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**You’ve helped us meet an urgent need:**

**New Charlottesville Day School opens this fall!**

For children who struggle in every part of their lives, the new Charlottesville Day School brings the promise of new hope. Because of your support, class sizes will be small – and that means carefully tailored, individualized attention for each student.

Opening this fall, the new school responds to a growing need in Charlottesville. “Local schools asked us for help with children they could not serve effectively,” says School Director Darlene Ferguson. “We have an elementary school in Goochland but we can’t have these kids in a van for up to two hours a day.”

For a child in crisis, small class sizes, dedicated teachers and therapeutic treatment close to home are critically important. “We saw two students in particular totally turn it around in the classroom last year,” Darlene says. “They had been camped on zero; they just didn’t care. But when kids start doing what they need to do, it changes everything. Both of them moved up several levels. They’ll return to school this fall as either Level 4 or Honors students.”

The new school also allows expansion of the Elk Hill elementary school program. “The sooner we can start working with children, the sooner they find success in the classroom and the community,” Darlene says. “The goal is to help them transition back to their public school and be successful there.

High school juniors and seniors at Charlottesville will gain leadership skills as well. “All of them will take a course in leadership,” Darlene says. “We want to help them build on things they’re already doing well.”

The new facility will accommodate 12 elementary students and up to 30 in grades 6-12. It also includes space for Community Services, making after-school therapy even more convenient for families whose children attend classes at the school. It’s all part of the safety net you’ve helped to create!
Imagine Elk Hill Winning!
Your vote helps kids overcome early trauma through creative play

Remember when you were a kid and your imagination let you do anything? Now you can unlock that power for hundreds of children at Elk Hill just by logging onto Facebook.

Elk Hill is one of 12 organizations (and the only one in Virginia) vying to win an Imagination Playground through a national contest sponsored by KaBOOM! and Children’s Claritin.

What is an Imagination Playground? It’s a flat-out amazing movable play system. Made of enormous but lightweight foam blocks, the system is designed for pint-size builders: Kids stack and combine the blocks into anything they can imagine. Even better, it’s an innovative tool that helps heal early damage to social and cognitive development through collaborative, active play!

To help us win, visit Claritin’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/Claritin) and cast your vote for Elk Hill. The contest runs from Aug. 18 to Sept. 26 and you can vote every day. With your imagination, we can win!

Thanks to your support...

Record-breaking class graduates at Elk Hill

On June 12, in our biggest graduating class ever, 18 young people received high school diplomas at Elk Hill. This would never have happened if not for you. That’s no exaggeration: It’s a simple reality. Your concern has made a life-changing difference to 18 young people.

Young people like Raymond Biddle. A member of Elk Hill’s 2013 graduating class, Raymond is this year’s recipient of the Holt Souder award, an award presented each spring to the student who exemplifies Elk Hill’s core values while meeting the challenges associated with transition to the community as a responsible young adult. At 20, Raymond has big plans for his future – but it wasn’t always that way.

Raymond was 5 when his mother died; 13 when his dad died. “I was always mad,” he says. “I was mad when I went to sleep, mad when I woke up. I had no ambition; I didn’t care about anybody. I was at the bottom. I needed support and Elk Hill gave me that. Elk hill gave me hope.”

Raymond came to learn that he had a lot to live for. “At Elk Hill, they taught me how to accomplish goals,” he says. “I finally felt like I had people who cared about me and about my future. They helped me do a complete 360.”

With help from Elk Hill, Raymond found the perfect fit with an adoptive family. “Everything changed for me then,” he says. “All of a sudden, somebody had my back. I didn’t have to do everything for myself anymore. I had somebody to help me with my homework; I’d never had that before.

“Now I’m working at a car wash, I work with my dad at the church and I’m taking classes at college,” he says. “I’m proud of myself for graduating from high school. Without Elk Hill, I don’t know where I’d be.”

Other Elk Hill students honored at graduation included Brandon Miles, the first recipient of the Jimmie Massie award. That award, created in memory of a founding member of Elk Hill’s board of trustees, recognizes students who exemplify the value of hard work and achievement in vocational services.
Bolstered by a generous donation from Capital One, Elk Hill’s Culinary Arts Program is staged for dynamic growth. What does that mean to our students? It means real-world work experience, professional credentials and a solid advantage in the job market.

Short-term plans call for expansion of on-campus opportunities as well as creation of new off-campus experiences for students in the highly regarded Elk Hill program. It’s a proven approach: Elk Hill Culinary Arts grads are placed quickly and often at higher pay than youths with no experience and no credentials. And it wouldn’t happen if it weren’t for support from people like you.

Elk Hill’s Culinary Arts Student Industries program offers invaluable hands-on experience. “Culinary Arts students have catered on-campus events such as association meetings, teacher training workshops, Back to School week sessions and meetings of the State Executive Council Meeting,” says Wade Puryear, Associate Director of Programs. “This year we are actively looking to expand our on-campus catering services and invite more people out to Elk Hill for conferences and luncheons catered by our Culinary Arts student industries.”

The program will also expand into the community, with a goal of catering at least three off-campus events in the next school year. Elk Hill’s Job Placement specialist will use those activities as a springboard, working aggressively with Culinary Arts students to obtain full or part-time employment, internships, apprenticeships and job shadowing experiences in food service.

Long-term plans will help Culinary Arts students gain unique exposure to start-up ventures as well. We hope to see the program expand to a local farmer’s market, allowing our students to market baked goods produced on campus as well as operate an onsite food stand. The long-term plan also calls for creation of a food truck operated by Culinary Arts students.

It won’t happen overnight. To get these programs off the ground, we’ll need new commercial kitchen equipment for our on-campus kitchen, new serving ware for catering, new portable grills and hotplates, and vehicles equipped for food transport. With your support, we know we can achieve this goal – because goals are nothing more than dreams with deadlines!

Setting the Stage for Success

When you support Culinary Arts, doors open for our students

You’re Amazing to Us!

Please join Elk Hill for the 2014 Amazing Raise, a 36-hour online giving challenge hosted by The Community Foundation serving Richmond and central Virginia in partnership with www.Giverichmond.org. In last year’s Amazing Raise, more than $1.5 million was raised for 460 local nonprofits through gifts from nearly 18,000 people! To support Elk Hill during this year’s event, visit our website: www.ElkHill.org.
First Person: Why I Believe in Planned Giving

"I've always considered myself extremely fortunate to have had two very caring parents.

But it was not until I became involved with Elk Hill that I realized just how fortunate I've been. You come to see how many, many kids are fortunate to have even one parent, especially if that parent actually cares for them. So many have no parental presence; it's heartbreaking. You begin to understand how many kids start life without a chance.

During 17 years as a board member at Elk Hill, I've learned more about Planned Giving. That's made me start thinking about my own financial plan. I give my time as a volunteer and I support Elk Hill financially, but I don't want that support to stop with my death. I want to make sure Elk Hill has a source of financial support well into the future.

"I've done a bit of research on planned giving. There is a time when it's most easily accomplished, and that's sooner rather than later. The best time is when you're in your forties or fifties. By the time people are in their sixties or seventies, chances are their wills and estate plans are long established and they're less likely to make changes.

When I think of Planned Giving, the phrase that comes to mind is 'giving back.' There's something different, something special about the idea of providing financial support after you're no longer able to do so personally. Planned Giving is an opportunity to contribute to this organization's financial stability, and that's an opportunity none of us can afford to miss."

For more information on the Elk Hill Legacy Society, contact Ann Criswell at (804) 457-4866, extension 310; email: acriswell@elkhill.org.

Elk Hill Summer Camp by the Numbers

- **82** Total number of children attending Elk Hill summer camps
- **7** Number of children attending camp for their second year
- **26** Number of children attending camp on scholarships underwritten by Elk Hill supporters
- **$47.50** Proceeds raised for Children's Miracle Network by a lemonade stand organized by campers at Varina
- **49** Number of campers shouting "batter, batter, batter SWING!" during a Richmond Flying Squirrels game
- **23** Number of children who sampled new foods on a field trip
- **$100** Average cost to take seven children on a field trip
- **17,943** Number of documented smiles during swimming, games, tours, field trips, tree climbing, fishing, awards ceremonies and all-camp carnival.

Contact Lauren Devitt at Ldevitt@elkhill.org (804) 457-4866 x336.