

Our Children

ELON HOMES FOR CHILDREN

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

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

Board Members, Volunteers, and Donors Honored at First Families-Advent Dinner

Elon Homes for Children's Snyder Campus held its annual First Families-Advent Dinner at the Alamance Country Club in early December. The event is held to thank members of the board of directors and outstanding donors and volunteers at the agency during the past year. Three awards were given this year to honor individuals who made significant contributions to the life of the home.

The Louise T. Barringer Award, named for loyal, longtime supporter and loving advocate for children in need Louise T. Barringer, was given to two individuals, William R. Gilliam and Richard C. Keziah, Sr.

A past member of the board, Gilliam was instrumental in the home receiving a \$75,000 contribution from the Community Savings Charitable Foundation. Gilliam and his wife have also established the Bill and Polly Gilliam Endowment Fund within the Elon Homes for Children Foundation, Inc.

Current board member Keziah was instrumental in the agency receiving a \$75,000 gift from the First State Foundation Inc. Keziah and his wife Bettie have established the Keziah-Cates Families Endowment Fund within the home's foundation.

Named endowments, which exceed \$10,000, return five percent of their growth to scholarship children in need at Elon Homes.

The Caring for Children Award is given to individuals who exemplify the mission of the agency in their daily living, particularly persons who dedicate their lives to caring for children in their own home, in the community and in the foster care system. The 2002 Caring for Children Award honored Connie and Lula Hooker.

The Hookers have raised children of their own, have been Elon Homes foster parents and have adopted two children from the Elon Homes specialized foster care program. Lula Hooker is also a longtime employee of the Barringer Center for Child Development. Their love and devotion to children have given each child good direction and hope for the future.

The Kennedy Campus Advent Dinner, which was postponed due to the ice storm in early December, has been rescheduled.



Bettie and Richard Keziah



Polly and Bill Gilliam



L to R: President Fred Grosse, retiring Board Chair Helen Alspaugh, Lula and Connie Hooker

From Your President



At its annual November meeting, the board of directors took significant action related to the Alamance County campus by approving the sale of 80 acres of the 100 acres campus to Elon University.

The remaining 20 acres, located between Trollinger Avenue, Antioch Street and O'Kelly Avenue, will be redeveloped to meet the changing needs of the agency. Elon Homes plans to demolish the four rental houses on Trollinger Avenue, construct a new 32 bed secure residential treatment facility, and convert the Barringer Center for Child Development into the Lakeside Charter Public High School and agency administration offices.

The board approved three major program changes. First, the closing of the Barringer Center effective March 31, 2003. Second, the Elon campus program will be upgraded to include services to Department of Health and Human Services for levels I - III residential and community based treatment services. Third, Lakeside Charter Public High School will be expanded to include 32 children from Alamance County as day students.

Chairperson Helen Alspaugh stated, "These changes are well thought through and represent over three years of planning by the senior staff and board of directors. We have researched national and state trends in child welfare and believe these changes offer the best possible programming for at risk youth in our community. We are thankful the Barringer Center was such a

successful program but it is not something we can continue in today's financial climate or with the programmatic needs in our core mission of service."

The board also heard reports from its Ownership Linkage Committee and approved three Ends or agency-wide goals: to offer safe haven, protection, guidance and Christian principles to children in care; to offer children in care life skills such as personal responsibility, financial management, personal values, and relational skills; and to educate children with basic literacy skills, computer skills, vocational skills and citizenship responsibility.

This meeting covered a great deal of territory. We are saddened by the ending of the day care, but it is no longer a service we can afford to offer. Our commitment is now clearly and appropriately defined by the three board approved Ends or goals. We are proud of how the day care served so many over the years, and equally delighted to continue to have the building named in loving memory of Mr. Barringer. The expansion into levels I - III will serve children in need more effectively as will the expansion of our charter public high school. This will enable us to be more a part of the community. We are extremely pleased with the actions of the board of directors.

The program expansion will include academic, emotional and psychological testing services for teenagers of the community on a day treatment service basis. Children and families will be given extensive testing results and clinical reports for areas of strength and areas for personal improvement for the child.

Continued on page 3

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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SERVICES & PROGRAMS

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



From Your President continued from page 2

The agency plans to transition into its new facilities over the next six months and intends to open the new high school program, level systems of care and testing unit by September 2003. There will be no interruption of residential services during this time.

Charlotte Civic Partners Representatives Present Campaign Gift



Charlotte Civic Partners pledged monies raised from the group's annual golf tournaments toward the Commitment to Excellence Campaign to help with renovations at the 1717 Sharon Road West site and to benefit the Kennedy Charter Public School. Recently, three Charlotte Civic Partners joined students and staff for dinner and a tour of the Kennedy Campus facility. During dinner, Hale Mast spoke to students and presented his organization's gift to the agency's capital campaign. L To R: Jorge Aguilar, VP of Operations; Robert Alexander, VP of Program Operations; Charlotte Civic Partners Nancy Hansen, Randy Cameron (rear), Hale Mast; Elon Homes President Fred Grosse; Jane Grosse, VP for Institutional Advancement.

Specialized Foster Care Hosts Annual Christmas Event

In early December, the Snyder Campus Specialized Foster Care program held its annual Christmas dinner and party to say thank you to the program's foster care parents. At this special time of the year, the Elon Homes staff comes together to give thanks to the wonderful parents who work diligently year round to serve the children in their homes.

Parents received a silver engraved picture frame; the children received gifts from Santa. It was a joyous occasion for all to celebrate the happy holidays.

If any person, group or congregation in the Triad or Charlotte area is interested in learning more about becoming a Specialized Foster Care family, please call Amy Carpenter at 336/538-6123 in the Triad area or Farris Thomson at 704/369-2531 in the Charlotte area.



Ashley and her foster parents Cecil and Phyllis Smith pick up name tags at annual Specialized Foster Care Christmas party held in Johnston Hall on the Snyder Campus.



A Reminder: When you shop at Harris Teeter, please remember to link your VIC card to the Elon Homes for Children account. Give the Elon Homes code (4992) to your cashier and then each time you shop at least 2% of your purchase of Harris Teeter brands will be credited to Elon Homes. The program does not interfere with your VIC savings or cost you any money. You only have to link your VIC card once each school year.

Thank you for your support.

Memorial Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2002

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

Clarence L. Adams Janet Adams	Nash R. Collins Mr. and Mrs. G. Mike Manheim	Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Hammer Sarah W. Hammer	Barbara Jean Brooks Mason Mr. and Mrs. Ray L. Foulks Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Gessner III
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Memorial Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2002

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Helen Schad
Dorothy Schad Andres

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Garrett A. Screws

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October 1, - December 31, 2002

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Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Balsley
Jane Watt Balsley

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Brown Summit, NC

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Honor Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2002

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Edward L. Williard

Jessica, Conner & Kennedy Wilson
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Christmas Honors Program

The Christmas Honors Program provides a meaningful way to recognize special personal, business and professional relationships. A handsome card is mailed to each individual or business named by the donor with the message that an honor gift in their name has been made to Elon Homes for Children. Elon Homes is grateful to the donors listed below for their 2002 participation in the program. Our thanks to them for helping make the holiday season a joyous time on our campuses.

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Abernethy
Burlington, NC

Janet Adams
Raleigh, NC

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Greensboro, NC

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Burlington, NC

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Charlotte, NC

Bethany UCC Women's Fellowship
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Guilford, CT

Commitment to Excellence, Phase II

Phase I of the successful Commitment to Excellence Campaign raised \$1.3 million through the generosity of numerous supporters, allowing Elon Homes to renovate the new Kennedy Campus, fund start-up costs of the newly created mental health program, and create the Mary Elizabeth Francis Children's Fund.

We are now enthusiastically launching The Commitment to Excellence Campaign, Phase Two, with a goal of \$775,000 for the following: • **Start-up costs for the Charlotte Assessment Academy** which serves residents of the Assessment Unit during their maximum stay of 45 days. Each student receives psychological and educational assessments and a recommendation for proper residential and school placement beyond the 45-day assessment period. • **The After School Program** which includes experiential learning, vocational education, and individual and group work in life skills building, substance abuse education and self-esteem workshops to complement the academic program. Each child's plan includes computer labs, monitored study time and a weekly volunteer homework buddy. • **Start-up costs for Preparation for Independent Living and Construction of Two Habitat for Humanity Houses.** Many young people discharged from children's homes have nowhere to live when they reach the discharge age of 18. To address this concern, we will, along with partner agencies, establish a Preparation for Independent Living Program. We will build two Habitat for Humanity houses on the Kennedy Campus with five bedrooms to accommodate 16-21 year-olds and house parents. • We will seek to **"Leave A Legacy,"** adding an additional \$200,000 to the endowment fund. Named endowments are available for minimum gifts of \$10,000.

Luncheon Honors Mary Liz Francis and Supporters of the Mary Elizabeth Francis Children's Fund



L to R: Mary Liz Francis, Stacy Sumner and Judy Harrison-Barry were among guests at a Kennedy Campus luncheon which honored Mrs. Francis and generous supporters of the recently established Mary Elizabeth Francis Children's Fund.

The recently established Mary Elizabeth Francis Children's Fund recognizes Mrs. Francis' longtime leadership and untiring devotion on behalf of the children served by Elon Homes for Children. The fund will allow the agency to provide services to boys and girls who are not eligible for other assistance.

Mrs. Francis has been a faithful volunteer and supporter since the inception of Boys Town in Charlotte which opened in 1970 and merged with Elon Homes in 1985. Most recently, Mrs. Francis has served as honorary chair for the Commitment to Excellence campaign which has raised over \$1 million to help with renovations at the new Kennedy Campus site.

The garden at the entrance to the new 1717 Sharon Road West building has been designated the Mary Liz Francis Garden.

Kennedy Charter Public School **Again** Named One of 10 Most Improved High Schools in North Carolina

Clearly, the students and staff of the Kennedy Charter Public School are doing many things right! Their hard work, creativity and commitment to learning have earned the school a rare distinction. For the second consecutive year, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has recognized Kennedy Charter Public School as one of the 10 Most Improved High Schools in the state and as having achieved High Academic Growth.

The school has also successfully completed the charter renewal process for another five-year cycle.

Dr. Jane Norwood, Vice Chair of the State Board of Education, congratulated the school's student body and staff and presented them with a banner to hang aside the banner earned for the previous school year.

School Director Granville Simmons said, "Our success is a testament to the efficacy of private and public partnerships in education. The continued support of the Department of Public Instruction and the civic and business communities will propel us to accomplish even more."

Kennedy Campus' new building in Charlotte offers outstanding surroundings for the charter school. Visitors remark on the enhanced learning environment and cheerful atmosphere of the facility. Several school staff display the new banner in the school's common area. L to R: Stacey Rose, Student Services Coordinator; Elon Homes President Dr. Fred Grosse; Susan Stuppig, 2001-2002 Testing Coordinator, now Education Coordinator of the Charlotte Assessment Academy; Dr. Jane P. Norwood, Vice Chair State Board of Education; Granville Simmons, School Director.



The Role of Philanthropy



*Jane Grosse, CFRE
VP for Institutional
Advancement*

We are so grateful for the partnership and friendship existing between Elon Homes for Children and the many generous contributors who through gifts of time, talent and treasure support the children and families we serve. We were blessed at Christmas with an outpouring of gifts and volunteer services that brightened our holidays and warmed the hearts of children and adults alike.

As is the case with most not-for-profit agencies, Elon Homes for Children depends heavily on charitable gifts to fulfill its mission. The recent challenges our nation has faced significantly impact charitable giving. Since 2000 we have seen the economy slow as markets declined. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, further hindered the economy as fear of war and anxiety about the future intensified. Corporate malfeasance increased the growing public concern about the economy as well as the trustworthiness of both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors.

These issues over the last few years have created tough times for many organizations. A few statistics illustrate this point. Total charitable giving in the United States in 2001 was \$212 billion. This represents an increase on only one-half of one percent from the previous year - the smallest increase in recent history - but a drop of 2.3% when adjusted for inflation. According to a survey produced by the Barna Research Group, slightly more than two-thirds of all adults, which is 69%, gave money to charity in the 12

months ending last July, down from 80% for the same time period ending in July 2001. The same survey also shows that an astounding 23% of respondents say they have lost confidence in non-profit organizations. This lack of confidence is highest among donors ages 57 - 75, traditionally the most generous age group. When asked specifically about why their trust level is lower, respondents express concern that their money is going to be used efficiently and that the programs they support are having a real impact.

At Elon Homes for Children we certainly take note of these facts and trends and will intensify our efforts to communicate effectively to our donors about the efficiency of our operations and outcomes of our programmatic efforts with children and families. Elon Homes for Children donors have been extraordinarily loyal and supportive even in these challenging times. We are grateful that in our fiscal year 2001-2002 we received gifts totaling \$1,727,994 which represents a significant increase over the previous year. Simultaneously, as a result of economic challenges at the state level, we lost \$120,000 in projected revenue through decreased state funding for the children we serve.

We believe that if we are to continue to be successful in these challenging days we must increase our efforts to raise charitable dollars while staying the course in our mission. We will continue to faithfully protect your charitable investment in Elon Homes for Children with integrity and accountability. We are grateful for your concern and compassion for the children and families we serve. Please contact me at 704/369-2506 for more information about trends in charitable giving or if I can be of assistance in your own gift planning.

Your Charitable Dollars at Work

Elon Homes receives state money to finance approximately 50% of its charter public schools budget. Elon Homes must provide the remaining dollars and counts on charitable gifts to meet the remaining 50%. The schools give students the best opportunity most will have to strengthen their basic academic skills and prepare for gainful employment. The Kennedy Charter Public School's status as one of the 10 most improved high schools in North Carolina demonstrates that the school is an important investment paying a big dividend. Your charitable dollars at work, making a difference in the lives of the boys and girls served by Elon Homes for Children.