

## Our history. Our mission.

Elon Homes and Schools for Children (EHSC) has been helping children for more than a century. Over the years our services have evolved to best meet the needs of at-risk and disadvantaged children in the region. However, our function remains the same: providing safe haven, life skills and education to the children in our care. That's our mission, and it has been at the center of our work from the beginning.

In the early days, this meant caring for orphaned children and teaching them household and agricultural skills to help them make their way in the world. Today it means helping low-income and disadvantaged children gain the hope, healing and education they need to function and flourish.

Nearly 500,000 children in North Carolina live in poverty,\* and more than 100,000 are referred to the Department of Social Services each year for possible abuse and neglect.† These children face significant barriers to educational opportunity, diagnosis of special learning and emotional needs, and other wellness basics.

**At EHSC, providing safe haven, life skills and education to the children who come into our care includes three programs:**

- **Community-Based Foster Care**
- **Kids Central of the Carolinas behavioral and mental health services**
- **Kennedy Charter Public School**

Each of our programs meets a specific need that matters to the wellbeing of the children we serve. Together they give our organization a unique ability to address the whole child and to empower both children and families.

**Helping children. Fostering hope. Empowering futures.**

With a century of experience behind us and your support to propel us, these children can thrive!

\* Figures provided by the National Center for Children in Poverty  
† Data reported by North Carolina Department of Social Services

## Here's how you can help.

**GIVE.** We rely, in large part, on gifts from individuals like you to do our work. Every dollar you give helps us serve the children in our care. You can make a tax-deductible donation securely online at [elonhomes.org](http://elonhomes.org) or by calling 704-369-2500.

**VOLUNTEER.** We welcome individuals and groups to help us with special projects and activities on site. Simply contact our volunteer coordinator Heidi Hannon at [heidi.hannon@elonhomes.org](mailto:heidi.hannon@elonhomes.org) to learn more.

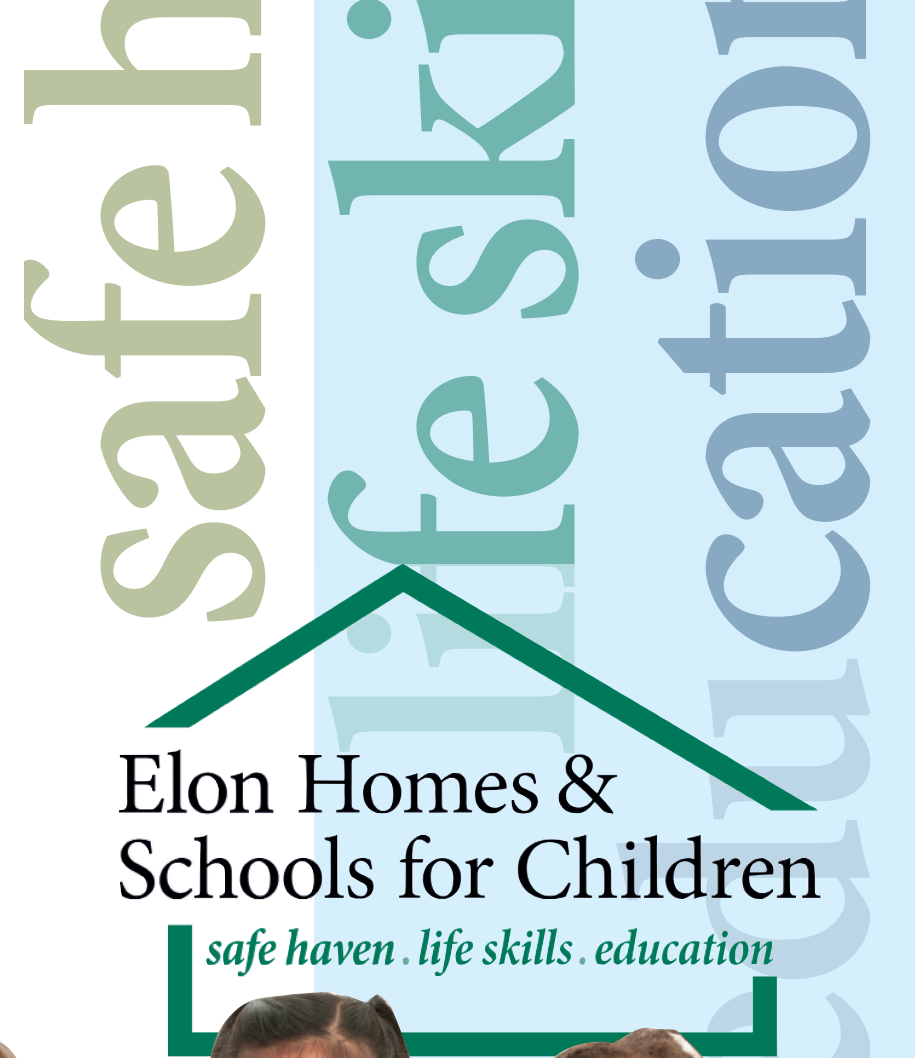
**SPREAD THE WORD.** We provide easy ways to keep up with the work we're doing and help others learn about our mission. **Find and "like" our Facebook page at [facebook.com/elonhomesandschools](https://facebook.com/elonhomesandschools)** for updates and photos you can enjoy and share!



**Visit our YouTube Channel to see our mission in action!** Scan this barcode with your smartphone or visit [youtube.com/elonhomesandschools](https://youtube.com/elonhomesandschools).



1717 Sharon Road West, Charlotte, NC, 28210 • [elonhomes.org](http://elonhomes.org) • 704-369-2500



# Safe Haven

EHSC’s **Community-Based Foster Care** program provides refuge, within a licensed family setting, for children who need a safe place to live when their parents cannot adequately care for them. We serve children, ages 0 - 20, in roughly a dozen North Carolina counties from Mecklenburg to Durham.

Children in foster care require special support and nurturing. Many foster children have a damaged sense of self-worth. Many have been victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. Because of their experiences, they often struggle in school and socially. **Our foster care program sees that these children get the care and services they need.**

At EHSC, we recruit compassionate foster parents and provide extensive training to help them deliver the best care possible. Our case coordinators make frequent check-ins and home visits and ensure that foster families have 24/7 access to support.

We’re also able to provide therapeutic support to foster children and families through Kids Central of the Carolinas (see right) and focused academic attention to foster children who enroll in our charter school (see far right).

**This dedicated support helps us resolve as many as 80% of the cases we manage in a given year—putting children on stable, permanent footing.**



# Life Skills

**Kids Central of the Carolinas** is a mental health agency comprised of licensed clinicians committed to providing psychological services to youth and their families. **It is one of the few child-focused counseling and testing services in the region that accepts Medicaid, making much-needed care accessible to low-income families.**

Kids Central makes the emotional and educational needs of today’s children and their families central to everything it does. We provide a wide range of mental health services, including these key components:

- **Individual Therapy** to address emotional wellbeing and strengthen a child’s ability to function effectively in family, school and community. This is essential to the many children we see who are dealing with issues of abuse, neglect and poverty.
- **Family Therapy** to help with parenting skills, family conflicts and changes in family structure. These services are particularly critical to helping families in the foster care system adjust, rehabilitate and potentially reunite.
- **Testing and Assessment** to determine psychological issues and learning disabilities that can affect behavior and school performance. Discovering and treating these issues can be a “life changer” for struggling children.

Kids Central helps more than 250 children and youth a year, and that number is growing, reflecting the urgent need for our services! **Two-thirds of our clients report improvement in their emotional, behavioral, academic and social health as a result of the care we provide.**

“*Growing up in foster care was extremely challenging. When I saw how much everyone at EHSC cared, the feeling of living in a dark, cold world alone gradually eased away.*” - Walter, a former EHSC foster child and Kids Central client, now in college.

# Education



**Kennedy Charter Public School** is a free, open-enrollment school serving K-12 students primarily from communities that are often marginalized in education. Currently, the school has more than 350 students, with 90% qualifying for free or reduced lunch. Many are dealing with circumstances of poverty, including inadequate housing, improper nutrition and limited healthcare access—all of which can profoundly affect success in school.

**Kennedy Charter succeeds by providing small class sizes, innovative teaching, personalized education plans and the potential for consistent academic support from Kindergarten through graduation.** It’s a potent combination aimed at empowering children to thrive academically and in our community.

Our efforts are producing increasingly powerful results for our students. Children in our Francis Elementary Program—begun with generous support by Mary Elizabeth Francis and her family—regularly show marked improvement in literacy. High school students previously at risk of failure elsewhere are graduating and making promising plans for the future!