

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 for Children and the Second Century Countdown Campaign

What is the history of Elon Homes for Children?

Elon Homes for Children was founded as an orphanage by the Southern Convention of the Christian Church (a forerunner of the United Church of Christ) in Elon College, North Carolina in 1907. Boys Town of North Carolina was founded in 1970 in Charlotte five miles south of Pineville. In 1985 Boys Town merged with Elon Homes for Children, soon thereafter began serving girls, and in 1987 was renamed the Kennedy Campus of Elon Homes for Children.



*Bill Smith, General Chairperson
Snyder Campus Campaign*

How is Elon Homes for Children making a difference? We provide a safe haven, life skills training and a strong charter public high school education for the boys and girls entrusted to our care.

How is Elon Homes for Children unique among child-caring agencies in North Carolina?

No other child-caring organization in North Carolina provides the services and benefits for our state's neglected, abused, abandoned and academically or behavioral-challenged young people. Elon Homes for Children has the singular distinction in the state for offering children ages 0-21 complete wrap-around services at one location. We are a place where: (1) home and safe haven, Charter Public School, vocational learning, life skills development, individual and group therapy and spiritual activities are commingled; and (2) administration, teachers, staff and volunteers are personally involved and invested in the lives, growth and education of each child. Elon Homes for Children is uniquely positioned, with demonstrated success, in providing the full range of services and benefits to best equip a child who is "at-risk" for failure with tools for success. Most notably, we are "results-based," with goals that demand firm, measurable outcomes.

Why do we need additional funding?

Our focus on results has revealed gaps in our services that must be filled if we are to ensure safe haven, life skills and education for each child in our care. It became urgently apparent that we must have a new residential facility in Elon, a multipurpose educational facility in Charlotte that includes a gym and classrooms, educational upgrades, a strong independent living program, and adequate information technology to support our operations. As we approach 2007 and our second century of service to young people and families, the Second Century Countdown Campaign addresses these critical identified gaps.



*Quincy and Catherine Collins, General
Chairpersons, Kennedy Campus Campaign*



*Mary Elizabeth Francis, Honorary
Chairperson, Kennedy Campus Campaign*



*Bettie and Richard Keziah,
Honorary Chairpersons
Snyder Campus Campaign*

From Your President



SECOND CENTURY COUNTDOWN

Every child deserves the dignity of acceptance, love, shelter, food, clothing, education, and safety. In our country, over one million children are documented as homeless, hungry, physically or sexually abused, abandoned, rejected and at risk of failure in community or school. This is a staggering number of children which represent a tragedy quietly unfolding in our communities morning, noon and night. The horror and injustice of even one child reported in this type of situation is intolerable.

Elon Homes for Children, Inc., joins a host of individuals and other non-profit agencies and church related institutions in assertively trying to end this cycle of abuse and offer healing and hope to children in our communities. The problem is global, the answer is local. At our home, we offer **Safe Haven, Life Skills and Education** to the children entrusted to our care. We also offer the acceptance and love that only one human can offer to another.

We offer child centered services unique to the Charlotte, Greensboro and Elon communities, and we value our ties to our neighbors in these areas.

The *Second Century Countdown Campaign* will help us sustain and significantly improve our programs and services. We are proud of our work and believe in what we do. Our home produces good results. We can help a child and family become self-sustaining and responsible. We have a strong team of staff members, a well researched and practical strategic plan and a visionary governing board of directors. Together, with the assistance of generous contributors, we can make a difference in the lives of America's most vulnerable children.

I invite you to join us in this worthy campaign.

God's blessings,

Frederick G. Grosse
President

OUR MISSION

To provide a continuum of services that enhances the quality of spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and relational well-being of youth and their families.

We endeavor to provide an opportunity for those we serve to live a more caring, responsible and productive life through our commitment to excellence.

OUR CHILDREN

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Elon Homes for Children

201 South O'Kelly Avenue

Elon, NC 27244

www.elonhomes.org

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A number of Kennedy Campus staff attended the **17th Annual YMCA Community Prayer Breakfast** held in April at the Charlotte Convention Center as guests of Dr. Grosse. Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church, was the speaker for the event. Musical selections were sung by the Praise Team, University Park Baptist Church, and Richard Pendergraph. The YMCA's mission: "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all."

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

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



Southern Conference Institution Leaders Attend CHHSM Annual Meeting



*Elon Homes
President
Dr. Fred Grosse,
and
Douglas
Fleegle,
President/CEO
of United
Church
Retirement
Homes*

The 2004 annual meeting of the Council on Health and Human Services Ministries of the United Church of Christ was held in Riverside, California, in February. The Council represents agencies and institutions of the denomination. Rev. Dr. Fred Grosse, Elon Homes President/CEO, and Douglas Fleegle, President/CEO of United Church Retirement Homes, attended the meeting along with fund development staff from each agency.

The mission of the Council is to sustain and advance the work of healing and service as a ministry of the church of Jesus Christ embodied in its member ministries, the United Church of Christ and the church universal. CHHSM was incorporated in 1985 and seeks to carry on the heritage of institutional ministry in the UCC which dates back to the very founding of our nation.

The 345 UCC related organizations that comprise CHHSM's membership are spread throughout 37 states,

Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands and represent diverse ministries. They serve those who need or seek physical, mental, spiritual and emotional care including children, young people, and older adults; individuals, couples, and families; those who are indigent and those who are not - regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race or ability. These organizations represent the largest component of healing ministry provided in the name of the UCC, with combined assets of more than \$3.6 billion and serving well over 1,000,000 people annually.

The meeting's theme was the essential role of vocational leadership. The Council continues to offer education and leadership for the close ties between spirituality and business management to those in leadership roles of UCC related institutions. Also included were special offerings related to the spiritual aspects of fund development and fund development training. There were also small group networking gatherings for agency executives involved in health care, child welfare and elder care.

The Council also announced the introduction of the Center for Faith Based Leadership. This new program will offer intense training and education related Christian disciplines for management for leaders of institutions from a host of denominations. CHHSM Executive Director Rev. Dr. Bryan D. Sickbert will have operational responsibility for the program. The Center will also offer training for excellence in management of boards of directors to interested agencies.

Elon Homes Foster Parents Attend NC Foster Parents Association Meeting

The North Carolina Foster Parents Association held its annual conference in Durham in April. This year, five foster families from Elon Homes were in attendance.

Participants received ten hours of training toward relicensure. Grief, advocacy, marriage survival, parenting with humor, and a variety of behavior issues were topics covered in workshops.

On Saturday night, there was time to network with other families and relax to DJ music. Many even chose to dance!

On Sunday, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper spoke to the group about the growing problem with methamphetamine labs and their impact on foster care. When removed from homes with these labs which are highly toxic, children must be decontaminated before being placed in foster homes with only the fresh clothing they are wearing.

Next year's conference will be held on April 16th and 17th at the Sheraton Imperial in Durham. More information on the website: www.ncfpa.org.



The conference ended with a kick off for Foster Care Awareness Month that included a powerful visual display of blue ribbon trees with a ribbon for each of the 10,000 North Carolina children in care.

MAY ~ NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

Memorial Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2004

Dixie B. Bridges
Wayne and Shirley Brooks

Peggy Ann Langley Burke
Evelyn and James York

Bruce L. & Felicia L. Burton
Alberta T. Burton

Clyde Cantrell
Willard and Mamie Briggs

Bertha A. Carter
Wayne and Shirley Brooks

Bob Cauble
Geraldine Pittman

Frank O. Collins, Jr.
Danny McLean

Hazel Comer
Peggy Jones and Family

Ethel Cooper
Greg and Judy Phillips and Family

Lillian Copeland
Robert N. Atwater

Teresa Copeland
Joe and Peggy Burwell

Minnie Foley Crouch
John and Judy Shumate

Mrs. Frances Curtis
Bobby and Shirley Clodfelter

Eunice Raines Davis
Harriet R. Squires

Elsie Alphin Eason
Andrea and Mack Eason

Polly Edwards
Martha and Jim Brewer

Rick Fairclough
Saul D. Fairclough

J. W. Forbes
Jerry W. Forbes

P. P. Gibson
Rebecca G. Christopher

Edna Arline Black Grubb
W. James Grubb

Carl S. Gray
Kathryn Gray Hester

Bill Herzog
John Fica

Georgia Hodgkin
Martha and Jim Brewer

Elizabeth P. Hudson
Martha and Jim Brewer

Mattie L. Ives
Martha and Jim Brewer

Dr. Samuel B. Joyner
Martha and Jim Brewer

Naomi Bare Kivett
Evelyn and James York
Dr. and Mrs. Gary L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Schoolfield
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith
The United Church of Christ
Liberty, NC

Millard Lowry
Wayne and Shirley Brooks

Mary E. Maiden
Lonnie & Bonnie L. Breeden

Genevieve Martin
Cynthia Brewer
Martha and Jim Brewer

John W. Martin
Cynthia Brewer
Martha and Jim Brewer

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

Hazel Pendergraft
Mr. & Mrs. Worth Joyner, Jr.

Dr. Robert L. Phillips
Martha and Jim Brewer

Rachel Tickle Amick Rhew
Wayne and Judy Whitfield

Naydine Ward Rice
Harriet R. Squires

Mr. & Mrs. Jas. A. Robertson
Robert G. Robertson

Ruth O. Sager
Wilma S. Hill

Joe Simmons
Joe and Peggy Burwell

R. D. Simmons
Peggy Jones and Family

David C. Stanley
Archie Emory

Covie Strickland
Cynthia Brewer

Margueritte Sutherland
Oswell and Janice Dovel

Samuel C. Talbert
Martha and Jim Brewer
Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Knight

Lelia Thompson
W. Randall Lemly

Donald F. Trent
Catherine R. Trent

Stephen Vaughn
K. R. Harder

Mrs. Mark Vess
Bobby and Shirley Clodfelter

Nora F. Woodell
Wayne and Shirley Brooks

Honor Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2004

Oie Boyce
Benjamin F. Black

Mrs. and Mrs. Larry Soule
Archie Emory

The Cycle

The character of a person is not his strength, what he can do, nor what he has. It is simply what they can give. A person who can give is only a person who has no option but to receive. It forms a cycle. When someone gives to another person, and that other person gives to someone else, it forms a cycle.

People give to "us," us being children who are in the position to where we can do only so much for ourselves, hoping that we will one day do the same, and be a product of their giving. So right now it's like I am a product of what others have done. That alone makes me want to grow up and continue this cycle that volunteers like you have created, so thank you and we appreciate you.

Essay written and read by Darell, one of our students, at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Sibling Home Welcomes Children, Houseparents

The pretty yellow house with the white porch railing that faces Sharon Road West in south Charlotte looks like many family homes in the area. It is, in fact, a family home but with some special features.

The house is the new Sibling Home built through a partnership between Habitat for Humanity Charlotte and Elon Homes for Children.

Coming into care is a traumatic experience for children. The Sibling Home allows children from a disrupted family to remain together and be a comfort to one another. The goal for most of these children is reunification with their family. It makes good sense to keep these children together which facilitates working with parents and children to achieve reunification. A second advantage is that the varying issues of the different children can be more easily addressed in the same way that families handle the individual needs of their children.

The house opened with two sets of siblings and two therapeutic houseparents. The home was built to accommodate up to six children. Since foster homes can seldom care for large sibling groups, the Sibling Home will be a blessing when several children from the same family come into care. The home is equipped to handle either long or short stays. If reunification fails, the placement may become long-term.

The professional houseparents alternate being in the home full-time. They function as a parent would, providing supervision, guidance and encouragement. They are supported by a staff person who remains awake throughout the night.

Elon Homes Director of Community Based Services James Johnson says that the Sibling Home offers a relaxed, home-like atmosphere. The children have daily chores and are responsible for personal care and their rooms and clothing. The houseparents use an agency car for the many trips required to run a household. Students attend either the Kennedy Charter Public School or nearby public schools.

The children's parents visit often and some therapy sessions are held in the Sibling Home.

Director James said, "One exciting aspect of this new home is Elon Homes' ability to offer sibling care to counties throughout the state. This innovative program is one of the first of its kind, and I'm happy to be helping establish this much needed service to children and families in crisis."



Houseparent Patrick McDaniel and girls tackle a puzzle started earlier in the week.

Second Century Countdown Campaign continued from page 1

What is the goal for the Second Century Countdown?

The goal is \$2.8 million.

What will the Second Century Countdown Campaign accomplish?

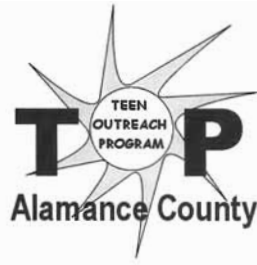
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 32-BED LIVING UNIT	\$ 725,000
CONSTRUCTION OF INDEPENDENT LIVING HOUSE	\$ 75,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$ 200,000
TOTAL SNYDER CAMPUS SECOND CENTURY COUNTDOWN CAMPAIGN	\$ 1,000,000
CONSTRUCTION OF THE MULTIPURPOSE EDUCATIONAL CENTER (to be named)	\$ 850,000
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM START-UP	\$ 50,000
INDEPENDENT LIVING HOUSE	\$ 75,000
SIBLING HOUSE	\$ 75,000
EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS AND UPGRADES	\$ 350,000
FAMILY CARE PROGRAM	\$ 100,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$ 100,000
LEAVE A LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ 200,000
TOTAL KENNEDY CAMPUS SECOND CENTURY COUNTDOWN CAMPAIGN	\$ 1,800,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 2,800,000

Snyder Campus Students Benefit From Local Programs

Snyder Campus students are participating in the Alamance County Department of Health's nine month project called Teen Outreach Program (TOP). The program touches on a variety of topics such as peer pressure, self-esteem, adolescent behavior, sexuality, STD's, values and positive peer relationships.

TOP also incorporates a service learning project; all students will be asked to assess the surrounding communities and identify issues that concern them. Using what they have learned in the TOP program will prepare students to volunteer in the community.

Students will also take part in a 12 session substance abuse prevention program beginning in May and sponsored by Children & Youth Services, a Division of Alamance-Caswell Area Mental Health.



The Towards No Drugs (TND) program is designed for middle and high school students and focuses on preventing or delaying the first use of substances or the elimination of further drug use.

Project TND will also educate students on the harmful effects of prolonged substance abuse.

The TOP program is coed but boys and girls take part separately in the TND sessions. All sessions will be held at the Barringer Building.

The TOP program is conducted throughout the Alamance County school district and TND is available to students in both the Alamance and Caswell Counties school districts. Elon Homes is grateful these opportunities are extended to Snyder Campus boys and girls. Both programs will help students gain the knowledge, motivation and desire to make healthy and beneficial life style choices.

Kennedy Campus Hosts Annual Event to Honor Volunteers



Above: Volunteer Magdalene Lytle, who assists with students records, displays her paperweight thank-you gift.



L to R: Mecklenburg County Manager Harry Jones, Kennedy Campus Volunteer/Menor Coordinator Zaneta Wood, and VP for Program Operations Robert Alexander helped make the Volunteer Recognition Dinner a successful event.



Below: Rev. James and Faye Humphrey relate their many years of volunteer service at Kennedy Campus.

President Fred Grosse welcomed guests to the 13th annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner which was held in the Kennedy Campus cafeteria. Rev. James Humphrey, Smyrna United Church of Christ, gave the invocation.

The dinner theme was "Building Strength Through Community Involvement." Kennedy Campus was honored to have Mecklenburg County Manager Harry Jones as the keynote speaker. Jones lauded volunteers before addressing students with an admonition to adopt "new and improved" as their goal. He reminded all that nothing worthwhile is accomplished alone, we all depend upon one another.

Volunteers gave their name and explained their volunteer service as they were presented with a paperweight made by staff, students, and volunteers. The paperweights, made of wood and brick, were labeled with the dinner's theme and date.

As the evening ended, Brittany led guests in singing "God Bless America," and Darell read his essay which related well to the speaker's remarks, although Darell and Jones had never spoken (see page 4).

A Peach of a Trip to Georgia

Several Kennedy Campus girls have wonderful memories from their spring break trip to Savannah, Georgia. And memories of two people they won't soon forget.

Six girls, accompanied by Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Zaneta Wood and Counselor Katrina Commodore, enjoyed great accommodations at the Savannah Baptist Assembly in Guyton as well as many fun activities. Planned activities included a walking ghost tour, riverboat cruise, a visit to the Juliet Low House (birthplace of Girl Scouts founder), and a service at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

The trip also included three service learning projects: raking leaves at Bethesda Home for Boys, gardening at Union Mission Homeless Shelter, and a beach sweep at Tybee Island.

At the homeless shelter, the girls met one time drug dealer Howard. During a routine transaction, Howard was attacked and suffered extensive brain damage. Today he can speak only four words but is able to communicate by using a touch activated, computer generated voice machine. The girls shed tears as he shared his story of hardship, challenges and successes.

Howard is now working and living on his own. He continues to volunteer at Union Mission through activities for children and speaking to groups. He puts a smile on the faces of those who meet him and does all things through God who strengthens him.

One evening the girls were approached by an elderly woman needing food money. When she began to eat leftovers from one of the dinners, the girls were humbled and understood that there are people who have so little, not even a home or the assurance of the next meal.

After these experiences, Jessica said, "The outcome of our lives reflect the decisions we make as people. Others advise us but a lesson revealed is a lesson instilled, knowing more lessons will follow."

The girls and staff agreed the trip was a great experience. The trip incorporated many elements that contributed to its success: pleasure, service, education and an unexpected chance to grow in compassion for others and an appreciation for blessings.



Kennedy Campus students and staff member Zaneta Wood (far right) with Howard at the Union Mission Homeless Shelter, Savannah, Georgia.

Volunteers - We Love 'Em!

Individual volunteers and volunteer groups are making a positive difference in the lives of students on both Elon Homes campuses. Thanks to their commitment, students have many more opportunities to learn, grow and enjoy special activities.

Volunteers acknowledge they benefit from the relationships they form with the boys and girls. In return for their contributions to campus life, volunteers are rewarded with lots of hugs and smiles and shy expressions of appreciation.

Big cheers for Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and the Kiwanis Club of Pineville-South Mecklenburg for outstanding help over the last half year.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church:

October 2003 - Lunch and Domestic Violence Workshop

Halloween Dance

November 2003 - UNCC Basketball Tickets

January 2004 - Tickets to "Oliver"

March 2004 - Women's Night, gifts and discussion panel on Self-confidence, Nutrition and Dress for Success

Kiwanis Club of Pineville-South Mecklenburg

September 2003 - Road Clean-up

October 2003 - Ice Cream Social & Pumpkin Painting

November 2003 - Ice Cream Social & Art Contest

January 2004 - Ice Cream Social & Bingo

March 2004 - Ice Cream Social & Black

History Month Trivia

April 2004 - Ice Cream Social & Pictionary



Charles starts on his entry for the November art contest with encouragement from Cindy Zoeller, Kiwanis Club of Pineville-South Mecklenburg

104-year-old's gift surprises agency that helps youth By David Perlmutter, Staff Writer

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Mildred Bradsher lived to be 104 and actively managed her stock portfolio until she was 100, poring over stock listings and picking winners.

When she died in February, she was worth between \$5 million and \$6 million. Recently, the Elon Homes for Children, with homes and charter schools in Charlotte and Elon in Alamance County, was alerted that Bradsher left the nonprofit organization between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

The donation came as a complete surprise. No one knows why she picked Elon Homes - not even her relatives.

Except that she must have had a big heart for children.

"We did not know this was coming," said Fred Grosse of Charlotte, president of the 97-year-old facility, which among other services houses and cares for abused, abandoned or neglected children.

"We have a legacy society and know that many people have placed us in their wills. But we knew nothing about Mrs. Bradsher.

Clearly Mrs. Bradsher's interests were to help people."

She gave similar amounts to the Salvation Army and a scholarship program she set up years ago at Roxboro Baptist Church to send members to college, said her lawyer, Walter Cates of Roxboro.

Bradsher grew up a Younger in the Person County town of Roxboro, 30 miles north of Durham near the Virginia line.

She married Landon Bradsher, a cotton broker for Roxboro Cotton Mills, and over the years inherited from her family hundreds of acres on which tobacco was farmed.

The couple never had children, but were forever doing kind deeds for children.

Landon Bradsher quietly sent contributions to an orphanage in Columbus County, and Mildred set up the college scholarships.

Mildred Bradsher was a Red Cross worker during World War II and volunteered at the VA Hospital in Durham for many years after that.

A shrewd investor

As a girl, Nancy Mangum, a cousin, lived with Bradsher on a couple of occasions - once during World War II when Mangum's mother broke her back and another time when her family's house was being remodeled.

"I went to school near Mildred's house and would go over and eat lunch with her every day," recalled Mangum, who lives at Hyco Lake near Roxboro. "Over the years, Mildred inherited several farms, and she was a shrewd woman and investor."

Bradsher made decisions on which stocks to buy and sell.

"She read about stocks and bonds and determined what she wanted to invest in," Cates said. "She'd call her broker and tell him what to buy."

Many years ago, when Person County Hospital needed land to expand, hospital officials came to Bradsher to buy some of hers. Instead, she donated the land in exchange for a room at the hospital and medical help when she and her sister, Dorothy, needed it.

"Mildred lived on the first floor for several years," said Mangum, who turns 70 next month. "She had round-the-clock help."

Bradsher and Dorothy were inseparable, living together in Roxboro when their husbands died. Dorothy, four years younger, died two years ago.

Until she was 100, Bradsher played bridge constantly and managed her investment portfolio.

"She just kind of wore out,"

Mangum said. "For years, she had medical problems that didn't seem to bother her. She was a woman who wanted to make a difference and had a special feeling for children."

A 1907 orphanage

Elon Homes was founded as an orphanage in 1907 by the United Church of Christ, but is now a free-standing corporation. In the 1980s it began to evolve into more of a full-service agency for troubled or at-risk children.

The facility oversees 75 foster homes, offers prevention services before a child is taken from home and runs two charter high schools.

Its residents are referred by the court system through social services departments. Forty-six live on the Charlotte campus at one time, another 32 in Elon, Grosse said. In all, Elon Homes extends services to 550 children a year, all on at least partial scholarship through the organization's foundation.

Bradsher's unrestricted donation was the facility's second largest, Grosse said. Eight years ago, the group received a \$2 million gift.

Though the organization is in the advanced stages of a \$2.8 million fund-raising drive, the new gift will be invested in the foundation, which will now have an endowment of \$15.5 million. A portion of the earnings goes to finance services for children.

With news of Bradsher's gift, Elon Homes scurried through records and found she had sent small donations a couple of times.

"She sounds like she was a wonderful woman," said Jane Grosse, Fred's wife and vice president for institutional advancement. "We are so grateful to her and wish so much we had known her.

"Her donation will help us serve children who already have had very challenging lives."