Real Life Lessons
at Chapel Hill Academy
on Page 4
Dear Friends,

You’ll sometimes hear me say that the role of Lena Pope in the community is to make life better for children and families.

Often that means helping to create a brighter future for those who are traditionally at a disadvantage by equalizing access to high-quality education or mental health services. Other times it entails giving families the tools needed to keep children out of government protective systems. Or sharing our hard-earned knowledge with a larger audience for the benefit of others at the local, state and national levels.

And almost always, it involves aligning with valuable partners.

In this issue of Legacy, you’ll see some of our recent results and success stories. Each one is achieved in partnership because one of Lena Pope’s values is working with other organizations and community members to improve the lives of all local children and families.

We engage in programmatic partnerships that directly influence, impact and enable our delivery of services, such as our Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, achieved in concert with Tarrant County Juvenile Services. Another example is our relationship with Catholic Charities, through which we accept referrals for counseling and other support to clients. We also partner with Alliance for Children on a multi-agency effort called Project SAFeR, benefitting young children who have demonstrated problematic sexual behaviors and their families.

Lena Pope also participates in partnerships that are aimed at improving systems or the community as a whole, because we believe we have an obligation to improve the lives of children and families even if we are not directly serving them. Our alignment with agencies through the Mental Health Connection improves the mental health system in North Texas. And our partnership with the Early Learning Alliance ensures the region benefits from high quality early education beyond the direct impact of our Early Learning Center.

Through partnerships with state-level entities and national organizations such as the Child Welfare League of America, we are able to influence systems on a broader scale by sharing what works in North Texas.

Families may face myriad challenges while raising children from infancy to young adulthood. Sometimes children — or their parents — need a partner to help navigate the way. When they turn to Lena Pope for that support, all of our partners help make it possible. And that includes you, our donors, stewards and supporters.

With appreciation,

Todd A. Landry
Calloway’s Helps Lives Bloom at Lena Pope

Lena Pope extends sincere appreciation to Calloway’s and Cornelius Nursery for its continued partnership. Thanks to its annual holiday poinsettia sale, Calloway’s presented the agency with a contribution of more than $30,000 in January. The company donated 10 percent of all poinsettia sales during the holiday season to Lena Pope. Pictured left to right: Marce Ward, Calloway’s CEO, Todd Landry, Kimberly Gotcher, Calloway’s Director of Marketing, Laura Wood, Lena Pope Board Chair.
February 2nd marked the 100th day of school at Lena Pope’s Chapel Hill Academy for 2016/17. Here’s a look at five reasons why it’s already been such an incredible year:

**Living Wax Museum**

Social Studies came to life at Chapel Hill Academy when third, fourth and fifth grade students participated in the annual Living Wax Museum on October 28th. Each student researched the achievements of a historically important person, created a display depicting the person’s achievements, wrote a first-person monologue, and presented it as an oral speech. Students lined the halls of Chapel Hill Academy as visitors toured the Living Wax Museum. With the press of a button on their hands, each student shared the story of the famous person they studied throughout the project.

“In addition to learning about the person’s accomplishments, students are learning important communication skills such as presentation skills and speaking with emotion,” said Jennifer Carpenter, Student and Family Services Coordinator at Chapel Hill Academy.

The project is designed to bring Texas, U.S. and world history to life. Participants received grades in both Social Studies and Language Arts for their interpretations in costume and character.

**Storybook Parade**

On October 31st, literature came to life for Chapel Hill Academy’s youngest learners. Students in Pre-K through second grades chose a favorite book character, made a costume and paraded for parents with their selected tome in hand.

Studies show that 75 percent of students who struggle with reading in third grade never catch up, and those students are four times as likely to drop out of high school. Due to the importance of strong early literacy, the Storybook Parade is part of a comprehensive effort to ensure students at Chapel Hill Academy excel at reading on grade level.

**VIP Story Time**

In November, the Pre-K, Kindergarten and first grade classes at Chapel Hill Academy were treated to a special story time with U.S. Representative Kay Granger. Before becoming a businesswoman, then the first female Mayor of Fort Worth, and eventually a member of Congress, Rep. Granger was a teacher. She returned to her roots as an educator to share some of her favorite books with the students.

Her visit supported a strategic effort to build strong readers at the open-enrollment public charter elementary school and reinforced the vital role that education plays in developing an informed citizenry. It was also part of Lena Pope’s effort to ensure national, state, and local political leaders are engaged in the process of improving third grade literacy among all children. Lena Pope has invited additional key elected officials to read at Chapel Hill Academy through the spring.

**Happy Mamas Guest Author**

Achieving strong literacy isn’t limited to the classroom. To ensure families
are equipped with the crucial tools necessary to encourage reading at home, Lena Pope hosted award-winning children’s book author Kathleen T. Pelley for a parent presentation on raising eager readers.

Pelley used her newly-released picture book, *Happy Mamas*, to model for the parents of Chapel Hill Academy’s Pre-K students the best ways to read aloud. Following her presentation, the children were treated to personal story time sessions with either parents or VIP guest readers, including Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks and a neighborhood police officer. Each student received a personalized and signed copy of the book as a gift from Lena Pope to build their home library.

While on campus, Pelley also conducted a creative writing workshop for Chapel Hill Academy’s fourth grade students. Classes read one of Pelley’s books, *The Giant King*, before her arrival. She used it as a platform to explore the process of writing fiction.

### 2016 Presidential Election

The 2016 presidential election brought civic engagement to center stage at Chapel Hill Academy. Students used crayons to vote for their preferred candidate and placed their selection inside a decorated ballot box. The voting booth, which showcased American symbols such as the American flag, the Statue of Liberty, the bald eagle and the Liberty Bell, was created by Sue Hickman, a Kindergarten teacher at the school.

In addition to casting their ballots, students had an opportunity to cast their vision. A writing assignment tasked some of the children with articulating what they would do as President of the United States.

“The kids were able to learn a valuable lesson about the election process,” said Carpenter. “They learned about the democratic process, the importance of voting, and that every vote counts.”

### Consuro Creates New Tradition for Annual Office Party

For the past two years, Consuro Managed Technology has gone above and beyond the typical company holiday party. With offices and team members spread across Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio and San Angelo, co-presidents Ben Tiblets and Kevin Valadez wanted to provide an inspiring experience to bring their team members together during the holiday season. Out of that desire came a new tradition with Lena Pope’s Holiday Angel program.

A few hours before the company holiday party, the team boards a party bus and heads to Target to shop for 15 to 20 kids and families currently being served by Lena Pope. The team fulfills the families’ holiday wishes and basic needs, providing them a holiday experience that they might otherwise not have.

“While we always encourage our team members’ individual volunteer efforts, we felt like it was time to give back to the community as a group,” said Mr. Tiblets. “With our employees spread across the state, we don’t have many opportunities to be together as an entire company, so our holiday party was the perfect time to help others as a team.”

Two members of the Consuro team, Courtney Summers and Lauren Cockrell, are longtime volunteers for Lena Pope, having served on the YPA Steering Committee, Rock the Fort Committee, and the Golf Classic Committee.

“When Ben and Kevin told us that they wanted to introduce a giving component to our holiday party, we knew Lena Pope was the perfect fit,” said Ms. Summers. “Lauren and I were thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce our colleagues to an organization and mission we believe in and are so passionate about.”

With this unique holiday tradition, the Consuro team makes the holiday season extra bright for children and families served by Lena Pope.
Trying to figure out how to help a child experiencing behavior issues, color blindness, hearing loss, ADHD, and dyslexia would be a challenge for any parent. It also would be a recipe for classroom disruption and even expulsion from many schools. For Wendy Brown and her son, however, the teachers at Chapel Hill Academy and counselors at Lena Pope were instrumental in helping to make a difference for the family.

Wendy’s oldest child, Jaiden, was the first family member to attend Chapel Hill Academy, Lena Pope’s open-enrollment, tuition-free public charter elementary school. She graduated in 2015. Following in their sister’s footsteps, siblings Antonio and Dorien are also proud Eagles. While each child has benefitted from attending the charter school, the impact for Antonio has been life-altering.

“School has been very difficult for him,” Wendy expressed. “Instead of turning their backs on my son, the teachers and staff have helped mold him and worked with him and loved him.”

Teachers and administrators provided diagnostic testing, spent countless hours working to ensure success, and created a behavior plan specific to his needs to help him thrive in the classroom.

Efforts of the Chapel Hill Academy staff and knowing they are fighting to find a solution together provided comfort to Wendy. That solution included referring Wendy and Antonio to Kent Bass, a therapist at Lena Pope, so the family could receive counseling services.

“I was impressed from the beginning because he listened to both Antonio and me. He came up with a plan and we set goals together. No other therapist did that with us,” Wendy explains.

“Antonio has been in behavior therapy since he was 3 and no one has made an impact like Mr. Kent has in his life! He gets Antonio to open up to him and explains things in ways that he can understand.”

In conjunction with the services provided by Mr. Kent, Wendy applauds Second Step, the Social-Emotional Learning program offered at Chapel Hill Academy. The Second Step program is designed to teach children how to understand and manage their emotions, control their reactions, be aware of others’ feelings, and have the skills to problem-solve and make responsible decisions.

“Antonio is learning how to own his feelings and to understand his emotions better,” she shared. “He is doing so great at school this year and is much happier. Your services truly make a difference and our lives would not be the same without Lena Pope.”
When children receive a quality education, they build a foundation for learning that remains throughout their lives. When families get the counseling they need, they’re much more likely to stay together and become productive members of the community.

These two areas – counseling and education – are the core of Lena Pope’s mission. Founded in 1930, Lena Pope is here to help create hope, happiness and success for children and families.

**POSITIVE RESULTS for 2015-2016**

**Helping families stay together.** 96% of families remained intact after completing counseling services.

**Reducing drug dependence.** 88% of clients who completed substance use treatment reported being drug free at discharge.

**Improving lives.** 94% of clients said problem areas were improved because of the help they received at Lena Pope.

**Preparing children for kindergarten.** 94% of 4- and 5-year olds at the Early Learning Center were assessed as Kindergarten-ready in writing and literacy skills, math concepts and social-emotional development.

**Reducing delinquency.** 91% of youth participating in the Second Opportunity for Success© program had no additional criminal charges filed while enrolled in services.

**Lowering truancy.** 98.5% students at Chapel Hill Academy complied with the Code of Conduct and remained in class each day.

**Encouraging literacy.** 79% of students at Chapel Hill Academy earned an 80 or higher in reading.

**Developing math proficiency.** 78% of students at Chapel Hill Academy earned an 80 or higher in math.

**Increasing parental involvement.** 97% of students and their families participated in an annual student/parent/teacher conference at school or in the home.

**Boosting family participation.** 85% of families attended an academic activity at Chapel Hill Academy.

**Spreading kindness.** 98% of clients felt that the Lena Pope staff was caring and compassionate.

**Sharing expertise.** 99% of clients felt that the Lena Pope staff was knowledgeable.

**Getting the job done.** 97% of clients were satisfied with the services received through Lena Pope.
SAVE THE DATE

ROCK THE FORT

Friday, September 29
THE SHACK AT
PANTHER ISLAND PAVILION

CONNECT
LenaPopeFW
@LenaPopeHome
Chapel Hill Academy
@CHAEagles

38TH ANNUAL
FIESTA de ORO
Lives in Bloom
PRESENTED BY
JOE T. GARCIA'S

TUESDAY • APRIL 25 • 6:30 P.M.
THE FIESTA GARDEN
2201 N. COMMERCE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

PLEASE CALL 817-255-2616, OR VISIT LENAPOPE.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPONSORSHIPS AND TICKET AVAILABILITY.