

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

Foster Care: Making a Difference in the Lives of Children

The 1997 Adoption and Safe Family Act mandated significant reform in the national child welfare system. One consequence of the act has been the substantial increase in children placed in foster care homes instead of campus-based residential settings. Elon Homes continues to expand its foster care program to help meet the growing demand in North Carolina for good foster care homes.

Elon Homes Director of Community Based Services James Johnson reports that Elon Homes currently has 96 foster families in 11 counties serving 135 children.

The program has proven especially beneficial in helping a child continue to live in the community with a family while working on reunification with his/her family or moving toward guardianship or adoption.

It takes concentrated effort, time and skill of the foster care staff to find and train the special folks who open their hearts and homes to provide quality foster care for boys and girls, infants to teens, who desperately need a safe, secure and happy environment when they cannot remain with their biological families. Commitment, love and a strong family dynamic characterize all the Elon Homes foster care families.

Foster Care Recruiter/Trainer Rebecca Krypel says, "The goal for our children is to have safe, nurturing, permanent homes. Ideally they will return to their birth families. When that is not possible, it is always a happy ending when children are adopted and given the gift of a permanent 'forever family.' In training, we prepare our foster families for both scenarios. Foster care is not for everybody, but we strive to find those unique people who can successfully work in partnership with the social workers and birth families while meeting the needs of the children placed in their loving care. Ongoing training for foster families is crucial, along with consistent support and communication with their foster care caseworkers."

Last year one of the Elon Homes social workers became friendly with a day care provider at the day care where she enrolled her little girl. She was so impressed by the warmth

and concern and love for children of her new friend, she strongly encouraged her friend's family to consider becoming a foster family. The Hamptons, Melinda, Ed and eight-year-old son Darius, were excited about the opportunity and soon completed training, became licensed and eagerly awaited a foster child.

In August 2005, their "miracle child" arrived, a beautiful six-month-old baby girl named Nevaeh. Immediately, The Hamptons were notified that the baby had become eligible for adoption and needed to be placed in a home with prospective adoptive parents. Their response? Nevaeh *was* home! All one has to do is view the video Ed Hampton made on the day Nevaeh arrived to understand that Nevaeh *was truly* home. The Hamptons, their extended family, and their church lovingly and passionately welcomed the baby and made her their own. Everyone even sees a strong family resemblance between the baby and her new family.

With Elon Homes support and guidance, the Hamptons began arrangements to adopt Nevaeh, and the adoption became final in November 2006.

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The Hampton family, Ed and Melinda, Darius and Nevaeh. Nevaeh is almost two. Darius is now nine, attends Smithfield Elementary School and is a devoted and helpful big brother.

From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

It is a true story. The mother of the baby boy was physically abused before she married the father of this

child. She was beaten during their honeymoon. Two weeks after the little boy was born it is said that his father pulled out a knife to attack his mother. With her infant son in arm she fled the house and moved to another state. There she and her baby boy started out in poverty and alone to make their way through life. They would live in almost eight different houses in this new town during his childhood and adolescence. She married again while the boy was young. The boy took his stepfather's full name and left behind his birth name and biological father's surname.

The little boy from this home grew up to be the thirty-eighth president of the United States of America – Gerald R. Ford.

Abuse and poverty do not have to have the final word. I think at its heart

the Adoption and Safe Families Act calls upon us to recognize that every person can be responsible and accountable. We need to hold ourselves accountable, and others accountable, for our lives and for our communities. The reform of child welfare simply calls for every individual to be responsible. Woe be it to a society that declares some people unable to be self-sustaining and then relegates them to welfare rolls.

Elon Homes for Children, Inc. offers hope and a path to independence to all children and families in our care. With the love and wisdom of God we aim to help anyone in our care to become self-sustaining and responsible for themselves and to their community. Not everyone will become president, but everyone will have the opportunity to be safe, educated and self-sustaining. This is our pledge.

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

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Foster Care: Making a Difference

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Foster Care Recruiters/Trainers Rebecca Krypel (704/369-2500 extension 531 in the Charlotte area) and Pamela Holley (336/264-2999 in the Greensboro area) would welcome an inquiry from anyone who would like to explore becoming a foster parent/family. Every child deserves a loving, caring and stable environment in which to live and grow and Elon Homes for Children is helping to meet that need for more and more North Carolina children.

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ Transitional Residential, Level I
- ❖ Kennedy Charter Public School
- ❖ Kids Central of the Carolinas, LLC
- ❖ Preparation for Adult Living
- ❖ Family/Therapeutic Foster Care
- ❖ Spiritual Life



Broadhead to Lead The Elon School

The Elon School named Raymond Broadhead as Head of School for the new independent high school scheduled to open in August 2007. Following a search that included use of a professional educator's firm, input from local individuals with relevant expertise, interviews conducted by board members, and the Grosses' visit to the Brooks School where Broadhead is currently assistant head of school, there was unanimous agreement in his selection.

Broadhead, himself a graduate of the Brooks School, North Andover, MA, has an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a graduate degree from Brown University. Since returning to Brooks in 1975, Broadhead's career has been spent at his alma mater. He has served as a teacher (AP biology, earth sciences, algebra, geometry, statistics, psychology), dean of students, admissions officer, coach and assistant head. "I've probably finished all the challenges I could at Brooks. It's a great opportunity to start up a school from scratch..... sort of give it your own identity. It's a great honor to be here," said Broadhead.

President Fred Grosse reports, "Ray is extraordinarily seasoned for this position." Broadhead immediately made application when he learned of the position, intrigued by the potential of the school and the efforts being put into its inception. Grosse also said, "Once you meet Ray you will immediately sense the commitment and drive he has for maximum performance and academic integrity." According to Grosse, Broadhead has a plain-spoken, friendly style and believes in developing relationships with students.

In mid January, Joe and Tish Murray hosted an oyster roast at their home to introduce Broadhead to prospective students and their parents. An open house to meet the new head of school was held on the campus for families that have applied to the school. Broadhead's official start will be June 15 when his contract at Brooks is fulfilled, but he has already made numerous trips to Elon to begin interviewing for faculty and consulting on renovations and construction for the campus. This spring he will marry Dr. Leone Rochelle of Columbia, SC. Dr. Rochelle will teach science at The Elon School. Broadhead has two grown daughters.



Head of School Raymond Broadhead with new sign.

Two Three-Year Projects, TEACH and PWI, Benefitting Kennedy Charter Students

Reported by Dena McFadden

Kennedy Charter School was selected to participate in two grant programs: TEACH (Teaching Excellence in American Civic History) and PWI (Projects with Industry: A Chance for Success). TEACH is a three year project to increase student achievement through interactive, hands-on lessons. U.S. History teacher Kreg Goad completed a needs assessment with students and is working to implement ideas within his classroom. Goad works with a support group to create lesson ideas, unit plans, and materials to help make the history curriculum more interesting for students of varying ability levels.

PWI, also a three year program, is for students ages 16 years and older who have a disability. Career coaches work with students to help them acquire skills to find, get and keep a job in an area of interest. The school is charged with developing skills for students that will help them transition into a career or school of higher education after graduation. Students are also tracked after they attain employment.

Students attend workshops after school to learn the skills necessary for success on the job. Several students are interested in the field of criminal justice and recently observed court proceedings, spoke with sheriff deputies, court workers, lawyers and an assistant district attorney.

PWI also works with employers of disabled students to provide training in alternative communication skills and tolerance along



L to R: To successfully implement the goals of the TEACH grant, KCPS teachers Nicole West, Brian Bongiovanni and Kreg Goad regularly meet to plan the next steps in the program.

with techniques co-workers and supervisors may need when working with these students.

Please contact Kennedy Charter School (704/688-2939) to assist with either program by providing field trip opportunities, potential job placements or other support. The school will appreciate your help in creatinga road to success..... for KCPS and PWI students.

The Blessings of Christmas

Christmas is a special time of year. Elon Homes is fortunate to have wonderful volunteers and donors that make the Christmas season bright for all the children in care in the various programs.

Highlights of the season included a beautiful evening at Forest Hill Church for foster parents and their children. Fifty volunteers hosted over 200 guests for a social hour, a traditional holiday dinner, music, festive decorations, the 'electric slide,' a raffle and many exiting gifts for the children. Elon Homes President Fred Grosse also attended and presented Target gift cards to the foster parents. Foster parents and staff agreed Forest Hill had given them a lovely gift, one that truly exemplified the Christmas message of love and care for others.

The young people in residential care had fun singing and dancing as part of a wonderful party that included a three course meal provided by Forest Hill life group members. Kay



Volunteers, including Santa, the Grinch and Buddy the Elf, helped make the campus Christmas party a merry and memorable event.



Photo courtesy of WOW

Karen Carter of Woodmen of the World, Lodge 310, presented a check to Joye Harris, volunteer/mentor coordinator, for the purchase of a campus gift.

Johnson played the piano at the annual party as she has done for many years. The Woodmen of the World, Lodge 310, followed its tradition of giving each child a cash gift to buy gifts for their families and friends. In addition, the Woodmen gave a monetary gift to purchase something useful for the whole campus. Lodge 310 has been a part of Christmas at Kennedy Campus since the mid 1980's. Buddy the Elf, the Grinch and Santa also made appearances as did the Hip Hop Gospel Group.

Other Forest Hill life groups visited the campus and the sibling houses over the holidays and helped with tree trimming, putting up decorations, and making personalized ornaments. These activities added an extra warmth and joyousness to Christmas at Kennedy Campus.

The Children's Theatre treated students to a performance of *The Christmas Bus*. Faithful friends from the South Mecklenburg Kiwanis Club hosted an ice cream party and Christmas activity for the children.

Southern Real Estate and Modern Impressions chose to help the school celebrate the season by supporting Kennedy Charter's 'Twelve Days of Christmas,' an incentive program to encourage outstanding behavior. Each day six students (three from the middle school, three from the high school) were rewarded with special gifts based on a point system that identified great behavior. Six gifts a day for 12 days courtesy of Southern Real Estate and Modern Impressions - that's a lot of gifts. No wonder the program was successful in promoting good behavior

with students receiving gifts from ipod's to stuffed animals to CD players to grooming sets to McDonald and Wal-Mart gift cards.

Modern Impressions, a new friend, also contributed generously to the school's library and sports funds and purchased uniforms and equipment. In addition, the company contributed many useful items and hygiene supplies for the babies and toddlers in the foster care program. Christmas will stretch well into the new year as the little ones enjoy these gifts.

Decision One Mortgage, South Mecklenburg Rotary Club and FedEx sponsored several children and provided lovely gifts for them. Omega Sports donated basketballs and VF Jeanswear Inc. donated lots of new cool clothes.



Forest Hill volunteers prepare to serve a delicious holiday three-course meal for residential students.

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Christmas Honors Program

Elon Homes is grateful to the friends listed below for their participation in the 2006 Christmas Honors Program. The Christmas Honors Program provides a meaningful way to recognize special personal, business and professional relationships. Honored individuals or businesses receive a beautiful card, which includes the donor's name and address, informing them that a gift in their honor has been made to Elon Homes for Children. These gifts help make the holiday season a joyous, happy time for our children.

The Brady Foundation
Salisbury, NC

Cindy J. Harrell
Hobbsville, NC

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Moss
Greensboro, NC

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Chapel Hill, NC

The Blessings of Christmas continued from page 4

Foster care children, charter school students and residential students had a truly blessed Christmas thanks to the tremendous outpouring of generosity from churches, organizations, companies and individuals. Their contributions of time, treasure and talent brought the joy of the season to Elon Homes for Children.

Woodmen of the World Lodge 310
Forest Hill Church & Life Groups
St. Matthew Catholic Church
South Mecklenburg Rotary Club
FedEx
Burlington Coat Factory
Kay Johnson
Sandy Salati
Bill & Valerie Carnohan
Sandi & Jay Green
Denise & Ken Davis
Keith & Dawn Winchell
Tony & Heather Watkins
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Mr. & Mrs. Hausmann
Mr. & Mrs. Harb
Gary Wilking

Linda Howle
Jeff Parks
Laura Snow
Zeta Phi Beta
Holiday Evergreens Nursery
David Overman
Children's Theatre
Friendship Missionary Baptist
Modern Impressions, Inc.
Southern Real Estate
Decision One Mortgage
South Mecklenburg Kiwanis Club
VF Jeanswear, Inc.
Omega Sports

With so much activity, we fear we have omitted someone and apologize. Please tell us if we failed to mention someone and let us acknowledge them in the next newsletter. We honor and appreciate every gift and giver.

R: This year all campus areas competed in a contest to create the best Christmas decorations. The decorations were outstanding and added a special festiveness to the campus. Here children are looking at a replica of a gingerbread house which was the centerpiece of the area decorated by the foster care department. Kennedy Charter School won the contest but all the decorations were delightful and added much to the holidays at Kennedy Campus.



Memorial Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2006

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

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Honor Gifts

October 1 - December 31, 2006

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Chambers Jr.

Mildred Young
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Diseker

The Power of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, VP
Institutional
Advancement

Annual Gifts Ensure Safe Haven Life Skills and Education

Elon Homes for Children is deeply grateful to the many individuals who through the years have made gifts in support of its mission and the children and families served. Your generosity is an essential ingredient to success - past, present and in the years to come. In 2007 Elon Homes for Children is counting on generous supporters who believe all children should have a safe haven, life skills and education. Philanthropic support is essential to help fill the gap that fee for service does not cover. This gap represents the public/private partnership that enables many charitable services to exist. Following are a few examples of what generous support makes possible:

- Two hundred and fifty students attend the on-campus Kennedy Charter School. These are children who have failed to thrive in traditional public school but are daily meeting goals in our small, individualized program. Seniors who formerly had little hope of graduating from high school and no hope of further education are right now completing college applications and studying hard to successfully complete their senior year.
The school would not be possible without your support.
- Siblings who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect can live together in a family setting on our campus instead of placed in separate homes throughout the state, as is the traditional practice.
The Sibling Program would not be possible without your support.
- One hundred and thirty-five children are living in safe, supportive foster homes with 24-hour a day on-call assistance and oversight provided by Elon Homes for the foster families. These children no longer live in fear. They are no longer hungry and no longer cold. They now attend school on a regular basis. Many children will be adopted this year by foster families.
Top quality foster care would not be possible without your support.

Your support is a daily investment in education, and ultimately, eliminating crime and poverty. You are saving lives and making bright futures possible.

Legacy Gifts of Ongoing Significance

In addition to ongoing annual support, many contributors have made provisions through their estates and long-term plans to help ensure future services for families and children in need. Following are three ways to help achieve charitable goals while providing important benefits for you and/or your loved ones. At the same time, income, estate, and gift taxes may be reduced or eliminated.

Gifts by Will

Cash, securities, real estate, or personal property can all be given to charity through a well-planned gift. A bequest to Elon Homes for Children can be stated simply, as follows:

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

When making provisions by will, it is important to use a charitable recipient's correct name and address.

Retirement Plans

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

This gift can be designated when the fund is first established, or it can be added later. *Adding it later is very simple to accomplish. The plan administrator will provide a change of beneficiary form upon request.* You can then indicate the amount or percentage of assets you wish to allocate to charity.

Life Income Gifts

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. More information is available on request. Please contact us if you have questions or would like additional information for yourself and your advisors.