the Board of Directors

Helen Alspaugh was already deeply involved in her church and several ministries when asked to join the Elon Homes for Children Board of Directors. Fortunately for this agency she graciously agreed to serve in this capacity and is making a lasting impact through her leadership, dedication, and devotion to the cause of helping children and families who are suffering. She is currently serving in her second year as chair of the board. According to Fred Grosse, President of Elon Homes for Children, "Helen continues the tradition of strong leadership in a challenging and demanding position on our board. She has shown Solomon-like decision making, a pursuit of excellence for the board, a firm grasp on the mission of the agency and intelligent pursuit of guiding the agency into the future." She shares her thoughts about the agency and her role in governance as follows:

### What is it about Elon Homes for Children that compelled you to accept the job as a board member?

For many years I have been impressed with Elon Homes for Children as one of the leading child care institutions in North Carolina. This agency earned my respect because of the caring attitude of the staff and the innovative programming offered in providing services to children. I was honored when asked to serve on the governing board and felt this was a meaningful way I could continue to be involved in services for needy children.

### How did your past experiences prepare you for this volunteer role?

A 40-year career in the child welfare division of a Department of Social Services has taught me:

- The magnitude of problems many families in our society face.
- That out of home placement is necessary for some children.

- That the best place for any child to grow and develop is in his own home; therefore, institutions such as Elon need to provide a range of programs and services that encourage, support and make possible a child remaining in the home when feasible.
- That children being served today have more and more challenges.
- That there are no quick fixes.
- That providing for the needy and troubled children is necessary, extremely expensive and cannot be done solely by the government

### What do you see as your most important job as Chair?

Three years ago the Elon Homes for Children board members made a decision to change their way of governing to the Policy Governance model. This has proved to be a very exciting and rewarding experience for all who serve on the board. As the first chair to serve since we adopted this model, I see my primary role as keeping us on course as we meet the challenges of implementing a more effective way for the governing body of Elon Homes for Children to function.

### What would you tell a potential donor to illustrate Elon Homes for Children's worthiness of support?

Since 1907 Elon Homes for Children has been there for children who needed what they could provide. As the needs of the children have changed so have the services that Elon Homes for Children provides. This agency has a committed board dedicated to providing the vision for Elon Homes for Children's future. They have a President/CEO who is motivated by his Christian belief that we have a responsibility to provide an opportunity for these children, a phenomenal understanding of the issues involved and extraordinary leadership skills in guiding the staff and the board to reach their goals. Elon Homes for Children is alive, progressive and ready to meet the challenges of today and the future.

## NELLIE GRAY "NELL" MANN SNYDER

Elon Homes for Children wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the Snyder Family on the death of Nell Snyder. Mrs. Snyder, wife of former Elon Homes for Children Chief Executive Officer Dr. Walstein Snyder, died April 15, 2002, at Duke Medical Center.

Mrs. Snyder played an important supportive role during Dr. Snyder's 30 years of leadership at Elon Homes. Theirs was truly a mutual ministry; they served Elon Homes from 1960 to 1990.

Mrs. Snyder was also an outstanding community leader and was recognized by the Town of Elon Board of Aldermen in 1997 for her "distinguished service to the community."

Nell Snyder is remembered with much affection and gratitude for all she meant to Elon Homes for Children and the boys and girls for whom she cared so much. Her love and commitment touched the lives of many children in the most profound and positive ways. We honor her memory and her lasting contributions to this agency, her family and community.