

Our Children

ELON HOMES FOR CHILDREN

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

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

Congratulations Kennedy Charter School Class of 2007

As *Pomp and Circumstance* began to sound, 32 beaming seniors and 25 excited eighth graders marched into the auditorium at Paw Creek Presbyterian Church on June 5 for graduation and promotion ceremonies.

The seniors made up the largest Kennedy Charter Public School graduating class since the school's founding eight years ago. Previous commencement exercises have been held at the school, but the large number of graduates and their 350 plus guests necessitated moving the event to the church with its large auditorium.

Commencement speaker and former Carolina Panther Leonard Wheeler exhorted students and guests to "choose to feed your faith in life and work hard." He told the audience that both fear and faith exist in the world and students and guests had the choice of which to feed, "faith or fear." Today, Wheeler heads up Wheeler Enterprises, helping people maximize their potential.

In addition to the awarding of diplomas, the program included recognition of the most outstanding and most improved students for both middle and high schools and teacher of the year awards for the middle and high schools.

Jade Stewart was named most outstanding high school student and the middle school outstanding student was Angelica Berkel.



Participants in commencement exercises: L to R front row: Leonard Wheeler, commencement speaker, Kenyetta Hill, assistant principal, Rose Cooper, VP for institutional performance, Stacey Rose, principal, Mike Stewart and James Appleby, board members. Second row Eugenia Franklin, math teacher, Todd Penree, behavioral support coordinator, Christopher Lee, student activities coordinator, Dr. Fred Grosse, EHC president, Dena Teeter McFadden, assistant principal

Most improved students were Charles S. and Donté Brown, for the high and middle schools respectively.

Teacher of the Year awards were presented to Tamika Griffin (high school) and Brian Bongiovanni (middle school).

Teachers also presented 19 certificates of achievement to students in math, science, social studies, language arts, physical education, science, history, music, computer science, Spanish and study skills. continued on page 3



The seniors all rise to cross stage and receive their diplomas.



Donté Brown, most improved middle school student

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord:

Elon Homes for Children celebrates its 100th year of service to children and families in 2007! This is a great and wonderful event for us to enjoy this year. We have 100 years of rich and remarkable stories and events, and we look forward at the same time to the next 100 years of service.

We will be inviting absolutely everyone ever involved with our agency to the regional celebrations listed below. Much more will be forthcoming from the committees but we wanted to get the dates announced in this publication so

you can mark your calendar. We would love to see all former orphans, residents, employees, board members, donors, volunteers and other neighbors and supporters on each campus on the designated days.

We will also have available, for the first time ever, the updated history book of Elon Homes for Children which has been written by our own Don Bolden. We also hope to have a CD available with photos and documents from the Elon Campus orphanage history.

Our dates for the celebrations are:

Sunday, September 9

100th Anniversary Celebration at the Elon Campus

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Open house, displays by all program areas and orphanage history photos; manned tables around Barringer dining room; picnic type meal, informal and all afternoon; video history presentation by Don Bolden; dedication of official highway historic site sign

Thursday, October 11

100th Anniversary Celebration at the Charlotte Campus

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Open house, displays by all program areas and orphanage history photos; manned tables around new building; catered luncheon; dedication of new building and honoring of donor/moment of naming; keynote address by executive director of Office of Charter Schools; welcome of any former Boys Town Campus folks

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE CELEBRATIONS!

Blessings,

Dr. Fred Grosse, President

For the Elon Campus celebration, please RSVP to

Penny Davis at 336/584-0091 or penny.davis@theelonschool.org

For the Charlotte Campus celebration, please RSVP to

Brigitte McKee at 704/369-2507 or brigitte.mckee@elonhomes.org

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ Transitional Residential, Level I
- ❖ Family Foster Care
- ❖ The Elon School
- ❖ Kennedy Charter Public School
- ❖ Kids Central of the Carolinas, LLC
- ❖ Spiritual Life

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

www.elonhomes.org

Sharon Landis, Editor

Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Grosse, President

Board of Directors

Don E. BoldenBurlington, NC
Chair

Rev. Ross E. MarionFuquay-Varina, NC
Vice Chair

Dolores H. TruittElon, NC
Secretary

Dr. Barbara M. TapscottBurlington, NC
Immediate Past Chair

Helen AlspaughGreensboro, NC

James ApplebyCharlotte, NC

Catherine CollinsCharlotte, NC

Dr. Gerald DillashawElon, NC

Gaston H. Gage Sr.Charlotte, NC

Dr. John E. NanceJamestown, NC

Dr. Donna H. OliverElon, NC

Sherry ScottElon, NC

Michael A. StewartCharlotte, NC

Dr. Joseph SinclairStatesville, NC

Dr. Mel SwannGreensboro, NC

Trustees Emeritus and Emerita

Mary Elizabeth FrancisCharlotte, NC

D. Marsh McLellandBurlington, NC

Ina Mae PowellFuquay-Varina, NC

Clyde W. Rudd Sr.Greensboro, NC



Congratulations Class of 2007 continued from page 1

Following the morning ceremony, proud families and friends gathered under a bright Carolina blue sky to congratulate the happy students and take traditional graduation photographs. Students and guests were then invited to lunch at the church prepared and served by the Kennedy Campus cafeteria staff.

Elon Homes Board of Directors Chair Don Bolden reported, "We could not be more pleased with the success of our graduates. We view education as a primary vehicle to success in life, and we are so pleased with the growth and success of our charter school and of these eighth and twelfth graders." The board of directors also serves as the school board for the charter school.

Dr. Fred Grosse, president of Elon Homes, said, "It is readily apparent from academic research that at-risk youth need high quality and unique educational programs. This is our specialty at Kennedy Charter, and it is showing significant benefit to our children and the North Carolina communities. We are extremely proud of our seniors, they have excelled in meeting all the challenges before them."

"The Future Begins Here" is a phrase Kennedy Charter School students see and hear frequently. As these graduates and rising ninth graders move forward in their lives, Elon Homes



Happy grads Rashawn Gray and Erika Alexander. Gray gave the senior speech at the graduation ceremony.



Brian Bongiovanni, middle school Teacher of the Year

for Children trusts that the preparation, training and encouragement they received as KCPS students will help them achieve their goals and dreams. To each student, congratulations and best wishes for success in future endeavors.

Prom - A Night to Remember



Prom King Princewill Awute and Queen Shonte Clements were chosen by popular vote.

A red carpet welcomed 75 Kennedy Charter students, dressed in glittering gowns and stylish tuxedos, to Prom Night held at Paw Creek Presbyterian Church on April 27. The prom theme, *A Red Carpet Affair*, inspired the beautiful red, white and black decorations "borrowed" from movie premieres. Staff and volunteers decorated the church's fellowship center, and the campus kitchen staff led by Katherine Tabb, prepared delicious shrimp cocktail, cheese plates and finger food items for the special evening.

The night was capped with the crowning of the 2007 Prom King and Queen, Princewill Awute and Shonte Clements.

The students danced until 11:00 P.M. Most then planned to attend after prom parties leaving the staff to say, "Look out Hollywood, here they come!"

Hard Working Students Rewarded

KCPS students and staff enjoyed three fun filled days at Six Flags Over Georgia and Six Flags White Water Park on an end-of-year trip.

Two charter buses were filled with the chatter, laughter and enthusiasm of students who had earned the privilege, by their hard work, good behavior and positive attitude, to go on the action packed trip.

Some had never been out of Charlotte or North Carolina. The air filled with excitement as the buses drove through North and South Carolina to their destination in Georgia. One student shouted, "I can't wait until we get there." Another asked, "Are we there yet?"

When the buses arrived at the parks, each person was given instructions on the day's events and handed their tickets before they raced to see who would be first in line. Once inside, students and teachers had a great time.

From the charter bus drivers to park staff to hotel attendants, everyone the group encountered was helpful and friendly.

Students described the trip as "the best time ever!"

After wishing the students a wonderful summer, school staff members were already looking forward to August and the students' return to school.

Memorial Gifts

April 1 - June 30, 2007

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

Dr. Laurence Sidney Alspaugh

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Alspaugh
Evelyn S. Hasty

Miller Ashley, Sr.

Damon E. Woodson

James Avera

Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Whitehurst

John D. Ayers

Rebecca A. Brantley

Sue Rudd Boelte

Rachel Troxler

Jack Buttimer

Damon E. Woodson

Geneva L. Collins

Mr. and Mrs. James L. York, Jr.

Ann Duncan

Mr. and Mrs. James L. York, Jr.

Brenda Fleming

Damon E. Woodson

Dennis Foushee

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Coggins

Ople C. Gibson

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Carter

Pauline P. Gibson

Ms. R. G. Christopher

Carl S. Gray

Kathryn Gray Hester

Kathryn Elizabeth Holland

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Holland, Sr.

Carolyn Kelly

Geraldine F. Pittman

William Raleigh King

Boyce, Spady & Moore, PLC
Suffolk, VA

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Duke

Mr. and Mrs. C. Mac Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Mathias

Mr. and Mrs. Ocie L. Moore

Virgilia Pierce

Jean Morehead Larkin

Mary F. Wesson

Alice C. Luter

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Duke

Margaret S. Morris

Gail Lopez

Mallie J. Paschall

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dickerson

Arthur G. Robertson

Dr. Robert G. Robertson

Phil Rominger

Thomas L. Rominger

Billie Joe Shoaf

William L. Jarrett and Eileen M. Morales

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Sell

Lillian Stewart

Edna L. Scarborough

Christine H. Wagoner

C. S. Wagoner, Jr.

Lane Corporal Jeffrey D. Walker

Damon E. Woodson

Nellie Walker

James M. Tew

Robin Warren

Rachel Troxler

Florence "Shirley" P. Wells

Damon E. Woodson

Samuel Thomas (Tom) Woodson, Jr.

Mrs. E. J. Bowman

Mr. and Mrs. David L. Brunson

Honor Gifts

April 1 - June 30, 2007

Roland Ahrens

Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Whitehurst

Ben Franklin, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Franklin

Stacy Sumner Jesso

AFP Charlotte Chapter

Rev. Dr. Michele R. Brigham

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Cook

Myrna Franklin

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Franklin

Emily Celebrates Her Birthday in Special Way



Emily LaFar and her younger brother Taylor who is 5.

To celebrate her seventh birthday in June, Emily LaFar asked guests to bring a gift to her birthday party. Not for her, but for the children in the sibling houses at Elon Homes.

Guests responded with many nice gifts which Emily and her mother Virginia then delivered to Kennedy Campus. There were soccer balls and footballs, games including Sorry and Monopoly, sandals and socks, beaded jewelry and art supplies.

From Bible teachings and home discussions, Emily is learning compassion and concern for others. She understands she is very blessed and chose to use her birthday party as a way to share with other children.

The sibling house children had a fine time at Emily's party although they celebrated later and in a different place with their new games, toys and gifts. And they wished her happy birthday and many more to come.

Elon Homes, too, wishes this thoughtful and generous little girl many more happy birthdays.

XL Insurance Devotes a Day to Landscaping



May 10 was nationwide volunteer day for the XL Insurance Company. Company VP Larry Penn contacted Hands on Charlotte for referrals, and XL office staff chose Kennedy Campus for their



volunteer efforts this year. The hard working volunteers provided the labor, plants and supplies for the attractive flower beds they created. Students, residents, staff and visitors appreciate the improved appearance of the grounds.

Time to Relink

One Step Sign Up Process

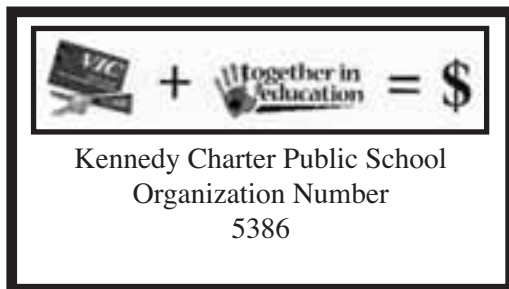
Give your VIC card and the Kennedy Charter School code to the Harris Teeter cashier during checkout. You will be linked until May 31, 2008. *This sign up must be done for each school year.*

When you purchase Harris Teeter private label items, the grocer contributes a percentage of your purchase dollars to Kennedy Charter School.

Please clip the KCPS number below and take it with you on your next trip to Harris Teeter.

Or, you can visit www.harristeeter.com. Click on Community, Together in Education, Link to your School.

Another great, and easy, way to support Elon Homes for Children. THANK YOU!



ENRICH Says Eat Healthy and Keep Moving

The ENRICH program (Environmental Interventions in Children's Homes), funded by a Duke Endowment grant awarded to the University of South Carolina Department of Health Promotion, Education and Behavior, is a five year project involving 53 children's homes in North and South Carolina. Staff members in each home form a wellness team. Then an ENRICH team visits the homes by invitation and works with staff both individually and in groups to help create or enhance a program that supports physical activity and healthy eating. The ENRICH team of Lauren Workman and Kelli Kenison spent a day with Kennedy Campus staff and provided in-service training on two topics: "Staying Motivated for Physical Activity" and "Fun with Physical Activity." The training generated enthusiasm among Kennedy staff to help children make positive changes in their level of physical activity. More information about the program, which began in 2004, can be found at www.uscenrich.org.



L to R: Robin Dawkins, ENRICH leaders Lauren Workman and Kelli Kenison, DiMario Gordon and Jessica Jones participated in the in-service training project. The three Kennedy Campus staff members work with children in the sibling houses and were excited to learn new ways to involve the children in physical activities.

McDaniel Family Welcomes A Daughter



L To R: Jawad, Patrick, Chantal, Tony and Deyanna McDaniel.

Elon Homes foster parents Patrick and Chantal McDaniel recently adopted Deyanna Bennett. Deyanna came into care when she was barely a year old and was placed in a foster home while she waited for the court to decide permanence for her.

When adoption became her permanency plan, she was moved to the McDaniel home. Although the adoption decree was just finalized for Deyanna in July 2007, this four-year-old energetic little bundle of joy assumed her role of beloved baby sister much earlier. The bond for this family was almost immediate, and one could see and feel the thick fabric of love for one another.

The McDaniels are proud parents of two biological sons: Tony, who recently graduated from high school and Jawad, an eighth grader. Although these young men are significantly older than Deyanna, the small-framed four-year-old seems to effortlessly wrap them around her little finger.

Congratulations, McDaniels, on your truly happy success story.

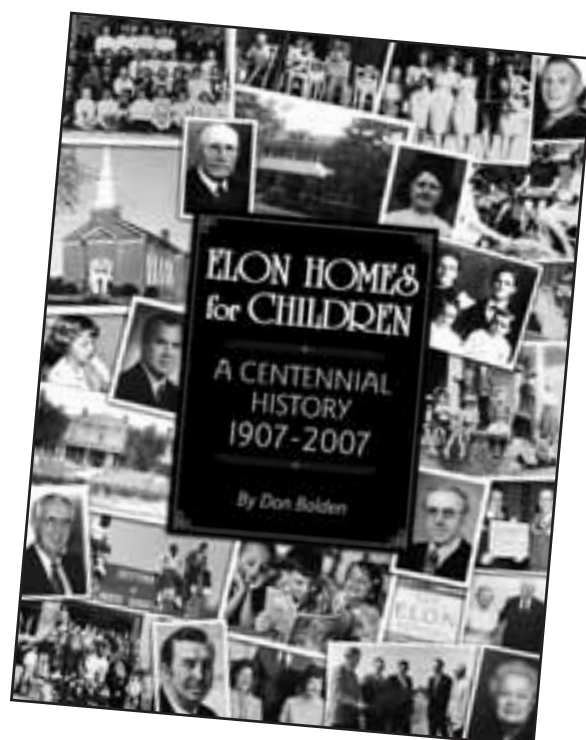
Wellness Program Scheduled to Begin This Fall

The Elon Homes Wellness Initiative was designed to improve the overall health and well-being of the children served by Elon Homes through better nutrition, increased opportunities for physical activity and promotion of healthy lifestyle choices. It is well documented that today's youth face increased rates of obesity and premature heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure resulting from poor dietary habits and a sedentary lifestyle.

Beginning in the fall, students at Kennedy Charter School and children served through other Elon Homes programs will notice significant changes on the campus. The cafeteria will begin serving healthier meals and residence halls will be stocked with nutritious snacks. Construction on the new Wellness Center/Gymnasium should be completed, opening up many more opportunities for physical activity including a basketball court and fully equipped workout room. Wellness will be incorporated into the classroom with ten minute "Energizers" or classroom-based physical activities aimed at getting students moving throughout the school day. Finally, a healthy lifestyle curriculum, focusing on nutrition, exercise and drug and alcohol prevention, will be taught in health classes on all grade levels.

A Wellness Coordinator is being hired to oversee the program and teachers and cafeteria workers will receive special training to ensure program success. At Elon Homes, everyone is excited about the healthy changes coming to the campus and looking forward to the positive impact the new program will have on the health and well-being of the young people.

Copies of Don Bolden's *Elon Homes for Children, A Centennial History 1907 - 2007* will be available at the 100th anniversary celebrations on September 9 and October 11.



Sharonda White to Attend CPCC with EHC Support



Sharonda White

Sharonda White, an extraordinary young lady who has not allowed circumstances to deter her from being ambitious and goal oriented, had

been in the Elon Homes foster care program since January 2005. Recently she had her 18th birthday and is now living independently.

In June, Sharonda graduated from West Charlotte High School where she was an excellent student who maintained above average grades. She was involved in extracurricular activities including the JROTC, Drill Team and Culinary Arts Program. Sharonda has proven through her unwavering dedication that education is extremely important to her.

President Dr. Grosse met with Sharonda in the spring to discuss scholarship opportunities. Elon Homes has offered to assist Sharonda with financial support while she attends Central Piedmont Community College where she will major in Culinary Arts and Physical Therapy.

Later Dr. Grosse said, "It was a real joy to meet Sharonda. She has a wonderful mindset and the motivation to achieve her goals and certainly deserves the support Elon Homes will provide. I look forward to hearing about her progress and ultimate success."

Pocket Change Adds Up for Leukemia/Lymphoma Society

For the second year, Kennedy Charter Public School participated in the *Pasta for Pennies* fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Students collected pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters during the 13th annual campaign sponsored by Olive Garden Italian Restaurant.

Student Activities Coordinator Christopher Lee coordinated the project with assistance from the student government; the project raised \$394. The class that collects the most money at each participating school receives a Hospitaliano Pasta Party courtesy of Olive Garden. The winning KCPS class was Patricia Garcia's Spanish class which raised over 60% of the total contributions. Prizes of computers, electronics and sports equipment are presented to the schools that collect the most funds.

Brad Blum, Olive Garden president, explains, "With *Pasta for Pennies* our goal is to inspire children to become involved and let them know that they do have the power to make a difference in the lives of so many people who suffer from leukemia and related disorders."

Making a Treasured Keepsake



Scrapbooking has been such a favorite summer activity that Mrs. Jesso plans to offer her scrapbooking classes throughout the fall. Above, Sharon Flenniken (left) and Tonya Jesso suggest how to create and arrange titles for pictures.

The residential and sibling house children are spending time this summer putting their creative skills into scrapbooking. This summer's *Adventures in Scrapbooking* has been organized and planned by Tonya Jesso. She has been joined by friends, Sharon Flenniken, Penny Kipper and Stacy Jesso, to conduct a weekly class that began in June. Mrs. Jesso is teaching the children techniques such as stamping, journaling, titling and working photographs into the layouts. Each week, the children look forward to taking pictures and assembling their scrapbook pages.

Professionals working with children in residential and foster care encourage projects like scrapbooking because these children often do not have albums and mementoes to save and treasure from their childhood. Scrapbooking is meaningful and special for the Kennedy Campus boys and girls. Many thanks to Tonya Jesso and the Target Store on Matthews Township Parkway (contributed books and materials) for sponsoring this worthwhile and exciting activity.

The Power of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, VP
Institutional
Advancement

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

A century ago, Elon Homes made a promise. Any child who needed refuge could come here for an education, a safe home environment and life skills. One hundred years later, children's needs have changed, but our dedication to helping children realize their full potential remains steadfast. Your generosity helps make this possible and we thank you.

As we begin our second century of service to young people and their families, we continue to seek your support and ask for your philanthropic gifts of time, talent and resources. A one hundred year anniversary is quite a momentous occasion.

Perhaps you would consider a special gift to Elon Homes for Children to mark this milestone. For example:

- One dollar for each year = \$100
- Five dollars for each year = \$500
- Ten dollars for each year = \$1,000
- One hundred dollars for each year = \$10,000
- Or, your choice

Each new day offers something to be thankful for. For many people, each new day also finds them giving thanks for the memories of special relationships with which they have been blessed during their lives. Honoring or remembering a loved one through charitable gifts is an especially meaningful act paying tribute to someone special while assuring that his or her values continue to influence the world around us. We welcome gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones in celebration of 100 years of giving children a fresh start and a hopeful future.

One Small Step

Change. A fresh start. The whole child. At Elon Homes for Children we think a healthy, happy childhood is a right, not a privilege. Yet daily the children and youth enrolled in our school and programs struggle with very real issues. One is their physical condition. Today's youth are considered the most inactive generation in history. Research shows this is due in part to reductions in school physical education programs and unavailable or unsafe community recreational facilities.

The close connection between fitness and emotional and mental health is well known. So is its impact on academic performance and self-confidence. These combined facts were the primary catalyst when we began building a sports and activities center on our Kennedy Campus in south Charlotte. The building, which opens in October, will host classes in physical education, aerobics, strength training and weight management, along with sports such as basketball and volleyball.

We will address personal and social health issues; offer nutrition counseling and diet education; and provide after school, weekend and summer school enrichment.

For more information about how you can assist children and youth to grow in mind, body and spirit, please call or email. I would be so happy to hear from you.

Stacy Jesso, VP Elon Children's Foundation
704/369-2519
stacy.jesso@elonhomes.org



Jon Gilland shows Stacy Jesso where DuctSox (Fabric Duct System) technology is being incorporated into a portion of the HVAC system in the new Kennedy Campus sports and activities center. DuctSox provides an economical and aesthetic HVAC air distribution system.