

LENA POPE

For Immediate Release

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LENA POPE ANNOUNCES CLOSURE OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CHAPEL HILL ACADEMY, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2024

FORT WORTH, Texas (April 26, 2024) -- Lena Pope, 94-year-old nonprofit organization, announces closure of public charter school Chapel Hill Academy, effective August 31, 2024.

In 2008, recognizing a gap in the educational landscape, Lena Pope proudly founded Chapel Hill Academy (CHA) to address a pressing need for quality charter schools in our community. CHA has fostered academic excellence and nurtured the social and emotional development for more than 3,500 students. Lena Pope celebrates the legacy of Chapel Hill Academy, taking pride in the positive impact CHA has had on children and their families. "Lena Pope's commitment to children and families is as strong as ever," shared Lena Pope CEO, Ashley Elgin, Ph.D.

Today, the educational needs of our community are different than 16 years ago. The rise of numerous quality charter schools has added new options for families, coinciding with CHA's enrollment numbers beginning to decline in 2019. This, paired with shifts in educational funding, has posed significant challenges. In response, Lena Pope's leadership and advisors have conducted thorough evaluations and sought various remedies to sustain enrollment. Despite these extensive efforts, it has become clear that Lena Pope must make the incredibly tough decision to close CHA effective August 31, 2024.

While CHA will be shutting its doors, the caring spirit and values it embodies will continue through the extensive programs at Lena Pope. "Lena Pope is here to guide and support our school family during this transition, ensuring resources are available for students and families to find the best educational fit through a school enrollment fair, and extending our assistance to CHA staff in their career progression whether through an open position at Lena Pope or offering resources for new opportunities," shared Dr. Elgin.

Lena Pope's remaining education, counseling, and juvenile diversion initiatives are thriving, and the organization's commitment to children and families is as strong as ever. "The demand for mental health services and early childhood education has grown exponentially, and these are areas where Lena Pope can fill a vital gap, providing support and services that are currently in short supply. We are entering a phase where our resources and expertise in these service areas need to be expanded, and we remain financially solvent and capable of investing in high demand services as we enter this transition," shared Dr. Elgin.

Lena Pope is ready to concentrate its efforts on counseling services, early learning centers, and behavior intervention services — areas crucial for the foundation and growth of young lives. Lena Pope's history of adapting to community needs is long and distinguished, and we are confident in our path forward.

Lena Pope will continue to be a beacon of hope and progress, just as it has been for the past 94 years. The organization's dedication to equipping children and families with a strong foundation remains steadfast, driven by the same passion and purpose that has always been its hallmark.

ABOUT LENA POPE

Lena Pope equips children, families, caregivers, and community with a strong foundation through counseling, education, and behavior interventions. Since 1930, Lena Pope has worked to improve child well-being in Tarrant County, serving 4,000 children and families each year. Lena Pope provides evidence-based, research-tested programs focusing on prevention and early intervention services that support child development and improve the behavioral and mental health of children and families. For more information, visit LenaPope.org.