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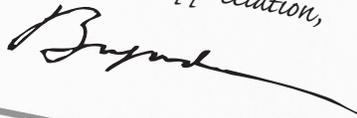
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*As we catch our breath and count our blessings following the successful conclusion of our \$7,335,000 capital campaign, Elk Hill is able to serve over 500 youth this year and is projecting to serve 700 youth by the beginning of 2020. What a huge difference this will make to these families!*

*The success of the campaign will help us achieve our 2016 goal of raising \$1,000,000 from friends like you, to go along with the \$9,000,000 of support we received from the Commonwealth of Virginia.*

*In summary, on behalf of our Board of Trustees, our staff, our boys and our girls, thank you very much for your generous support. It will make a big difference in the lives of our kids, their parent's, and the communities in which they live, which, by the way, is also where you live!*

*With great appreciation,*




S. Buford Scott, Chairman Emeritus, Elk Hill



## More kids because of you!

Elk Hill is in a growth industry. Unfortunately, there are more and more children who need help, but – for one reason or another – they don't qualify for public funding. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of so many Elk Hill friends, many of these children, struggling through traumatic challenges in life, are now getting the support they need! Your gift to the 2020 Campaign helped provide scholarships to 137 children who otherwise would have fallen through the “public funding cracks”.

Thanks to the Campaign, 100 campers, ages 6-11, learned how to communicate peacefully and participate appropriately on all kinds of new adventures, which opened doors to a whole new world they never knew existed. Resources from the Campaign also supported over 75 children and their families participating in the BEST program. Elk Hill's Behavioral Emotional Support Team works in partnership with public school counselors to identify children who are starting to struggle and provides them with guidance, support, counseling and therapy.

In 2010 Elk Hill helped 190 children and their families transform overwhelming challenges into successful futures. That number grew to 493 in 2015. We could not do our work without you, our great friends. With your continued support we aim to help over 700 children a year by 2020.

I am truly grateful for your kindness, generosity and your belief in our mission. ■

# Scholarship funds create safety net for those who need it most

***Life's been no bowl of cherries for Michael Hagood. He's had issues with his family; he's had run-ins with law enforcement. But for Mike, a scholarship to Elk Hill has been a life-changing experience.***

That phrase – *life-changing* – gets thrown around a lot. In Mike's case, it's no exaggeration. Because of scholarship funding made possible by people like you, he is able to complete his education and graduate with his peers this spring at Elk Hill's Varina school. Because of scholarship funding, he's found a part-time job and become self-sufficient. And because of scholarship funding, he's earned five industry certifications, giving him an edge in the job market.

**What if there was no scholarship fund? It's impossible to know what would have happened to Mike. But it's a safe bet that his life would be very, very different than it is today.**

In the past year, \$300,000 in scholarship funding has been awarded to 93 students at Elk Hill. Think of that funding as an enormous safety net, one that is critically important in an era when the need is growing and federal aid, through Medicaid and similar programs, is shrinking.

Today, because of a scholarship fund strengthened by your gifts to Elk Hill 20/20, a young man's life is back on track. “We see a lot of kids who hope this will happen and hope that will happen,” says Varina teacher JT Brown. “But Mike is ready to take on the next challenge. He has a very deliberate plan.”

And that plan includes college. With help from Clif Lawson, his counselor at Elk Hill, Mike's already enrolled for the fall semester at John Tyler Community College. Through independent living skills classes at Varina, his first pass at living on his own is a success. He's reconnecting with his family; he's focused on his future.

Mike has taken all we have to offer. From therapeutic day treatment to workforce development to academics, he gets a lot of individual attention at Elk Hill. But he also gives back. Like a senior starter on the basketball team, Mike is an enormous positive influence on younger students at Varina. “He's great leader, a great role model,” JT says. “We'll really miss that.”

**A life back on track –  
*thanks to you!* ■**



# How do your gifts make a difference?

## Students learn to read

The connection between low literacy and poor outcomes is well established. If you can't read, you're less likely to graduate from high school, less likely to find employment and more likely to be incarcerated. For those who can't read, even health outcomes suffer.

Because you're willing to lend a helping hand, reading intervention is a top priority at Elk Hill. Through your gifts, a fulltime reading intervention teacher works one-on-one with 22 students in Charlottesville (nine elementary/middle school students, 13 in high school) and 11 at Harambee (two elementary/middle school students and nine in high school).

If those numbers seem low in comparison to the need, they are. "The majority of our students come in below grade level in reading," says Darlene Ferguson, Director of Education at Elk Hill. "Fully 80 percent of our middle school and high school students need

reading intervention, but we have to prioritize: We can only reach 25 percent of them. We really need reading intervention at every campus."

Many of those we reach make astonishing gains. In this school year, one student moved from eighth grade to twelfth in word recognition, from third grade to seventh in comprehension and from fifth to high eighth grade in vocabulary. "A lot of that reflects him making the effort to apply himself," says Dawn Gillette, Reading Intervention teacher, "but think what he could do if we'd reached him years ago."

It seems simple but it's an essential truth of education. Students who can read are more responsive. They participate in class. They are more motivated to complete assignments, more likely to earn passing grades and more likely to experience success. And you know the old saying: Success breeds success. ■

## Your support of Elk Hill BEST program helps struggling children get the services they need, sooner!

### Thanks to you, 6-year-old Andre is thriving in kindergarten.

At the start of the school year, that didn't seem possible. Andre was disruptive, impulsive and unable to focus. He was a definite worry. Unless he settled down, it would be hard for him to learn. And in kindergarten, one out-of-control child can easily derail the entire class.

But **because of your support** of Elk Hill's new BEST (Behavioral-Emotional Support Team) program launched last fall, Andre is back on track. He began receiving services from Elk Hill professionals early this school year.

In a rural area like Goochland, where Andre attends kindergarten, it can be hard for children to receive the mental health services they need. There are few providers nearby, services are costly and transportation creates a barrier.

Elk Hill's BEST program overcomes those obstacles. **BEST provides onsite support during the school day**, minimizing lost instructional time. Access is based on need rather than family income. Collaborating with students, families, school staff and the community, the Elk Hill team provides early intervention for students who are struggling – students like Andre.

Last fall, Elk Hill staffers introduced Andre's teacher to a new behavioral model. After seeing how much it helped Andre, she taught the model to all of her students. "**BEST really impacted the entire class,**" says Ann Abell, LCSW, Elk Hill Community Services Coordinator. "The model they learned made the school experience a positive one for all of these kids. It really boosts their self-esteem to learn a tool like this and be able to use it."

Through a new program you helped make possible, we've helped more than **30 Goochland students in one school** year. "We just started in September," Ann says, "but we've worked with so many kids. We've already accomplished a lot!" ■

Small acts of kindness make a BIG difference! *In just the past six months, over 200 volunteers have donated 1,000+ hours of time valued at over \$20,000 to benefit Elk Hill's children and families.*

How can you help?

• Painting building exteriors and interior rooms • Landscaping projects • Supervising activities at our June Games field day and first-ever All-Camp Fair • Providing skilled pro-bono support • And so much more...



We have volunteer opportunities for 1 to 100 people. For more information contact Danée Hudson at [DHudson@elkhill.org](mailto:DHudson@elkhill.org) or (804) 457-4866 ext. 336



## Your life, your values, your philanthropic legacy.

An effective estate plan reflects your life & values. A planned gift is a donation from your estate used to support a non-profit organization that supports your philanthropic goals. A planned gift sustains a life-long connection to an institution that has played an important role in your philanthropic goals and the legacy you have created. By including a gift to Elk Hill in your plans you can reduce tax liability on your estate and at the same time contribute to the financial strength and stability to an organization that has filled a vital role for 1000's of Virginia's youth and families' wellbeing.

It's a simple gift that cost nothing during your lifetime. – But makes a world of difference in a young person's lifetime. Let us answer your questions! Contact Jessica Cocciolone, Director of Development (804) 457-4866 ext. 310 or [jcocciolone@elkhill.org](mailto:jcocciolone@elkhill.org) ■

## Remembering Eleanor May

Elk Hill lost our wonderful friend and Honorary Trustee, Eleanor May, on Sunday May 8th 2016. Eleanor was an amazing person. She was an adventurer and a pioneer. She visited every continent in the world and every state in the US. She lived, taught, and volunteered in Wales and Kazakhstan. In 1990, Eleanor retired as Professor of Business Administration from the Darden School at University of Virginia, where she was the first ever female faculty member. It was shortly after her retirement that she became involved with Elk Hill's mission.

Eleanor was a person of the world. And yet, her love and passion for helping children who have experienced trauma and challenges in life focused her right back in central Virginia. We will miss Eleanor tremendously. We are all better off because of her love and friendship. Truly, a life very well lived. ■



## New organic gardening program expected to help children grow

This spring, look for dirty hands and muddy feet at all three Elk Hill schools. Students at Elk Hill's Goochland, Charlottesville and Varina campuses will be among the first to get involved in a new organic farm and gardening program.

"This is an important piece of a child's development," says Michael Farley, Elk Hill Chief Executive Officer. "They learn where food – nutritious food – comes from, they grow their own food and they get their hands dirty in a therapeutic way."

Made possible by gifts from an anonymous donor and the Ballyshannon Foundation, the program will start small. "We'll probably plant about half an acre at Goochland this year and put in raised beds at the other two schools. Hopefully," he says, "it will grow."

The program will operate from early spring through fall. "We'll be able to get really young kids involved through our summer camp program," Michael says. He expects it to generate many new opportunities to reach children within therapeutic, residential and academic programs.

"We work with a lot of kids from the city who have no idea where food comes from," he says. Beyond that, as any gardener knows, gardening is a form of therapy unto itself. "A lot of our kids struggle with the fact that they don't think they can accomplish anything," he notes. "This should give them the opportunity to experience success."

Any time you can provide the opportunity to create something, to grow something and see the result, that is a boost to a child's self-esteem and confidence."



Produce from the farm and gardens will be incorporated into Elk Hill food service operations. It all makes perfect sense, Michael says. "Historically, Elk Hill was a farm. That's part of our legacy. More recently, we've grown children here. Now those children will learn how to grow vegetables." ■

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@ [GKunkel@elkhill.org](mailto:GKunkel@elkhill.org) or (804) 457- 4866 ext. 312