



# The Elk Hill ADVANCE

A Publication of Elk Hill Providing Education and Treatment Services to Virginia's Youth



## Annual Meeting Harvests New Board Members

On October 20<sup>th</sup> Elk Hill held its annual meeting in the Singleton Chapel on our Elk Hill Farm campus in Goochland County. We said goodbye to longtime board member Esther Bunzl. Esther sat on the Elk Hill board for 21 years and helped guide Elk Hill from one program to our present continuum of programs with 2 group homes, 2 day schools, aftercare and outreach programs. We will miss her but she and her husband Rudy will always be members of our Elk Hill family. We also said goodbye to board members Steven Deal, Kay Gardner and Jon King.

Three new board members were elected. Mr John Ritchie, Mr. Dennis Sigloh, and Mr. Peter Bance complete the class of 2007. Mr. Ritchie and Dennis Sigloh are residents of Charlottesville and Peter Bance resides in Goochland County, home of Elk Hill Farm. We look forward to working with all of them and thank them for their interest in our mission.

One highlight of our annual meeting this year was when Clarence Stevens, a graduate of Elk Hill Farm returned with his wife, Brittany and their young son, Seth. Clarence was at Elk Hill Farm from 1998 until 2000. After graduation Clarence joined the navy where he is an ordinance specialist, assembling bombs. Clarence spoke with our young men before the annual meeting in the Delmar Brown Dining Hall where he told them to take their energy and channel it in a positive direction.

Following the meeting board members dined with our young men. Mr. Earl Royal and his staff prepared a fabulous meal of fried chicken and mashed potatoes and a good time was had by all.



Board Chairman, S. Buford Scott, says good-bye to retiring board member, Esther Bunzl



Elk Hill alumnus, Clarence Stevens, addresses our annual meeting



Longtime board member, Jimmy Massie, greets a student

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## Executive Director's Report

by Michael C. Farley



The trees surrounding Elk Hill Farm are remarkable this year. The colors are mesmerizing. As I sit looking out the window of my office, watching the leaves fall from a 200-year-old ash tree, I think of the equally remarkable things that regularly occur around the Hill.

I think of John, who, as recently as a year ago, was headed for the juvenile correctional system. His family was desperate to find the help he needed. They were very sure he would not find that help in a correctional facility. But there was no public funding for John. The Comprehensive Service Act of Virginia provides funding for "mandated children"-those children who are in foster care or have severe special education needs. John is considered a "non-mandated child". He is in the custody of his parents and is not in special education. Thanks to the diligent efforts of his parents and a scholarship provided through Elk Hill, John was provided an opportunity for a second chance in life. Two months ago, John successfully passed his GED and is now working in Maintenance at a local hospital. During his stay on the Hill, he truly turned his life around.

I think of the mother of Robert, remembering how she cried as she watched her son receive an award for his compassionate conduct and attitude while at Elk Hill. She had all but given up on

him before he came here. He had failed in almost everything in his young life. School was especially hard for him due to a severe learning disability, and his behavior had deteriorated to the point where his parents could no longer cope with him. After arriving at Elk Hill, thanks to a committed staff and his own desire to change, he came to realize that not only could he succeed in life, but that caring for and helping other people made him feel good about himself. As his confidence in his own abilities grew, he changed from a troublemaker to a likeable kid. Robert was recently reunited with his family and is back in public school.

While watching those leaves fall, I also thought about the fact that, similar to the historic 200 year-old ash tree, Elk Hill, too, has a history. Ours is of noteworthy successes. Recently, we received e-mail from Doug, a man who left the Hill in 1980. In it, he wrote that he was now working for the U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon. He stated that he would not be the man he is today without the experience he had while at Elk Hill Farm. Doug promised his dying mother that he would get in touch with Elk Hill and "give back" to the organization that changed his life. He is scheduled to talk to the young men at Elk Hill next month.

Elk Hill is, indeed, a remarkable organization. Thank you for being part of our success throughout the years.



The following is a message that was emailed to our Executive Director, Mr. Michael Farley:

My name is Joseph Martin. I am a former resident/graduate of Elk Hill Farm and I graduated in 1992 from West Cottage.

I was writing to say thank you and let Elk Hill employees that may still be working there (like Mr. Farley, Mr. Medina, Mr. Spears and Mr. Sherk) know how I have been doing.

I graduated last year from Concordia University with honors and a B.A. in psychology, and right now I am attending American University in Washington D.C. for my masters. I am also General Manager for a restaurant in northern Virginia, and I currently reside in Fairfax County. I am also engaged to be married later this year.

I hope the school is doing well, and I hope my success in life is an example of the amazing work and foundation that was given to me from my time at Elk Hill.

Thank you,  
Joseph Martin

**THANK YOU JOSEPH!**  
*You are an inspiration to all of our staff and students.*



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## CONTRIBUTORS

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We apologize for any omissions; please report discrepancies to the Development Office  
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### Elk Hill Wish List

- Books for Varina Day School Library
- Encyclopedias



## Development Report

Once again it is fall harvest time at Elk Hill. The trees are showing their glorious color and our young men and women are busy with their studies, soccer and our fall festival. This fourth quarter is also the time when we receive the majority of our annual campaign funds. Our annual campaign is a bit different than most. Most annual campaigns raise operating funds. The money we raise goes to student scholarships and to support our aftercare program. More and more we find that young men and women in our programs run out of state funding before they are ready to return to their communities or do not qualify for state funding at all. Without scholarships these children have no choice but to return to their communities unprepared for the struggles they face. This year with our new Spring Garden project the need will be even greater.

This year our goal is to raise \$388,000.00 in scholarship funds. We have raised \$146,000.00 as of October 31st. In this season of Thanksgiving please help us provide for those who have not had the advantages we have had. If you have given before, please consider raising the amount of your gift this year. There are always young men and women waiting for scholarship money. Thank you in advance for helping us turn young lives around.

## Elk Hill Charlottesville Helps Clean Up Rivanna River

A big part of the group home programs at Elk Hill is teaching our young men how to participate in their communities and the importance of helping others. In October some of our young men from Elk Hill Charlottesville spent their weekend picking up trash around the Rivanna River with other Charlottesville citizens.

Emily Nelson, a Conservation Specialist with the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District wrote "We were lucky to have some of your residents from the Charlottesville Group Home come out and help us last Saturday. Their efforts have made a positive impact on the health of the Rivanna River. The event went better than I expected and I thank you for your share in it's success."

**THANKS GUYS!!  
WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN OUR COMMUNITY.**



## 6th Annual Elk Hill Classic Raises \$31,000



On October 4<sup>th</sup> at Kinloch Golf Club in Goochland County players and sponsors helped raise \$31,000.00 in scholarship money for Elk Hill! The weather gods were with us as our teams teed off on a picture perfect day. The tournament was preceded by a long game clinic given by Kinloch's teaching pro, Mr. Steve Slotterback.

Our winning team was the Independence team sponsored and captained by Dr. William Jack Frable, Jr. We thank Dr. Frable, James Getty, Tom Orr and Chip Wall for their support of our young men and women. All of the players got to take a shot on the 19<sup>th</sup> hole to win a spot in the 19<sup>th</sup> hole shoot-out. The four finalists took their final shots after the tournament as everyone watched from the beautiful Kinloch Clubhouse overlooking the lake. Mr. James Getty, a member of the winning Independence team was the winner of the \$500.00 cash prize.

### We would like to thank all of this year's sponsors:

- Anderson & Strudwick
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*Dr. William Frable and his winning team.  
Congratulations!*

A special thanks to our reception sponsor Markel Corporation, our lunch sponsor Circuit City (who fielded our first all-ladies team) and the Country Vintner who graciously provided prizes for our winners.

Thanks also to our honorary chairman, Gene Bowles, our golf committee chairman, Don Skelly and all of the members of our Richmond Friends of Elk Hill golf committee – Kimberly Skelly, Chip Vosmik, Frazer Orgain, Peter Kohn, Judson Root, Madison Wootton, Nelson Teague and Chad Bradshaw.

**Next year's tournament is already in the works!**

**Call Lynn or Kim in our Development Office at (804) 457-4866 for more information.**

# FALL FESTIVAL 2004



*The Pumpkin Toss*



*Director of Education, Mr. Tubbs, roars into action*



*Where did that giraffe come from?*



*Social Studies Instructor, Mr. Krause, plays the court jester*



*Ms. Terry applies make-up to a student*



*A Halloween Fright!*



*Building & Trades Instructor, Mr. Stasko, bobs for an apple*

## Letter from the Blake School at Elk Hill Farm

### IT'S FALL FESTIVAL!

Greetings from the Elk Hill Farm campus in beautiful Goochland County. Great things are happening at the Blake School! We have begun a new school year and with that have seen many students successfully leave the program to newer opportunities. We have also had many more students join our program and it has been exciting to see them develop.

Our shop teacher, Ms. Nees, and her students made several items to show and sell at the annual golf tournament in October. These items included jewelry boxes, pocket watches, and Adirondack chairs/ottomans. Some of these items were sold at the tournament in our silent auction, and were also on display at the Board of Directors meeting on October 20th. Our Buildings and Trade program has been busy making picnic tables and is currently working on renovating Old West Cottage into office space.

Mr. Spurlock's 3rd period art class has teamed up with a program called Art 180 to create new and wonderful pieces of work. We also welcomed a new math teacher this semester, Ms. Ferguson. She has done a lot of extra work with her students to insure their success and has great plans for this year. Ms. Hawkins' drama class has finished the play "A Raisin in the Sun" and her reading class has finished reading "Sounder". Her journalism class will distribute the school newspaper, "Live Wire", after Fall Festival. Ms. McKee is continuing with great work in her science courses and is planning an educational course on the oceans in the spring that will allow the students to experience marine life, complete with an aquarium that will travel to the "Hill". We could not put all of this together without the support from Mr. Dowell, our behavior specialist and advocate for all the students, as well as our nurse who keeps everyone healthy and informed.

The students are in the middle of their soccer season and are excited about basketball season coming shortly. We held our Fall Festival on October 29th along with Harambee Day School. Finally, thanks to the cottages for all of their support in making the school a successful place for our residents. We are truly "Harvesting Good Works" at Elk Hill.

Geoff Tubbs  
Director of Blake School