



# Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center

Discover, Learn & Shine Newsletter — Fall 2018

*A nurturing community  
where every child can discover, learn, and shine.*

## STELLA’S TREE HOUSE

Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center is pleased to announce the opening of a new wing of the school. Thanks to supportive and generous donors in the Lynchburg community, EELC has expanded our facility to serve 36 additional infants and toddlers. The wing was dedicated on September 9, 2018 and named, “Stella’s Tree House,” in honor of Stella Tanner.

Stella met Elizabeth Morton Forsyth, the founder of Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center, in 1955, while working in the trust department at Lynchburg Trust and Savings Bank. Stella and Elizabeth (“Lib” as she was known to her friends) became lifelong friends and Stella started working for Elizabeth, full-time, to help her plan and build Miriam’s House and EELC. Stella served as the first President of the Board of Directors of EELC and continues to serve on the Board to this day. A critical component of her work at EELC has been making quality childcare and education affordable to families of limited means. The Board of Directors, under Stella’s guidance, established an endowed fund which is supported by Stella’s family, as well as fellow Board members and friends. The fund has been an integral part of the financial aid program provided to EELC families.

Stella has been the heart and soul of Elizabeth’s Early Learning Center since its inception. You may recognize her when she pulls into the parking lot. Her car license plate reads, “EELC1.” She provides homemade cookies and birthday cards for our staff and she is the great-grandmother of two of our students, Kamryn and Tanner Weeks. We will forever be grateful to Stella for her devotion and compassion for the children of Lynchburg and for her generosity and vision.



*Stella Tanner Finding Out at the Ribbon Cutting Celebration that the New EELC Tree House Wing will be Named Stella’s Tree House!*



*Learning about the Different Cultures of our Classmates!*

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# #GIVINGTUESDAY

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins in February 2019.
- Students are enrolled on a first-come, first-serve basis from the school's waiting list.
- EELC is inclusive to a diverse population of students of different nationalities, races, religions, socio-economic backgrounds and abilities. All are welcome to apply.
- Financial aid is available based on family income.

**Waiting list applications are being accepted now for enrollment in the Fall of 2019.**

**Applications are available on the EELC website or in the office.**



This year, Elizabeth's Early Learning Center is participating in #GivingTuesday on November 27<sup>th</sup>. #GivingTuesday is a global movement in which millions of people have come together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live.

There are two days around Thanksgiving when we get deals – Black Friday and Cyber Monday. On #GivingTuesday, we have a day for giving back. It is the opening day of the giving season.

Donations to EELC can be made on our website at [www.eelc.info](http://www.eelc.info), Facebook page, and through e-mail. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to purchase:

- Three, six-seater stroller buggies for our new infant classrooms to go for walks in the neighborhood.
- Books for our lending library. Each week, approximately 140 books are checked out by students to take home and read with their parents. In addition, teachers check out about 200 books to place in their classroom libraries for children's use. These books are loved and well-worn and many need to be replaced. Also, we will be adding new titles to our collection.



**Thank you for considering a donation to Elizabeth's Early Learning Center on #GivingTuesday.**





# PICTURES FROM STELLA'S TREE HOUSE RIBBON CUTTING!





# THANK YOU TO OUR STELLA'S TREE HOUSE DONORS

## INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (4)  
Anonymous (4)  
Susan & Frank Adams *in honor of  
Stella Tanner*  
Sharon & Lee Ainslie  
Carol & Rick Anderson  
Anthony & Stephanie Andrews  
Dr. Jitendra Annapareddy  
Jaime Bamford & Reggie Reynolds  
Carolyn & Alex Bell  
Bette & Bob Bibee *in honor of the Cranks,  
Doremuses, and Gerdys*  
Beverly & Price Blair  
John Blanks  
Laura & Jerod Bollard  
Mary Morris Booth  
Ashley & Jason Botterill  
J. Robert Botterill & Jeannette Lampron *in  
honor of Scottie, Bodie & Haven Botterill*  
Teresa & Robert Brennan  
Cathie & Jed Brown *in honor of Stella Tanner*  
Jeff & Karen Brown  
Linda & Glenn Buck  
Nancy & Sam Cardwell  
Annette Cassidy  
Marcy & Charlie Catalano  
Ted & Lib Colcolough *in memory of Dick &  
Charlie Radden*  
Karen Covey  
Connie & Steve Crank *in honor of the Bibeas,  
Doremuses and Gerdys*  
Gena & Bill Davidson  
Kenna & Chuck Doremus *in honor of Jane  
Gerdy and EELC Staff*  
Oscarlyn & Todd Elder  
Gretchen & John Evans  
Anja & John Falcone  
Denise & Ed Fenton  
Libby & Paul Fitzgerald *in honor of  
Bob Kaiser*  
Charlynn Flippin *in honor of Stella Tanner*  
Dr. & Mrs. Parham Fox  
Linie Frankfort  
Sheila & Ken Garren  
Elizabeth & Ben Giles



Clinton & Anne Gowen *in honor of Rainforest  
and Blue House Teachers*  
Cesar Guanzon *in honor of Connor Cabigas  
Guanzon*  
Ann & Bobby Harris *in honor of Laura &  
Luck Sackett*  
Elizabeth Logan Harris & Mark Fox  
Genny Harris  
Gary Harvey  
Alice & James Hirvonen  
Helen Holt  
Marjorie Houck  
Dennis Howard *in memory of Anne North  
Howard; in honor of Jane & Tom Gerdy*  
Jessica Hubert  
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Gerdy*  
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Loretta Jones  
Marisa Jones  
Robert Kaiser  
Albert Kemper  
Ilona & Travis Koziol  
Liz and Chip Lamb *in memory of Janice  
Taylor*  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Madden  
Langhorne McCarthy *in honor of Linda &  
Glenn Buck*  
Robert McCowen  
Anne McKenna  
Sherrie & Pat McNamara  
Ann Mendenhall  
Terrie & Robert Michael  
Ann Miller  
Laura & John Morgan  
Wayne Moyer

# THANK YOU!

## STELLA'S TREE HOUSE

### INDIVIDUALS

Nancy & Charlie Norton  
Gabby Nosari & Gene  
Koster  
Dr. Thomas W. Nygaard  
Karen Painter *in memory of  
Sarah Ettie Thornhill  
Hughes*  
Karen Pollok  
Carolyn & Ed Polloway  
Becky & Greg Porter  
Ida & Bill Powell  
Suzanne Raine *in honor of  
Dr. Geeta Rakheram*  
Geeta Rakheram & Godfrey  
Myaing *in memory of  
William Chambers*  
Steve & Jennifer Smith  
Ramey  
John F. Richards *in honor  
of Stella Tanner*  
Dr. John Risher  
Betty Roberts  
Lila Rosenthal *in memory  
of Rosel Schewel*  
Carole Royer  
Linda & Mark Russell  
Laura & Luck Sackett  
Judy & Vince Sawyer *in  
memory of Bev Cosby*  
Rosel & Elliot Schewel  
Marc Schewel  
Han & Kim Song  
Elizabeth & Aaron Stroud  
Walter Stuvén  
Stella Tanner *in memory  
Elizabeth Forsyth and  
Rosel Schewel*  
Christine & Stephen Terry  
Donald & Frances Terry *in  
honor of Claire Terry*  
Stuart Turille  
Kent Van Allen  
Jessica Ward *in honor of  
Marie Harris*  
Patty & Ken West  
Paul Whitehead, Jr. *in  
honor of Kent Van Allen*  
Jennifer Wills & Javaun  
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Watt Foster Family  
Foundation  
Gerdy Construction Co.  
Greater Lynchburg  
Community Foundation  
Jefferson Lighting  
MaxPlayFit  
Old Dominion Wood  
Products  
Perfect Arrangements

### SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to CapTrust  
(formerly Davidson and  
Garrard) for donating much  
needed furniture for our  
offices.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Morton  
Forsyth—In Memoriam

Jane P. Gerdy, M.Ed.  
Executive Director

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Stella Thomas Tanner

W. Eric Thomas

W. Kent Van Allen, Jr.

# CHILD'S PLAY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## ELLC SNAPSHOTS



Making Pizza with Basil and Tomatoes that we Planted in our Vegetable Garden!



Betts Station as Snow White & Seven Dwarves for Halloween!



Having Fun and Working on our Fine Motor Skills with Art!

Bob Kaiser has been teaching for 61 of his 83 years, and he doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

He's taught at just about every grade level – first for the University of Maryland overseas in the U.S. Army, followed by 24 years in a graduate honors program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. After he retired and moved to California, he used his background in corporate finance and international trade finance to teach math for eight years at two Catholic parochial schools.



*Mr. Bob helps with a physics experiment.*

After relocating to Westminster Canterbury three years ago at the suggestion of this wife's brother, who is an orthopedic surgeon in Lynchburg, Bob looked for a way to volunteer. It wasn't long before he began teaching at local public and parochial schools. Two years ago, he learned of a volunteer opportunity at Elizabeth's Early Learning Center, and now he spends two hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings spreading knowledge through play with 3- and-4-year-olds.

"I've not previously taught young children other than our own, and I find this very rewarding," Bob said. "It's an excellent school with three teachers and 16 to 18 children per classroom. The classrooms are very well organized with different play and learning areas, such as a kitchen or library."

Although the school is in session year-round, except for a week in August and at Christmas, Bob follows his "Georgetown schedule," volunteering Labor Day through Memorial Day with time off for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

"I look back to teaching at Georgetown where my students had specific work experience, goals and objectives," he said. "At Elizabeth's Early Learning Center, the children go to learn, but it has to be fun. They almost don't realize they are learning."

"I wish more men could be enticed to volunteer and work with children in this Pre-K environment; the children benefit greatly from learning from adult males. And the men, once they get over the idea that they are no longer board chairmen or professionals, will experience a great deal of satisfaction from the time they spend with the children," he said. "The children are insightful and can be quite amusing!"

Bob said his greatest pleasure is observing what the children do and how they do it. "I enjoy talking to them and asking questions. Stimulating their thinking a little bit and seeing their reactions is very pleasant and rewarding to me."

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# FALL FUN AT EELC!



**Apple Bobbing with Ladles to Develop Fine Motor Skills**



**Learning about Rain Clouds**



**The 2018 EELC Track Team Finishes Strong at the Amazing Mile Children's Run!**



# EELC'S 2018 GRADUATING CLASS!

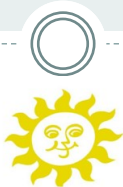
## OUR MISSION

Elizabeth's Early Learning Center provides every child with affectionate and personalized care in a safe environment. We focus on providing for the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive developmental needs of children in an age-appropriate manner.



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