

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

2003 Advent Dinners Celebrate Outstanding Donors, Volunteers Elon Homes for Children Foundation, Inc. Hosts Dinners in Elon and Charlotte

In early December, the Elon Homes for Children Foundation, Inc. hosted the annual Advent Dinners to pay tribute to the many people who through their financial contributions or by volunteering their time provide noteworthy support for Elon Homes for Children.

The dinner for those living near the Snyder Campus was held at the Alamance Country Club on December 2. Dr. John E. Nance, chair of the foundation board, presided over the event.

Longtime board of directors member Dolores Truitt received the 2003 Louise T. Barringer Award in recognition of her longstanding dedication to the children of Elon Homes for Children. Elon Homes President Dr. Fred Grosse presented the award.

Truitt is a former board chair and has served on most of the board's committees during her many years of service. Her father-in-law was Dr. John G. Truitt Sr., a former administrator of the Elon Campus.

Guests in the Charlotte area were invited to dinner on December 9 at the Duke Mansion. Dr. Nance again presided at the dinner which was the setting for the Home to award two of its highest honors.

The 2003 Caring for Children Award was presented to Bert Green, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Charlotte. The Caring for Children Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to at-risk children in North Carolina and has brought creative or innovative change to the delivery of services to this unique population in partnership with Elon Homes.

Green was instrumental in the planning and construction of two 5-bedroom houses on the Kennedy Campus. continued on page 3

Photos by Jerry Slayton



Above L to R: Bert Green, recipient of the Caring for Children award, Elon Homes President Fred Grosse and Elon Homes for Children Foundation Inc. Board Chair Dr. John Nance.



Left: Mary Liz Francis and James Appleby, recipient of the Mary Liz Francis Award.



Photo by Don Bolden

L to R: Dolores Truitt, recipient of the Louise T. Barringer Award for 2003, President Fred Grosse, Jane Grosse, VP for Institutional Advancement.

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

St. Paul writes these words to the church at Rome: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies

of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect."

(Romans 12:1-2).

Paul was concerned about the faith of those in the Roman church in the middle of the first century. On his way to Jerusalem he dictated this letter to Tertius to tell the church of his plans and his concerns. Among other things the evangelist wished to exhort the faithful to maintain their vigilance of faithfulness to God and responsibilities to one another. We cannot help but be awakened by the thought of early Christians presenting their bodies as living sacrifice. Putting, if you will, one's very self on the line for Christ.

He then follows this remarkable statement with an equally strong verse in reminding them to not allow the world to tame or corrupt their faith. In a time of great uncertainty and religious and political upheaval one generation after the crucifixion of Jesus these words were undoubtedly much needed and spiritually helpful.

Elon Homes for Children is a Christian agency. We need to hear these words of St. Paul today. Elon Homes for Children was founded upon and continues to this day to celebrate the transformational faith of our Savior. On the pages of this quarterly newsletter you will read of many, many faithful people who have indeed presented themselves on behalf of Christ. Our award recipients, our board of directors, our donors, volunteers and mentors, our staff - all together keeping the faith and not being transformed by the world today. I am not sure I would venture to know the will of God. What I do know is that God has spoken plainly about his love for children and the need for the community to love his children.

Despite the call of so many other human desires and alluring social trends so many of you remain steadfastly faithful to his children at our Home. For this, we are so grateful. The support and partnerships in Christ we have with so many of you are tremendously valuable and inspiring. Together, let us continue to find those things which will be pleasing and acceptable to God in our service at Elon Homes.

God's blessing,

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

Published quarterly by

Elon Homes for Children

201 South O'Kelly Avenue

Elon, NC 27244

www.elonhomes.org

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SERVICES & PROGRAMS

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- ❖ Charter Public Schools
- ❖ Spiritual Life
- ❖ Family/Therapeutic Foster Care
- ❖ Family Care
- ❖ Preparation for Adult Living
- ❖ Behavioral Health



2003 Advent Dinners continued from page 1

The houses will be home for ten youth between ages 18 and 21 who must leave the child welfare system but have no safe or appropriate place to live. During residency the young people will continue to receive supervision from Elon Homes staff while acquiring independent living skills, working full- or part-time and attending school.

In recognition of his commitment to the agency and to the Kennedy Campus institutional advancement campaigns, James Appleby, Jr. was selected for the 2003 Mary Liz Francis Award. Appleby has served four terms on the board of directors and one term as chair of the board in addition to other leadership roles with Elon Homes.

In granting the award to Appleby, Dr. Grosse said, "Jim is a wonderful member of our team. He is highly regarded and respected by his fellow board members and has given compassionate and visionary Christian leadership to our

deliberations and actions. Jim has participated with distinction in the governance of the agency and has also guided us in the receipt of hundreds of thousands of dollars in philanthropic gifts. He well represents all that Mrs. Francis has shown in her own life and is a most compelling and deserving recipient of this award."

At both dinners, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Jane Grosse announced the upcoming Second Century Countdown Campaigns which will allow for the expansion in the care and treatment of at-risk children in the coming years.

The Elon Homes for Children Foundation Inc. assists donors in matching philanthropic interests with the needs of the Home through the annual operating fund, named endowment funds, planned gifts and scholarship funds for children in care. The foundation has assets of \$14 million.

Happy Stories to Share:

Trevor, a former resident of Snyder Campus, was accepted to Shaw University for the 2004 spring semester.

With help from Elon Homes staff, Trevor completed the application process and applied for financial aid. The federal Pell grant program provided for a portion of her expenses and the Link Program, an independent living program in her home county, provided funds for the remainder.

Snyder Campus Student Goes to College & Foster Care/Adoptions Successes

Through diligence and persistence, Trevor has achieved her dream of going to college. She is enjoying college life and doing well in classes. The staff and administration of Elon Homes for Children are proud of Trevor and expect to see her do great things.



The Campbell Family

Elon Homes foster parents Bridget and Philip Campbell initially welcomed Jasmine and Jimmicka into their home as foster children.

When the sisters first arrived, they were working below grade level and both required

medication for behavior and social problems.

After months of discussion, the Campbells decided to adopt the girls. Today, both children are medication free and doing well in school, at home and in the community.

Bridget Campbell says, "The Lord has given us an opportunity to bless them, and they have truly been a blessing to us."

When EHC case worker Karyetta Walker began working with Mikeisha, she did not foresee the outcome. When the family failed to regain custody of Mikeisha and her siblings, DSS moved to find a permanent home for the children. Once her siblings were placed, Walker was concerned about Mikeisha's future. At their first contact, Mikeisha had asked Walker, "Can I come home with you?"

A youth minister at her church, Walker turned to her faith and prayed for guidance. The answer became clear. Walker would pursue adopting Mikeisha, and her church, family and friends enthusiastically supported her decision.

The professionals working on the case were overjoyed when Walker approached them. Her experience, knowledge of the child, education, dedication, community and family support were ideal qualities for an adoptive parent. A few hours here and there soon led to day visits and then over nights and finally Mikeisha was moved to Walker's home.

Mikeisha is doing well in school, is active at church and is treasured by the extended Walker family. Her new mother is focused on making Mikeisha feel safe, loved and accepted as she teaches her ethics, values and fosters a spiritual foundation.

From "objective professional" to mother, Walker's journey has been life changing and the greatest decision she has ever made.

Memorial Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2003

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

Ralph E. Allen
Robert Allen

P. T. Allen
Worth and Carleen Cox

Jill Allsup
Ginger and Brad Bowman and Family

Lella G. Ayscue
William A. Morgan

Alton H. Barringer
Ollene Barringer Fox

Rachel J. Baucom
J. D. Baucom, Jr.

Maxine F. Bayer
Jack R. Bayer

G. M. Beam, Jr.
Bill Shotwell

Geraldine T. Blackwell
Jaculyn and Clifton White

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Roselyn Chrystal
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Mrs. E. G. Clark
Antioch Congregational Christian Church, Roanoke, AL

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Beulah Hoover

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Frances P. Hunter

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Dr. James William Johnston
Paul and Nell Abernethy

Virginia A. Journigan
M. Jean Joyner

Gwen Shanks Joyner
Andy and Charlotte

Jewel Kern Kearns
Reid and Nancy Kerr

Ida Kerns
Reid and Nancy Kerr

Chester Kirby
Florine Kirby

Lucy Kornegay
Bob Kornegay

Linda Kovacich
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Diseker

Marion Kron
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Mary W. Johnson

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Irene Mann
Pamela Mann Browne

Bertha Marsh
Mike Kirby

Barbara Brooks Mason
Arthur and Norma Foulks

Faye Massey
Earle Davis

Louise McBrayer
Phillip D. McBrayer

James S. McKee
Laura B. McKee

Reggie N. McLelland
Jane McLelland

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Wilma S. Hill

Judd Samuels
Robert Atwater

Memorial Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2003

Elva Sanford
David and Beatrice Sanford

Frances W. Screws
Garrett A. Screws, Sr.

Keith Screws
Garrett A. Screws, Sr.

Melville Sechrest
Yvonne Smothers

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Shankle
Reid and Nancy Kerr

Jesse C. Shelton
Rowland F. Filer, Jr.

Richard Short, Jr.
Wayne and Shirley Brooks

Philip Alexander Short Memorial Fund
Martha R. Short

Leonard Sims
Joe and Peggy Burwell

Allene Smallwood
Martha and Jim Brewer
Irwin Smallwood

Nellie (Mann) Snyder
Stuart E. Oldson

Larue and Mildred Sparrow
Robert A. Johnson

Marie W. Stevens
Jewell S. Priddy

Doyle Hammer Stuart
Mrs. Boyd Hammer

Pauline Andrews Sullivan
Bill and Ruth Ann Rogers

Ray Summerlin
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moore

Virginia Swanson
Martha and Jim Brewer

Kimberly Therrien
John and Sara Oakes Family

Margaret Thomas
Morris and Deloris Blair

Joshua and Thelma Toler
Benny and Betty Toler

Kay Henderson Van Gorden
Bill and Polly Gilliam

Donavee Vereen
Arthur and Norma Foulks

Cora Dodson Vernon
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Eliza Burnett

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Bruce H. Bell & Rev. Glynn S. Bell

Donald R. Walker
Judy Walker

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Mary and Robert Kallam

Ruby G. Waynick
Martha and Jim Brewer

Annie Maie Webester
Joe and Peggy Burwell

J. Ted Welch
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Jim and Kay Willoughby

Arthur Wimmer
Paul and Jean Walsh

Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Wisseman
Douglas and Nancy Hodgson

David Lawrence Wood
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wood

William Perry Woodson
Damon Woodson

Rufus Yarborough
Wayne and Shirley Brooks

Honor Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2003

Eleanor Alexander
Ralph, Jeanne, Laura and Kate Alexander

Rev. William Andes
Reverends Edward Brown and Joyce Myers-Brown

Marilee and Ed Armstrong
Nancy and Lewis Thorp

Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Austin
Tom and Austin Sapp

Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Bierkan
Ruth Koenig

Becky Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. Philip W. Faucette

Mrs. Eugenia V. Blair
Jimmy L. Byrd

Oie Boyce
Benjamin F. Black

Ty and Pat Boyd
James G. Babb, Jr.

Nancy Brooks
Rev. & Mrs. Ronald W. Bergman

Henry Graham Chandler
Bobby King Family

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Mr. and Mrs. William J. Setliff

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J. Parker Cross, Jr.

Claire Dillashaw
Frank Gerald (Jerry) Dillashaw

Rev. B. E. Dotson
Tom Dotson

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Bill and Ruth Ann Rogers

Huldah Frederick
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edwin King, Jr.

Roger Gibbs
Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Gibbs

Dr. Brooks Gilmore
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Nancy Gordon
Mildred and Gail Smith

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Tom B. Collins

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Arietta W. Fowlkes

Peg and Mac Hulslander
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Erma C. Proctor

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Violet Manson
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Erma Proctor
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Sherry and Don Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Scott, Jr.

Michael T. Stephenson
Dr. Thomas N. Stephenson

Dolores Truitt
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Richie

Sally Welch
Tricia Webb

We'd Welcome Your Call

Are we correctly addressing correspondence mailed to you? Are you receiving duplicate mailings? Would you like additional copies of newsletters? Nancy Hall (704/369-2507) will be happy to help you with any concerns, questions, suggestions. Please give her a call.

Christmas Honor Program

The Christmas Honor Program provides a meaningful way to recognize special personal, business and professional relationships. A beautiful card is mailed to each person or business named by the donor letting them know that a gift in their honor has been made to Elon Homes for Children. These gifts brought joy and hope to our children. Elon Homes is grateful to the donors listed below for their participation in the 2003 Christmas Honor Program.

Apollo Chemical Corporation
Burlington, NC

Jane Arnold
Charlotte, NC

Lyn and Louis Dickerson and Marie Reese
Raleigh, NC

Mr. and Mrs. T. Clinton Eubanks
Charlotte, NC

Jane and Gaston Gage
Charlotte, NC

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Grosse,
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Mrs. Katherine Y. McFarland
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Bill and Wanda Musgrave
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The Brady Foundation
Salisbury, NC

Danny W. Trent
Reidsville, NC

W. E. Love and Associates, Inc.
Burlington, NC

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Whitehurst
Greenville, NC

Classroom Dedicated in Memory of Ray Brady



A memorial worship service of dedication for a classroom at Kennedy Charter Public School was held at the Charlotte campus. The Charlotte Civic Partners dedicated the classroom in memory of Raymond Brady. Brady was a mentor and volunteer as well as the chief organizer of the Charlotte Civic Partners' annual charity golf tournament to benefit Kennedy Campus. Students, staff, members of the Charlotte Civic Partners, and many members of Ray's family joined together for dinner followed by a service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and dedication of the classroom. The love and devotion that both Ray and wife Elizabeth had for the children and the campus will forever be remembered with this most fitting memorial gift.

L to R: Ray's wife Elizabeth, his sister Mary Beth Magrane and brother Frank Brady pictured at the classroom dedication in Ray Brady's memory.

You've Got Mail

Today the Internet plays an important role in communications, and Elon Homes for Children is eager to make good use of the technology. The Internet provides an opportunity for Elon Homes to rapidly share exciting news and significant developments with friends and supporters. If you have email and wish to receive our updates, please email your address to development@elonhomes.org

The agency will not share email addresses with anyone or any organization.

New Homes for Older Youth Dedicated



Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Charlotte Bert Green was honored with the Caring for Children Award.

Kennedy Campus hosted a luncheon/dedication service to celebrate the opening of the two 5-bedroom Habitat homes built to provide shelter and assistance to older youth aging out of the child care system. These young people often face a daunting challenge to find suitable shelter due to a shortage of affordable housing, little family support, and limited skills and work experience. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness reports that a quarter of former foster children will be homeless within four years of leaving the child care system.

Elon Homes for Children Inc. and Habitat for Humanity with several other nonprofit agencies formed an exciting partnership to help local youth avoid that plight. The homes will offer safe haven to former foster children and, in some cases, to siblings (0-21) living in other children's homes. The young people can finish their independent living training or high school education in the main building. They will hold full- or part-time jobs; some will advance their education at community or four year colleges. Agency staff will supervise the young men and women.

President Fred Grosse honored Bert Green, executive director of Habitat Charlotte, with the Caring for Children Award, the

agency's highest tribute. Kennedy Awards were presented by David Kennedy, son of founder Fred J. Kennedy, Jr., to Charles Battaglia, Bill Campbell, Richard Ellison, Doug Youngblood, John Cunningham, John Moore, Doug Gillis and John Perry for their commitment to the project.

A host of volunteers including staff members, future residents, and donors helped with construction. Funding came from generous donations from The Duke Endowment, Union West Rotary Club, Mecklenburg South Rotary Club, Home Depot, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fire Department, John Deere Landscapes, Southern Tree Landscaping, The Merancas Foundation, Tile Partners for Humanity, Smart Construction and TSC Foundation Inc.

The new homes will give former foster children a real chance to be successful as they finish school, find jobs, assume adult responsibilities and learn to be self-reliant.



Following lunch and the dedication service, guests were invited to tour the new homes. In addition to the bedrooms, the homes have three baths, washer/dryer space, kitchen and living areas.

Camp Tree Tops is Unique Experience for Most Students



The paddleboats were a new experience and favorite activity for Tree Tops campers. Student and counselor team up to enjoy an afternoon on the lake.

Last fall 16 youth and three staff from Kennedy Campus enjoyed a two-day visit to Camp Tree Tops in Lancaster, SC. The mission of the 624 acres camp is to provide a quality camp experience for economically disadvantage children. Activities include basketball, volleyball, biking, trust fall, trust walk, canoeing, hiking, magic swing, time for reflection and a service project. Most of the boys and girls had never been camping so they enjoyed the spooky night walk, ghost stories, s'mores around the bonfire and sleeping in yurts - round cabins with bunk beds.

One reflection activity was to relate something in nature to a life experience. An Elon Homes camper said, "I see how the trees stand very tall and that is how I want to stand in my life."

Camp Director Jody Strange says, "Camp Tree Tops aims to support and enhance youth development organizations in their mission to love children and let them experience their abilities to succeed in life by working together."

Elon Homes Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Zaneta Wood hopes to secure sponsors (\$50 per child per week) to send another group of Kennedy Campus students to Camp Tree Tops, summer 2004.

The Role of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, CFRE
VP for Institutional
Advancement

We are especially thankful for your gifts throughout the year. In addition to saying thank you, we would like to share information that can help assure the maximum benefits from your gifts. By spending a few minutes carefully considering the form and timing of your gifts, you may find that you can have an even greater impact now and in the future.

QUESTIONS TO ASK TODAY

1. **Did you receive and save your gift receipt?** It is especially important to keep receipts for gifts of \$250 or more and file them with your tax records. These receipts must state that you did not receive any benefits in

return for your gift that have not been accounted for in the amount stated on the receipt.

2. **Are you enjoying maximum tax savings?** Cash gifts may be deductible from your federal income tax return. Many states also allow income tax deductions for charitable gifts. Charitable gifts included in your estate plans can result in significant tax savings as well. See TAX PLANNING TIPS.

3. **Does your employer match your charitable gifts?** If so, each gift you make is effectively doubled. Please check with your employer about this possibility.

4. **Have you reviewed your long-range financial and estate plans recently?** Your will, living trust, retirement plans, and other gift and estate planning vehicles can provide another opportunity to support your favorite charities.

CONSIDERING THE FUTURE

Your generosity is an essential ingredient to success, both now and in the years to come. If you would be interested in making a gift of ongoing significance, the ideas below may be of interest.

1. A gift included in your will or living trust is one way to establish a lasting legacy.

2. A gift of retirement assets, such as pension plans or Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) may allow you to give more than you thought possible, while eliminating taxes that may otherwise largely consume these assets.

3. Consider gifts of life insurance. Gifts of policies or proceeds you may no longer need offer excellent tax benefits. Life insurance can also be used to “replace” assets given away, thereby providing for loved ones in addition to your charitable interests.

4. A life income gift can be a tax-effective way to provide you and/or someone you designate with regular payments for life.

Gifts in any of these forms can be made in memory or in honor of special loved ones. Complete and return the form at the bottom for more information on these and other options you may want to consider.

TAX PLANNING TIPS

- **Charitable** gifts are generally deductible in amounts up to 50% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for gifts of cash and 30% of AGI for gifts of appreciate property.
- **When** appreciated securities are donated you are entitled to a deduction for full value, not just the original cost. This results in a tax deduction based on “paper profits” you have not yet realized. If securities have decreased in value, consider selling them, thereby creating a loss for tax purposes, and making deductible gifts of the cash proceeds.
- **Consider** making larger gifts in years when you have more income and will be in a higher tax bracket. The higher your tax bracket, the greater the savings from your gifts.

Elon Homes for Children at Elon • Snyder Campus

Elon Homes for Children at Charlotte • Kennedy Campus

Please send me more information on gift and estate planning ideas that utilize the following:

- Wills and revocable trusts
 Gifts that provide income, tax, and other financial benefits
 Life insurance
 Memorial and tribute gifts
 Retirement plan assets
 Appreciated assets/stocks

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Phone (optional) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- 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.