

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

Graduation 2002

Elon Homes Charter Schools Award Diplomas to Six Seniors

Among Younger Classmates, Schools name Student of the Year and Most Improved Student

High school graduation is a special event in the life of a young person. Elon Homes for Children is extremely proud of the six seniors who earned their high school diplomas from Lakeside Charter Public School and Kennedy Charter Public School in 2002. We salute them for reaching their goal of graduating from high school.

Graduation at Elon Homes was also special this year because Lakeside School had its largest graduating class and Kennedy Campus awarded its first diplomas. Four seniors earned diplomas at Lakeside and two students finished at Kennedy.

At Lakeside School, Bobby D., Terri H., Kim I., and Tameka J. lined up in their caps and gowns and processed to their seats in the Barringer Center to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance." The Kennedy School commencement exercises for seniors Sarah L. and Wendy O. were held in Carswell Hall and also began with the traditional march.

Guests included members of the student bodies, parents, family members, agency staff and school faculties.

Elon Homes President Dr. Fred Grosse participated in the exercises at both campuses. Vice President for Education Jonathan Miller presented Lakeside graduates with their diplomas; at Kennedy Campus, Principal Granville Simmonds awarded the diplomas.



Wendy O.



Sarah L.



Lakeside School named Chaka C. as Student of the Year and Nancy D. was recognized as Most Improved Student. At Kennedy, David K. was honored as Student of the Year and Jessica G. was chosen Most Improved Student.

Following the graduation ceremonies, the six graduates and all guests were invited to celebration luncheons. The Barringer Center hosted the Lakeside meal and the Kennedy luncheon was held in the campus dining hall.

Congratulations to our graduates. Elon Homes takes pride in your accomplishment and shares in your joy as you complete your high school education and move on to your next challenge as young adults.

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

In this issue of *Our Children* you will find an article about our land management process at the Elon Campus. As with our Charlotte campus, this is a very significant decision and undertaking. It is important to say that we view all of our land as sacred. It is God given and it sustained thousands of young lives over the years. This opportunity to sell some of the property and build new living units and a school building for our children in care is a tremendous option. The nature of our type child care and levels of needed care have changed significantly since 1907. In order to stay current in our field of child care and to offer the best opportunities for success to our children, we believe this partial campus land sale and new development on our remaining property is a very positive action.

We do want to assure all those who were raised at the Elon campus and all students who are currently enrolled that we are not closing the campus or moving any program or facility. Elon will always be the corporate home for our agency and will always operate as a residential setting, child development center, and charter high school. The days of orphanage care have given way to new and varied children's services, and we intend to meet this new and challenging

need. We are thankful always to the children, staff, Board of Directors and donors who make the present such a promising time. One hundred years from now we hope those who operate our beloved home will be saying the same thing about this generation of leadership.

All records that exist at the home today will continue to stay with us. The new facility will in fact contain a history room and secure archive for all orphan records. We keep, by law and by our own moral interest, any records we have about children in care. Many former residents or their survivors visit the campus each year, and it is a delight to offer them viewing or copies of their records or records of a loved one. While change abounds in the world today, some also occurs at our home. If we were to not change, our long-term future would be less than certain. These decisions today honor our past and open the doors to our certain future.

Please keep the thousands of boys and girls raised at our orphanage, the current children in residential treatment care, our staff and the Board of Directors in your prayers as we ponder this decision in the months ahead.

God's blessings,

Frederick G. Grosse
President

YOU'RE INVITED

Kennedy Campus Open House • 1717 Sharon Road West
Thursday, September 19, 2002 - 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ Residential Long-term, Level I
- ❖ Residential Treatment, Level II & III
- ❖ Charter Public Schools
- ❖ Child Development
- ❖ Specialized Foster Care
- ❖ Family Care
- ❖ After School Programs
- ❖ Spiritual Life

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

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Elon Homes for Children, Inc. to Sell 80 Acres of Elon Campus

Elon Homes for Children, Inc. is seeking bids for purchase of eighty acres of its one hundred-acre campus in Elon. Elon Homes President Dr. Fred Grosse stated, "Along with many other faith groups and philanthropic organizations, we have been providing food, shelter, education and love to the children of our state. In the past two decades this type of care has changed to meet the changing needs of children and families who need assistance. There was no "overnight transition" for any child care agency or children's home. Rather, as the needs of some children escalated, so did the levels of care we had to offer. The old orphanage days have given way to specialized foster care, at-risk teenage sociological and psychological treatment, and charter public high school for children who have learning disabilities. We have found that our children function best and are well served in a modern facility that offers safety, security and good program discipline. The campus sale and subsequent campus purchase we made in Charlotte from a cottage living facility to a new single building facility has shown this to be true. We no longer need open fields or separate cottages for the type of program we offer and the type of children we serve. It is also better for the community when we have more security and higher levels of programming and education for our children."

The board of directors of the agency voted two years ago to sell the Charlotte campus and purchase a new facility in Mecklenburg County. They now intend to take this same action in Elon. The home plans to stay on twenty (20) acres of its current land. Dr. Grosse stated, "We are never moving out of Elon and Alamance County. Our agency's finances and program have never been stronger than they are today. This is a strategic transition we have been planning for almost three years. In the orphanage days the children farmed crops and tended to small farm animals on this land. We do not have this type of activity or program today so the land is no longer of the same value to us. On the twenty acres we keep we will be offering a five (5) star rated day care, a thirty-two (32) bed residential treatment facility (instead of the current bed space of 77), a charter public high school for our thirty-two (32) children as well as thirty-two (32) from the Alamance County community, and specialized foster care offices. We believe that this restructuring will keep us in the forefront of our field and also keep us as responsible neighbors in the Elon community." Grosse stated that the home would only sell its land to a group that it feels would purchase and develop it in a manner that is consistent with the neighborhood in Elon. The Barringer Center for Child Development program will continue to operate from this reduced campus area.

At-risk teenage childcare in our nation is at an epidemic level. Over one million minor children are living in some form of out-of-home placement or court ordered restrictive living arrangement away from blood relatives. Many of these children are abandoned, abused, neglected. This is a quiet, but startling, reality in our great country. In North Carolina, approximately six thousand children are in court custody and living outside their own homes under the supervision of government agencies. These children are often from homes of violence, alcohol/drug addiction, prostitution and or other criminal activity. The children in care are often very depressed, anxious, hopeless, lacking in social skills and behind in academic development. Elon Homes for Children and other child caring agencies continue to develop programs to meet these changing needs.

The agency is very pleased with its successful move in Charlotte. The south Charlotte campus was sold to Mecklenburg County last year for \$8 million. Elon Homes then purchased a new facility and land for \$4 million in the SouthPark area of Charlotte. Four million dollars from the sale was placed with the Elon Homes for Children Foundation, Inc., the fund development and fund management arm of the agency. Funds from the Foundation are used to scholarship children in care. The Foundation now has \$14 million under management. This new campus has a 53,000 square foot facility on 14 acres. It will house all Charlotte area operations of the home. Services include the Kennedy Charter Public School for residential students and 32 day-only students from the community, residential treatment for 42 North Carolina Level I, II and III labeled children, a six (6) bed assessment unit, a licensed private high school, and specialized foster care services.

Dr. Grosse further stated, "This is a very sad time in the history of our community and nation because of the pronounced growth in suffering of so many girls and boys. Young, vulnerable children suffer unspeakable horrors and are forced to live with the consequences through no fault of their own. At Elon Homes for Children we are deeply moved by this reality and committed to helping these children as best we are able. We are proud to be part of the Elon Community since 1907 and intend to be here long into the future serving children in need." The Christian Church founded the agency which last year served over 800 children. Elon Homes has a \$7 million operating budget, 265 employees, and offers a charter public high school, residential treatment, specialized foster care, and family care programs in Elon and Charlotte. The agency also operates the Barringer Center for Child Development for children of Alamance County.

Memorial Gifts

April 1 - June 30, 2002

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

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April 1 - June 30, 2002

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The boys and girls of Elon Homes for Children wish to express their appreciation to the following friends for their gifts in support of the students' summer trip. Please see page 6 for story.

Second Congregational Church, New London, CT
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Stafford Springs United Church of Christ
Stafford Springs, CT
Jerry and Lynn Swisshelm
Host Families: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sexton, Pat Tyre,
Dusty & Ann Rhodes, Claire Swinnerton, Kathy West,
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brewer, Tim & Sarah Johnson,

If we have inadvertently failed to list a supporter, please let us know so we may recognize him or her in the next newsletter.

October 7 Golf Tournament Will Benefit Elon Homes

For the sixth consecutive year, Elon Homes will benefit from the Charlotte Civic Partners annual Charity Golf Tournament. The tournaments have raised over \$35,000 for Elon Homes.

Play at the Providence Country Club begins with a 12 noon shotgun start. A box lunch will be served at 11:30 AM. Refreshments include coffee and danish, a beverage cart during play and appetizers following play.

The day's events include Putting Contest, Raffle, Team Play Captain's Choice, Hole-in-One Car, Closest to Pin, and Casino Hole. Prizes include \$1,500 for low (3) teams, closest to pin, and putting contest winners. Sponsorships include Presenting (\$2,500); Gold (\$1,500); Silver/Team (\$750); Hole (\$250). Contact Ray Brady at 704/236-7385 or by e-mail rbrady2@carolina.rr.com. for more information or to participate as a sponsor or team.

You can combine a great day on the links with a great way to support the children at Elon Homes.

Summer Trip, 2002 Students Attend Connecticut Camp

Eric Hunter, Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator

On a beautiful Sunday morning, forty students and staff from the two Elon Homes campuses arrived at Silver Lake Conference Center in the stunning Berkshire mountains of Connecticut. Marianne MacCullagh and Dan Clark, deans of the “Sing to the Lord” session, met our bus and helped with registration and getting us settled into the “Cedars,” our rustic living quarters for the week.

“Sing to the Lord” was a camp experience designed to walk our students through the process of preparing a musical program based on the theme, “Christmas in July.” Campers included 31 Elon Homes students and 10 young people from the Connecticut area. We were challenged to work and live together with a common goal, and our Friday night performance was a big success.

Rehearsals took a small portion of the day and the remainder of time was spent enjoying swimming, arts and crafts, ceramics, kickball, volleyball, a ropes course and delicious meals. While participating in all the activities, our young people developed an appreciation for the outdoors.

The week began with some tension as the kids adjusted to the camp and its routines. There was an amazing transformation as the week progressed. Our kids persevered; they really wanted the camp to be a good experience. They began to accept that Silver Lake is a spiritual place that invites all to share in its magic. Our boys and girls discovered the beauty of summer camp and learned many valuable life skills, including how to get along with people with whom they would not typically interact.

By the end of the week, most of our kids wanted to stay a second week. The phrase that kept being repeated all week was “God is Amazing,” and we can attest that He has a bunk reserved at Silver Lake.

Our yellow bus departed Silver Lake on Saturday destined for Cove Beach near Stamford.

After a big Chinese lunch, we were pleased to see the ocean, swim and frolic on the beach. We then headed for the First Congregational Church of Stamford where dinner awaited and our host families picked us up for an overnight stay and Sunday services at Darien Congregational UCC and Stamford Congregational UCC. Our students are still trading stories about the lovely homes, great family hosts and the delicious bag lunches packed for the trip home.

The trip home was long and filled with emotion as we reflected on the last week. All agreed that the experience had changed them. As we entered North Carolinas, the kids began a nostalgic Silver Lake chant.

Minister in Outreach Rev. Jean Simpson again helped with arrangements and fundraising for the summer trip. She has been singing the praises of Dan Clark and Marianne MacCullagh, deans of the camp, as well as Connecticut Conference Minister Rev. David Crabtree and Camp Administrator Dana Fisher. They each contributed significantly to the successful week. Rev. Simpson also gave very favorable marks to the excellent Elon Homes staff and its fine students.



Above: The grand finale Saturday night performance was a memorable ending to a wonderful week.



Left: Swimming in Silver Lake was one of many enriching activities students enjoyed throughout the week.



*STUDENTS ENJOY FAREWELL PARTY
AND A NEW BEGINNINGS
CELEBRATION*

Last May, a committee of dedicated volunteers comprised of members of the Board of Visitors and others, organized a farewell event for students at the old campus before the big move to the new Sharon Road West site. Following the move, board members hosted a Steak and Games party for students to celebrate their arrival at their new home. Following their grilled steak dinners with all the trimmings, students, board members and guests played a variety of board games, made new friends, and enjoyed a great evening. Special thanks to Tiffany Gay and Tracey Turner for their leadership for these events.



FAMILY FOUNDATIONS CAMP, a non-profit organization established in 2001 by Kristy Davis to offer children a free week at camp with family enrichment activities, held this year's program at TreeTops in South Carolina. Parents, family members and children work, play and learn together with the goal of bringing families closer together. The Foundation hosted 17 children for six days, including four Kennedy Campus residents and three from Elon Homes' Family Care program. Left, the campers prepare to meet a climbing challenge at the Charlotte Outdoor Adventure Center.



The Role of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, CFRE
VP for Institutional
Advancement

Thank you for the many gifts of time, talent, and resources. Friends of Elon Homes for Children have given generously throughout 2002, and we are grateful that you consider the students we serve as you make your philanthropic gifts. There are numerous ways to give to Elon Homes for Children, including gifts in memory or honor of loved ones, an annual or monthly gift, or a gift to establish an endowment in the name of a person whom you choose. We are also in the midst of a capital campaign in

Charlotte to fund the renovations, equipment and enhanced programming for the new campus.

As part of your financial planning and gift planning you might also want to arrange for gifts that can be made through your estate. There are no limits to the amount deductible as charitable gifts from your estate for federal tax purposes. For this reason after adequately providing for loved ones, many taxpayers will choose to voluntarily redirect a portion of their estates for charitable use in lieu of payment of estate or gift tax. A few examples follow:

- *Giving through your will* can be a convenient way to leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of Elon Homes or another charitable interest. After providing for loved ones, you may decide to give a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or all or part of what remains after individuals have been remembered.

- *Giving through life insurance* can allow you to make a gift of assets you no longer need to assure the economic security of your spouse or other loved ones. You name a charitable beneficiary to receive all or a portion of policy proceeds at death. Income and estate tax benefits may result from such gifts.

- *Giving through retirement plans* is gaining in popularity. You may wish to consider how you can use “excess” retirement funds to make charitable gifts in a tax-efficient way.

- *Gifts that give back.* You can make a gift today and retain annual income for the remainder of your life or another period of time you choose through the use of charitable remainder trusts and similar gift plans.

Tremendous benefits can result from carefully planning your gifts. If the ideas presented here are of interest to you, we will be pleased to provide further information. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your request or call Jane Grosse at 704/369-2506.

GIVING REMINDERS FOR 2002

- ⇒ Gifts made by December 31 are deductible in 2002 and can reduce taxes.
- ⇒ Giving long-term, appreciated property rather than cash can often bring you greater tax savings.
- ⇒ Gifts of appreciated stock generally create a tax savings. If the value of securities you would like to give is *less* than their original cost - which is the case with many stocks this year - it is usually better to sell them and give the cash proceeds. You may then be able to claim tax benefits for both the capital loss *and* the charitable gift, effectively deducting *more* than the current value of the assets.
- ⇒ Giving through long-term financial planning vehicles can be convenient and economical.
- ⇒ Ask your professional advisor about the methods of giving most advantageous to you.

As always, your gifts are most appreciated and will be used wisely. We will be pleased to assist you and your advisors as you plan to fulfill your charitable goals for 2002.

Jane Grosse, VP for Institutional Advancement-704/369-2506

A Gift That Will Last a Lifetime

Are you looking for a special way to honor your children, parents, a friend or other loved one? Elon Homes for Children has the perfect idea, one that will last a lifetime. By making a gift or pledge of \$5,000 or more to the *A Commitment to Excellence Campaign*, you can designate a room or outdoor area at the

campus to honor your special someone. These gifts may be paid over a three to five year period of time.

A personalized plaque will be located near your named area, with details of this designated honor. In addition, a listing of all named areas will be located in the main lobby of the building.

Board of Visitors members Tom and Amy Okel decided to name a special room in honor of their three children, Caroline, Scott and Ben. *“We felt like this was a way to help a very worthy cause, while also paying tribute to our own children. We will be sure that our children visit and see the plaque at “their room” for years to come, hopefully helping to instill a sense of giving in them as they group up. Elon Homes for Children is an organization that is near and dear to our hearts, so we were eager to participate in this unique opportunity and involve our own children in helping others less fortunate.”*