

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

A Celebration of Achievement

In early June, Elon Homes for Children's Lakeside Charter Public School and Kennedy Charter Public School held ceremonies to recognize 15 graduating seniors as well as 23 students who were promoted to the ninth grade.

The staff, faculty and board of Elon Homes are proud of all these young people for their determination, commitment and hard work in reaching these important milestones. The eighth graders are well prepared to advance to the next phase of their education while the seniors are able to further their educations, begin careers or enter military service. The experience and knowledge they have gained will enable these students to secure more promising futures for themselves and become contributing members of their communities.

The ceremonies differed on the two campuses but both began with the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" march for students.

Lakeside eighth graders wore orange caps and gowns with royal tassels while the seniors were dressed in royal caps and gowns with orange tassels. Guests were entertained with "remember when" comments about each senior.

Commencement speaker Tiffany Fuller held the students' attention as she related being raised by grandparents,



The class of 2005, Kennedy Charter Public High School, in black caps and gowns, white tassels.

working menial jobs while in college, her current teaching position at A&T State University and her full-time pursuit of a doctorate at UNC-Greensboro. Entitled "The Power of Determination," her speech hit its mark with all students.

Lakeside Principal Dr. Suni Schulze and Elon Homes President Dr. Fred Grosse presented diplomas to the seniors. English teacher Lynne Pierce presented certificates of completion to the eighth graders.

A luncheon for students, guests and staff followed the morning exercises.

At Kennedy Campus, the program began with opening remarks by School Director Stacey Rose. After the 17 advancing eighth graders were recognized, the program focused on

the seniors receiving outstanding achievement awards in the various subject areas. In addition, Lauren Anderson was named Student of the Year, and Jonathan Augello was named Most Improved Student.

Continued on page 5



Lakeside Commencement Speaker Tiffany Fuller delivered a strong message on the power of determination.



L to R: Senior Talisa Cozart, Assistant Director Acohin Thon, Principal Dr. Suni Schulze, President Dr. Fred Grosse.

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

Our home has a very precise and clear mission statement which we reached after almost three years of

research and study. It is this: Safe Haven, Life Skills and Education. It is that short but not that simple! Our staff, board, volunteers and supporters put a host of prayers, thought, planning and elbow grease into meeting these Ends (ultimate goals) and the specific goals within each of the three main Ends.

In this publication are reports and pictures of our commencement exercises at both of our charter public high schools. We established the two public schools for the children in our care and children from the community because we believe in the value of education. A great deal of planning went into acquiring the charters and significant amounts of government and philanthropic funds enable us to operate the schools. We are one of

only three children's homes in the state that chose this 'extra mile' to operate our own schools.

Please join me in congratulating all of our program and school staff in the finest academic year at Elon Homes for Children. In June we GRADUATED FIFTEEN (15) HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND ADVANCED TWENTY-THREE (23) EIGHTH GRADERS INTO OUR HIGH SCHOOLS. We could not be more proud of our students who have overcome a myriad of challenges and obstacles to achieve this high goal. An education is a sure and certain pathway to a more secure future and also offers to our community a more talented work force.

We thank all of our supporters who have helped make the schools possible and for your support of our students who clearly have made the most of this opportunity.

Blessings,

Frederick G. Grosse
President

OUR MISSION

*For the youth entrusted to its care,
Elon Homes for Children offers*

**SAFE HAVEN
LIFE SKILLS
EDUCATION**

OUR CHILDREN

Published quarterly by

Elon Homes for Children
201 South O'Kelly Avenue
Elon, NC 27244
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**Elon Homes for Children Cordially Invites You To
"Celebrating the Good Life for the Good of Children"
Honoring Regional Excellence in Food, Fashion, Furnishings and Flowers.**

Please join us for a cocktail buffet and dancing to meet the Honorees.

November 4, 2005 • 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm • Charlotte Museum of History

**All proceeds go to the Elon Homes for Children
Second Century Countdown Campaign
For more information, contact Jane Grosse 704/369-2506**

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Elon Homes Board Member Named Hometown Hero



Don Bolden

Twenty-plus-years Elon Homes for Children Board Member Don Bolden has been recognized with the Modern Woodmen of America Hometown Hero Award “because of the countless hours of service he has given this community through the years.” Benny Bryant, an active member of the organization’s Burlington area chapter, explained the annual honor is given to individuals the members feel deserve

recognition for their contributions to the community.

Bolden chaired the Elon Homes Board of Directors in 1988 and 1989. He is writing a history of the agency in anticipation of its 100 year anniversary celebration in 2007. Currently, he serves as chairman of the Advisory Board of

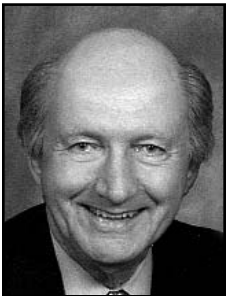
the School of Communications at Elon University and is a member of the Elon Athletic Foundation.

Bolden, the *Times-News*’ first executive editor, retired in 2000 after 51 years of service spanning the years from high school to college to retirement.

The author of four books and an earlier history to commemorate Elon Homes’ Diamond Anniversary in 1982, Bolden has won numerous writing and journalism awards. He was named Alamance County’s Citizen of the Year in 1990. In 2003, he was Alamance County’s Boy Scout Man of the Year as well as the recipient of Elon University’s Distinguished Service Award.

“This is a most fitting and appropriate recognition of a good and faithful Christian man. Don is a good friend and humble leader,” said President Dr. Fred Grosse. “In his life, and even in his estate planning, Don contributes generously to our community.”

More Awards & Achievements

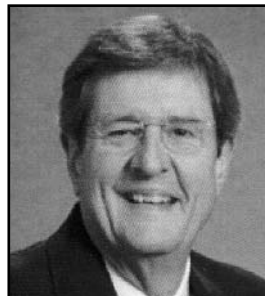


J. Quincy Collins, Jr.

The Charlotte Region Commercial Board of Realtors has inducted J. Quincy Collins of NAI Southern Real Estate into its Deal Maker Awards’ 10-Year Winners Circle.

Collins and his wife Catherine are serving as General Chairpersons of the Kennedy Campus Second Century Countdown Campaign.

Collins is also on the Elon Homes for Children Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors.



James Appleby, Jr.

The Charlotte office of Lee Hecht Harrison received the company’s 2004 President’s Award. Jim Appleby, senior vice president of business development, was recognized for exceptional individual performance in 2004.

Appleby currently serves on the board for the Elon Homes for Children Foundation, Inc. He

served four terms on the board of directors and as chair in 1999. Appleby was the recipient of the Elon Homes 2003 Mary Elizabeth Francis Award.

Zaneta W. Summers Earns CAVNC Certification

This spring Kennedy Campus Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Zaneta W. Summers was named a Certified Administrator of Volunteers in North Carolina at the North Carolina Association of Volunteer Administrators annual conference in Wilmington.

Qualifications for the certification include a bachelor’s degree, two years experience as a manager of volunteers, three peer references, 28 hours of endorsed workshops and training, a portfolio complete with philosophy statement, documentation of professional development, presentations and publications, three case studies and a self expression section.

When Summers returned to campus, she said, “NCAVA is a great network of support from other professionals in the field of volunteer management and has helped me understand best practices in coordinating volunteers. Through the guidance of the association, its members, and workshops taught by other non-profit professionals, I have been able to empower our volunteers to accomplish great things within our agency and with our youth.”



Zaneta W. Summers

A 2002 graduate of Appalachian State University, Summers joined the Elon Homes staff in July 2003.

Memorial Gifts

March 16 - June 30, 2005

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

Rick Arrington Mr. & Mrs. Franklin M. Sasser, Jr.	Reveta Gunnell Hair 6000, Clemmons, NC	William B. Morgan Mr. and Mrs. Alan R. Morgan	Rita Varnau Harold Varnau
Richard L. Baggelaar Betty Gregory Sherry L. Howard Nann Kyra Mr. & Mrs. Owen R. Lewis Mr. & Mrs. Carleton H. Swanson	Helen Handley GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, NC	Cynthia Newman Irene Painter	C. S. Wagoner C. S. Wagoner, Jr.
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Maxine Francis Forrest Mary Elizabeth Francis	Pauline Matthews Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Privette	Neil and Bill Sims Sherry S. Cole	Graham Rowland Wisseman Mary Wisseman Waff
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Bobby H. Glenn, Sr. Ramona M. Glenn	Nancy McMurdy Evelyn W. Rountree	John M. Smith Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Price	
Carl S. Gray Kathryn Gray Hester	Donnie C. Meadows Naomi Meadows	W. L. (Bill) Smith Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wood	
	Robert H. Mitchell Virginia M. Smithers	Nell Trump Mr. and Mrs. G. Stewart Tyler	

Honor Gifts

March 16 - June 30, 2005

Jo Anne Anderson Kimberly Anderson	Pat Brinkley Mr. and Mrs. Donald Muncy	Ben and Myrna Franklin Mr. and Mrs. Ben Franklin	Fuzzy Nichols Ms. R. G. Christopher
Mary J. Anderson Eleanor Harris	Nancy W. Brooks Rev. & Mrs. Ronald W. Bergman	Dorothy Fulwood Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fulwood	Robert and Janice Powell Lisa Powell
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Joannie Bischer Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bischer	Wanda L. Craven Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Laird, Jr.	Cheryl Hudson Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bischer	Willie R. White Mary H. Sessoms
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A Celebration of Achievement Continued from page 1

Following the commencement, Kennedy Charter School hosted a reception for students, families and friends.

Charter public school students meet all the requirements for graduation for one of the courses of study as defined by the North Carolina standard course of study. All graduates have passed the eighth grade end-of-grade test and a computer skills test. Each student must pass end-of-course tests in algebra I and II, English I, U.S. history, economics, civics, geometry, chemistry, physics, physical science and biology. Earning a diploma is clearly cause for celebration.

Both Lakeside and Kennedy Charter Schools serve Elon Homes students and community students from their respective areas. Thirteen of the graduating seniors were community students, two were Elon Homes students.

This year's graduates have exciting and challenging plans. Nine will enroll in community colleges, five will attend four year institutions and one will report to Fort Leonard Wood. All of the young people expect to be employed full- or part-time while attending classes.

It has been an outstanding academic year for students attending Lakeside and Kennedy Charter Public Schools. Elon Homes for Children's commitment to providing quality education and meeting the special needs of its charter school students is validated by the progress and achievements of the class of 2005 and the rising ninth graders.

Congratulations to each deserving student and best wishes for continued progress and success.

A Night Under A Thousand Stars

Christopher Lee



Lauren, who looked very glamorous for the prom, attended Kennedy Charter School for her junior and senior years.

The stars came out May 13 at the Kennedy Charter Public School senior prom. As the red carpet was laid and the doors opened, Kennedy students displayed their formal wear with class and grace. Young women were adorned with elegant prom dresses while the gentlemen wore suits and tuxedos of distinction.

The day began with students assisting staff and faculty to decorate the cafeteria for an enchanted evening. The students worked hard decorating the walls, floors and ceiling. The hallways were populated with teachers showing male students how to tie neckties, Windsor knots to be specific, as well as female staff "mixing and matching" shoes with dresses and doing makeup. As the school

day drew to an end, it was remarkable to see students so excited about participating in this formal event.

After all the hard work, 7:00 p.m. arrived and "A Night Under A Thousand Stars" began. With their formal wear, the students wore proud smiles.....proud of their outfits and the decorative setting they had created. The dinner, the photography, and the music enhanced this wonderful evening. Staff and faculty fully enjoyed the evening as they, too, danced the night away.

Approximately 75 people attended the dinner and prom. Thanks to all who donated dresses, suits, ties, shoes, financial gifts and time to make the evening truly a night to remember.



Prom night was special for LaToya and Xavier both of whom have been Kennedy Charter students for grades 9 through 12.

Please see back page to read about a thoughtful and generous donor legacy that fills a critical gap.

To name Elon Homes for Children, Inc. or any charitable organization in your will or trusts, give your attorney its full legal name to use. To make a bequest to Elon Homes for Children, Inc. use the following statement:

"I leave to Elon Homes for Children, Inc., \$ _____ (or, _____ % of my estate or specific property) (or, all remaining assets and residue from my estate)."

Annual Event Honors Volunteers

During National Volunteer Week, April 17-23, Elon Homes for Children honored its many outstanding volunteers at dinners on both campuses. This year's theme was "Volunteers Inspire by Example."

Students had a prominent role as they welcomed guests, offered an invocation, acted as emcee, read personal essays, sang and performed African drum music. They also helped decorate for the dinners with balloons, flowers and inspirational quotes for centerpieces.

Neill McNeill of WGHP Fox 8 News was the guest speaker at the Snyder Campus dinner. McNeill is known for his weekly segment, "Wednesday's Child," which profiles children waiting to be adopted. He noted that while adoptions may not happen immediately, many fostering and mentoring opportunities result from the segment.

Kennedy Campus' speaker, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Board Member George Dunlap, delivered a powerful message based on his own experience of being encouraged and supported by volunteers and extended family in the absence of his natural parents.

Snyder Campus volunteers were presented with a mentor/volunteer bracelet, a letter opener, pad and pen and a certificate of appreciation. Volunteers attending the Kennedy Campus dinner received trinket boxes painted by students and labeled with the dinner theme and date.

Elon Homes is blessed with volunteers whose wide range of interests, experience and skills enrich and enhance campus life. They touch the lives of our children and youth in profound and important ways. They truly "Inspire by Example."



Neill McNeill



George Dunlap



Photo by Jerry Slayton

Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Zaneta Summers presented trinket boxes to Girls Scouts Lauren, Lindsay and Morgan Busman. The scouts assisted Kennedy Campus with landscaping and donations of Easter baskets, crafts, art materials and games.

Bike Trail Ready for Riders



Student volunteers hard at work clearing brush for bike trail.

Exciting news! The Kennedy Campus bike trail has been completed. Twelve young adult volunteers from North Carolina, Virginia and Florida, led by Frank Piatras from the Tarheel Trailblazers, constructed a half mile

mountain bike course in the wooded area on campus. The trail is fairly difficult with two steep hills, two moguls and a challenging log jump.

The young people, Ross Goodwin, Erin Dowd, Becky Dilloway, Lauren Fram, Ian Johnson, Adam West, Rachel Espinosa, Bryan Case, Janna Ruffner, Liz Miller, Brendon Zelna and Terrial Aiken, were some of the 400 students from all areas of the southeast who participated in the Charlotte Catholic Heart Work Camp at Charlotte Catholic High School. They worked throughout the mornings between June 27 and June 30 and then enjoyed cooking,

card games, spiritual fellowship, musical expression and crafts for the remainder of the day.

Piatras said, "If the Kennedy kids master the new course, improve their endurance and record times, they will be able to tackle any of the trails in Charlotte."

The Elon Homes biking program has grown and improved rapidly thanks to the support of local groups including Finish Line Youth Foundation, Dirt Divas, Tarheel Trailblazers, Trips for Kids-Charlotte, SouthPark Cycles, Charlotte Mountain Bike Series and Black Sheep Cycles.

Give Zaneta Summers a call (704/369-2511) to see the new trail, to volunteer, or for more information on the program.



Frank Piatras, Tarheel Trailblazers, with Charlotte Catholic Heart Work Camp crew.

Volunteers: Busy Enriching Students' Lives



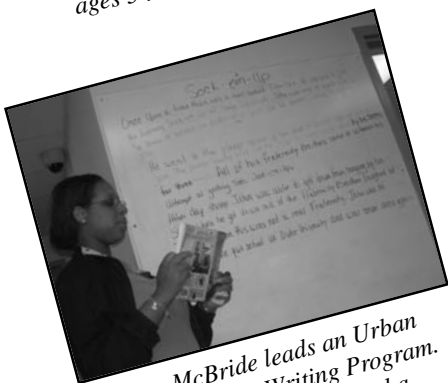
Renah Snodgrass led six weekly craft projects with the sibling house students ages 5 to 13.



Paul Harwood offers weight-training sessions at his equipment shop, Superior Fitness Systems.



Amber Martin leads a Movie Club, viewing and discussing thought provoking films such as Losing Isaiah, Pay It Forward and Ordinary People.



Voneisa McBride leads an Urban Legend/Creative Writing Program. In each session students read a selection of urban legends and then write their own and print a book with illustrations.



Mentor Sandy Sparks and student form a close bond while spending time together on two or three days a week.



For the past year, Alamance County Department of Health's Amanda Marvin has been working with Snyder Campus residents on health and sexuality issues.

Teens Endorse Carolinas Broyhill Youth Development Retreat

The following comments from three of the seven Elon Homes students who attended the 18th Annual Carolinas Broyhill Youth Development Retreat underscore the value of the experience.

"Everyone that attends is either in foster care or a group home. Attending this camp is a great way to meet new people from different counties in North and South Carolina. When you see all these people you realize that there are more people in group homes and foster care than we might think. We attended classes to learn how to be leaders in different situations. The counselors gave us team building exercises."

"It's a place a teen wants to be, a place for teens to hang out and meet new people. It's fun and the counselors are great at making you feel like you are a part of the group."

"It is a lot of fun. From the time you get there it is non-stop action. You go from class to class learning new things about being a leader. We even had a talent show in the

middle of the week. People sang, danced and read poetry, and at the end, we had a last meeting where everyone had a chance to tell about their experiences. People were sad to leave. We exchanged phone numbers to keep in touch with our new friends."

Tomorrow's America Foundation Inc. conducts the Carolinas Broyhill Youth Development Retreat which offers leadership training and personal development experience to residents of children's homes, foster homes or youth in DSS custody in North and South Carolina.

The teens learned about themselves and their strengths while having a great time at the talent show, participating in outdoor activities, listening to humorous and inspirational speakers and meeting other teens from the Carolinas.

Students were selected on the basis of appropriate behavior, age (15 to 21) and approval of their social workers. The retreat was held at Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina, June 13 through 17.

The Role of Philanthropy



Don and Billie Faye Bolden

Recently Don and Billie Faye Bolden, long-time friends, supporters and contributors, shared the exciting news that they have made provision through their estate plans to endow a scholarship

that would assist young people ages 18-21 who have left Elon Homes for Children and are trying to succeed as independent young adults. Fred Grosse, President of Elon Homes for Children, and his wife Jane Grosse, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, recently visited with Don Bolden who agreed to share this story with other friends of Elon Homes. Following is an excerpt of that conversation.

Q. Don, this is a magnificent way to help at-risk young adults who have aged out of foster care. It is a tragedy that 1 out of 8 young people leaving foster care end up homeless. Tell us about what motivated you and Billie Faye to establish this endowment.

A. We have always had a real concern for kids, especially those with no family. There is no foster care funding after 18. When kids leave Elon Homes at age 18 when foster care funding stops, who is going to be there for them? There is no one to write a check to help get an apartment or help them get on their feet. What are they going to wear to a job interview? There's not enough money for necessities and even less for appropriate clothes. We pride ourselves at Elon Homes on the great things we do while they're here, then slam, the curtain goes down and there is nothing and no one to help. Through this endowment, funds will be

available when they go out the door. We thought it was a critical gap we could help fill. Elon Homes will supervise how the funds should be appropriately spent. In other words, Elon Homes will be the parent figure.

Q. How did you get involved at Elon Homes?

A. We have always lived in Burlington and always knew about Elon Homes. Elon Homes was founded in 1907 as an orphanage and had a huge life-long impact on many, many people who literally grew up there. My wife, Billie Faye, had twin cousins who grew up in the orphanage. Many people did. My sister-in-law's father-in-law was there as Executive Director from 1949 until 1960. I became even closer to Elon Homes through newspaper articles I wrote and edited during my career at the *Times-News*. I was a part of things in the 1980's when Elon Homes was still an orphanage but then took a dramatic turn. Today Elon Homes serves at-risk boys and girls who have been abandoned, neglected or abused, or who are facing educational or behavioral challenges.

Q. What is your personal motivation to help these young people as they struggle to reach independence?

A. Billie Faye and I never had children but found children as a part of our lives including the children at Elon Homes. Also, Billie Faye was a teacher. We have seen tremendous need and also tremendous opportunity for young people, particularly those without the advantage of a loving home and someone who cares. I've always thought it is each person's responsibility, if able, to serve in your community. There are problems in the community and we are all needed to help solve them. Most importantly, it is a part of our faith. If you haven't helped someone today, what have you done?



Elon Homes for Children at Elon • Snyder Campus Elon Homes for Children at Charlotte • Kennedy Campus

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Name _____ E-mail _____

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- I have already included Elon Homes for Children in my will or other long-range estate plans.
 I would consider including Elon Homes for Children in my will or other long-range estate plans.