

# Places for Struggling Teens™

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*"It is more important to get it right, than to get it first."*

November 2008 - Issue #171



## ARE WE READY FOR THE PANIC BUTTON YET?

By: Lon Woodbury



As I write this (mid-October), virtually all the media is talking about is the economy. Our attention is riveted on the wild ride of the Stock Market, the freeze in credit and a crisis in the housing market, along with government and private efforts to solve our problems. Even coverage of the Presidential and Congressional campaigns emphasizes what the candidates are proposing to "fix" the problems in our economy.

This concern over the economic crisis and how it will impact the network of private residential parent-choice schools and programs for struggling teens has been a major topic of conversation among professionals in this field all year. Some have expressed the fear that the network is dying, while others point to declining enrollments, partly due to parents feeling the economic pinch. These fears have been fed and magnified by notices of several well known and respected programs closing, with many fearing there are many more closures coming.

The positive side is that, despite all this, there have been some new startups this year. Incredibly, despite all the economic doom and gloom talk starting in January, a few visionaries are confident they can be successful in establishing a program that works with struggling teens in this economy. To get a quick feel for what the true picture is regarding closures and startups, I asked our Market Analyst, Candace Bynum, to research a list of each with the hope that some specifics will provide a clearer picture of what is really happening in this network. Both of the following lists are limited to residential programs for struggling teens that are private and open to working directly with parents in making a placement decision (parent-choice). Every effort was made to ensure accuracy, but please let me know if there are any errors or overlooked programs.

Twelve programs closed in 2008.

NAME STATE	LOCATION	CORPORATE AFFILIATION	YEAR OPENED	MONTH CLOSED
Achievement Valley Ranch	Tennessee	—	2000	January
Mountain Brook	Georgia	Hidden Lake	2007	February
Manuia Plantation	Samoa	—	2007	April
Transitions of Galveston Isl.	Texas	Solacium	2005	July
Choteau Youth Ranch	Montana	—	2002	July
Mission Mountain	Montana	—	1989	August
Betton House	Pennsylvania	Family Foundation	2005	August
Willow Creek	Utah	Second Nature	2005	September
New Dominion	Maryland	Three Springs	1981	September
Duck River	Tennessee	Three Springs	1990	October
Excel Academy	Texas	CRC	1997	October
New Horizons	Maine	—	2001	October

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[Essays and articles appearing in this publication are the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of Woodbury Reports, Inc.,™ or StrugglingTeens.com.™ We urge our readers to conduct their own investigation of the products and services identified herein.]

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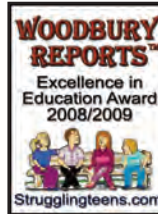
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**Lon Woodbury, MA**



**Loi Eberle, MA**



**Linda Zimmerman, LPCC**



**Larry Stednitz, PhD**

“Some Children just need to be heard, not cured.”

**Lon Woodbury, IECA, MA, CEP,** is an educational consultant who has worked in schools and programs for emotional growth, character education, and consulting for parents of struggling teens since 1984. Prior to that, he taught in public schools and was involved in public policy while working for the US Senate and the Executive Office of the President. Lon received his BS and MA degrees from the University of Idaho. His practice includes a referral service for parents and professionals, and the publication of this Newsletter and the **PARENT EMPOWERMENT HANDBOOK™**, a resource of **Places for Struggling Teens.™**

**PANIC:** Continued from 1

Fifteen programs opened in 2008.

NAME	STATE	LOCATION	CORPORATE AFFILIATION	MONTH OPENED
Cramer Creek		Montana	SLE	January
Schrom Home Care		Idaho	—	January
Renovo Boys Academy		Missouri	Proficio	March
New Directions		Florida	—	April
Vantage Point & Momentum		Utah	Aspiro	May
Elements Wilderness		Utah	—	May
Shelterwood		Colorado	—	May
Ponca Pines		Nebraska	Uta Halee Girls Village	July
My Choice		Samoa	Coral Reef	August
Becket House at Warren		New Hampshire	Becket Family of Services	August
Grace House		Montana	—	August
Red Hill Academy		California	—	September
Austin Sendero		Texas	CRC	September
Wingate Wilderness		Utah	—	September
Center for Change Las Vegas		Nevada	Center for Change	October

The most obvious generalization from these two lists is that the private residential network for struggling teens is holding its own. Despite the economic downturn, this network is not dying. It might be changing as old models, approaches and well known leaders fade away to be replaced by new models, approaches and new leaders, but residential programs for struggling teens based on parent-choice remain a dynamic and significant part of residential schools and programs for teens with problems.

Another aspect to keep in mind is the context of how many private parent-choice residential schools and programs there are. Woodbury Reports works from a growing list that was about 650 residential programs last Spring which we have been able to find from around the country that fit the definition of being private, residential, parent-choice for struggling teens. The list of closures above represents just two percents of the total. That some of them are well known and have been around for

Continued: PANIC/ pg 4



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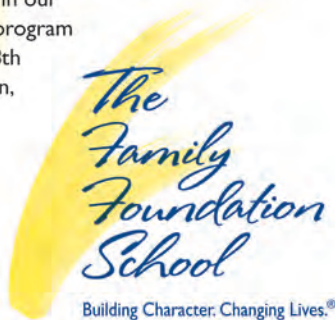
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## **PANIC:** Continued from 3

several years just magnifies the emotional impact of their closing. That they are being replaced by lesser known new programs seems to be the reality. Some of these new programs will probably become well known in the future.

It seems that the number of residential schools and programs for struggling teens from which parents can choose is still a dynamic force and this trend is holding its own. Although all professionals in this field should be cautious and concerned about developments in the economy, so far it appears pressing the Panic Button would be an overreaction.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF READING**

By Rosemary McKinnon

Around a year ago, I was cozily in bed reading the London Times Book Review when I came across an article by Alan Bennett, *The Uncommon Reader*, which caused me to laugh out loud. Bennett's conceit was that the Queen of England had followed her roaming dogs and stumbled across the City of Westminster's traveling library van. She wandered off from this encounter with a book in hand and, page by page, book by book, became a reader.

Much to the consternation of her husband, Prince Philip, and her staff, the Queen began to inflict her interest in reading not only on her subjects, abandoning her usual inquires as to length of service, distance traveled, place of origin, embarking instead on a new conversational gambit, "What are you reading at the moment?" At state banquets she would lean toward, let's say, the president of France to ask "I've been longing to ask you about the writer Jean Genet." This article has since been turned into a short novella, now available in the US, and I will not spoil it for you by saying any more.

*The Uncommon Reader* was published in 2007 at the same time as the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) released its report on the decline of reading for pleasure. Several authors were moved to comment on this phenomenon. Ursula Le Guin wrote an article entitled *Staying Awake: Notes on the alleged decline of reading* in the February 2008 edition of Harpers Magazine and Caleb Crain published an article, *Twilight of the Books: What will life be like if people stop reading?* in The New Yorker, December 24 & 31, 2007.

Le Guin questions the assumption that books are on their way out, asserting that they are here to stay. She labels 1850-1950 as the Century of the Book, in which literacy filtered downward, not only as the front door to individual economic and class advancement, but also as an important social activity and bond. TV shows and sports teams have largely replaced books as common vehicles for social bonding.

However Le Guin points to the *Harry Potter* phenomenon as offering both adolescents and young adults an exclusive in-group and shared social experience. She registers the fact that books offer a different form of entertainment from TV (all it needs is light, a human eye and a human mind) in that "reading is active, an act of attention, of absorbed alertness

– not all that different from hunting, or from gathering.” “It won’t do the work for you. To read a story well is to follow it, to act it, to feel it, to become it – everything short of writing it...No wonder not everybody is up to it.”

I made a cursory inspection of the boys’ dorm bookshelves to find out what they were reading. Certainly there were a good many copies of *Harry Potter*, along with Hemmingway, Steinbeck and Cormac McCarthy. But some of the bookshelves revealed reading tastes that were voracious and far ranging. One such bookshelf contained the following: Peter Robb, *A Death in Brazil*; Jim Marrs, *Crossfire: the Plot that Killed Kennedy*; Dan Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*; Machiavelli’s *The Prince*; Aldous Huxley, *The Doors of Perception and Heaven and Hell*; The Dalai Lama’s *Little Book of Wisdom*; Tom Wolfe *The Bonfire of the Vanities*; Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, and, last but not least, *The Ultimate Book of Sports’ Lists*.

Reading is alive and well at Montana Academy. Our students are unquestionably “up to it.” Like the Queen, whether purposefully or accidentally, Montana Academy students are readers.

Why is this the case? Certainly our students are bright, and thanks to their parents, they have a wide knowledge of world affairs. Also, thanks to Carol Santa’s insistence, from the very beginning we have set aside a daily Reading Hour. Carol’s idea was that this time should be used for self-selected reading for pleasure. She was adamant that unless we structured this time, reading would not take place, and that it was important that we protect this time from the pressure of reading for school assignments. This early decision has done much to foster a culture of reading at Montana Academy.

Why is this important? Caleb Crain writes in his New Yorker article, *Twilight of the Books*, that “Americans are losing not just the will to read but even the ability.” He goes on to suggest that “if, over time, many people choose television over books, then a nation’s conversation with itself is likely to change.” He quotes some experimental psychologists as suggesting that a reader and a viewer think differently. He speculates that we are at risk of returning to a society of “secondary orality,” akin to the primary orality that existed before the emergence of text.

The difference between those who are literate and those who are orally based is that literate people can rotate concepts in their minds abstractly and fluent readers are able to integrate more of their own thoughts and feelings into their experience. Orally oriented people embed their thoughts in stories and have more difficulty distancing themselves from electronic technology. They have trouble negotiating differences of opinion and may be less likely to spend time with ideas with which they disagree. Crain’s final line is a warning: “Such a habit might be quite dangerous for a democracy to lose.” All this is provocative especially in light of our upcoming election.

Although it is fascinating to conjecture as to where our  
Continued: **READING/** pg 6

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## READING: Continued from 5

society is headed, we also continue to focus closer to home on the skills that our students are learning, whether they be for use in the classroom or for pleasure in years to come. In addition to substantial reading, both inside and outside the class, it is important to teach students writing skills in all areas of the curriculum. By fostering reading for both classroom and pleasure, and focusing on writing, we help our students join in the important on-going conversation with the extended reading community.

### About The Author:

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We have established a system of education in which we insist that while everyone must be educated, there is nothing in particular that an educated man should know.

~Walter Lippman

## TEN STEPS TO EMPOWERING AND LAUNCHING YOUNG ADULTS

By Randy and Colleen Russell

In this issue we look at the ninth step of the series for parents on how to empower and launch your child into adulthood. The key point from our introduction was that **the underlying goal of healthy parenting is to prepare sons and daughters to be self-reliant, independent individuals who are at home on this planet and in the culture in which they plan to live.**

### 9. Encourage and support at least one "life-transforming adventure"

One reason people love adventure stories is that they sound the call to awaken. Adventures beckon people to leave the comfort and safety of the known and to step upon a path, which appears both rich with possibilities and pitfalls. As soon as one steps across that threshold, the guardians of the threshold appear. To move forward, sometimes a mentor is introduced which will assist the adventurer in developing new skills to outsmart the forces that block them. In most fairy tales, the hero faces at least three obstacles before they are able to return home with the wisdom gained from the journey.

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journey. It is the journey of "the hobbit" in Lord of the Rings, of Parzival seeking the Grail and of so many other age-old stories. Each of the stories carries a theme; the young person is called to an adventure and is changed by the experience into someone more they had not formerly been.

Sometimes the one being called does not immediately respond to the call. There are even those who always avoid the call and never make the journey to discover who they really could be. If a person refuses the call, a part of them remains stuck. These people often end up bitter at the end of their lives.

One of the natural times for "the call" to come is in late adolescence, or early adulthood. If you think about it, this is the first time that a human being is fully equipped developmentally. They are physically, mentally, and emotionally fully formed as an adult of the species. They usually, however, have not yet gained full use of these attributes. Life calls them to now activate and integrate all the parts; to take this fully functioning being on a test drive.

Most indigenous cultures, as well as some modern day sub-cultures, have named this call to adventure a "rites of passage". For example, the aborigines in Australia are called to a "walkabout." The reason I especially like this story is that the community mentors and prepares the young adult for the experience. On "a walkabout" a young person begins a six month trek into the wilderness alone. The journey and everything that he or she needs has been told to them in songs and stories throughout his or her life. By recalling the

tales of the "old ones" told around the campfire, he discovers he has the secrets to the journey and can travel safely.


Unfortunately, Western culture has lost its connections with the myths and stories that would guide a young person into the next phase of life. So many of our young people are not prepared, have not been mentored, and therefore appear to stumble around in the dark. They have no memory of stories or songs to guide them. Even worse, they have very few wise Elders or mentors who have taken the full journey to adulthood.

We assume high school and college are supposed to prepare a person for stepping out into the world. For a lucky few, that seems to work. But many young adults appear to be as lost as ever even after completing college. This can be attributed to the lack of inner work that is required by the hero's journey.

We tend to think that if you have a degree or know how to make money that you are ready for life. Today most college graduates are unprepared for life and are surprised about what is expected of them. They are also lacking in even the basic skills that our consumer culture is based on; accumulating wealth, managing money, and gaining prestige. Sixty percent move back home with their parents.



Many young people feel lost. A new term has been coined to define the state of these young people called "Quarter Life

Continued: **TEN STEPS/** pg 8







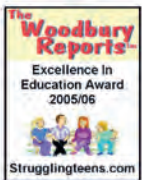
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## TEN STEPS: Continued from 7

Crisis." Without experiencing the hero's journey, it is impossible to enter into full adulthood where one has access to his or her own vast wealth of inner resources. Plus, a true hero's journey prepares you to use your natural abilities for the world we currently live in.

For this reason, we recommend that you encourage your young people to adventure out in the world for a while before they ever begin college. A Canadian guidance counselor told me recently that only 17% of college graduates in Canada go into the field in which they majored in college. I would guess the percentages are close to that in the USA. The young person hasn't been tested enough in life to know who they really are and what they want for their lives. It isn't enough to choose a path in life that you want to prepare for based on intellectual definitions or an interest inventory. The same guidance counselor told me that most choices for college majors are made using college catalogs. Again, a life-transforming adventure provides "dirt time" where your whole being finds its direction.

There is another tool used by almost every past spiritual culture called a "vision quest". The initiate goes to a solitary place and spends three to forty days crying for a vision. The purpose is to get the Creator to reveal the path that would best benefit you and "all your relations". The experience is designed to help you face your fears and limiting beliefs. It also enhances ones awareness and sharpens the inner voice of wisdom. Some participants encounter spiritual guides and vivid visions. Almost all come back with profound experiences and guidance for the path to follow.

This next point will probably lead to some frustration: You, as a parent, will probably not be able to set up the journey for your adult child. You can, however, free them to answer the call when it comes. It might mean you have to let them venture off the track you had planned for them, which might be an unconventional path. Sometimes well-meaning parents are the ones who convince their young adult to not follow the call to adventure. The answers, in the parents mind, seem very logical as to what their adult child should be doing with their lives. But this is not normally a logical process.

Also, it is not your job to fund their call to adventure either. Doing so could take away valuable lessons about self-sufficiency, awareness, improvisation, adaptability, ingenuity, and trusting oneself. You want them to be moving towards further self-sustaining independence. Sometimes that means allowing them to feel some pain and discomfort without you having to be the one to "fix it."

The upside for you as parents will be the incredible adult-to-adult relationship that you can form once they have completed the journey. Your sacrifice will be letting go of the need to have your adult child need you. If you are the one struggling to let go, it may be a sign that it is time for you to take your own life-transforming journey.

### **About the Authors:**

Randy and Colleen Russell direct Parent Workshops for Empowering Young Adults and lead workshops and coaching for families and individuals. For more information call 208-255-2290 or visit

[www.empoweringyoungadults.com](http://www.empoweringyoungadults.com).



## COACH'S CORNER...

The Coach's Corner is a section of the newsletter devoted to family coaching, and the use of coaching skills in working with parents of struggling teens and young adults in their homes, or while they have a child in program. Coaching in this case can be either an alternative to residential placement when appropriate, a resource for program staff or as an aid in supporting families of young people transitioning home from wilderness or residential programs. The COACH'S CORNER welcomes submissions regarding Coaching (such as essays, research, articles, news, etc.) from anyone.

The Coach's Corner was started by Woodbury Reports, Bill Valentine, Founder of Next Step For Success, and the accredited coaches of Next Step Coach Training, with "real life" condensed snapshots of what Coaching is about.

### UNDERSTANDING TODAY'S CHILDREN

By Bill Valentine PsyD, CC

The chaos and challenges brought on by a struggling teen or young adult can represent an opportunity for personal growth and increased competency for parents. A critical role for the family coach is to help the parent build – or rebuild – a bridge of understanding between herself and her struggling child. The coach aids this process by assisting the parent in seeing the child at the most common and basic level, that of feelings, and asking the parent to relate to those feelings rather than the behavior.

By relating, we mean finding in one's own experience times of similar feelings.

While parents today are faced with a myriad of behaviors that they never dreamed of in their own adolescence or young adulthood, there are no new emotions. If we simplify human emotions to mad, sad, glad, lonely or scared, we can better understand the motivation behind most actions. The same emotion that is driving their child's aberrant behavior was doubtless felt at some time in the parent's past.

**Client:** *I simply cannot understand Julie. She throws herself at any boy who looks twice at her. She dresses inappropriately and she will do anything to get attention. I'm afraid she is getting a reputation for being 'easy' at school. This is so unlike the way I was brought up and behaved. I just can't relate to this child.*

**Coach:** *Why do you suppose she acts that way?*

**Client:** *Like I said, I haven't a clue.*

**Coach:** *Well, let's try separating the child from the behavior. While she is so unlike you on the outside, and in her actions, in what way on the inside, emotionally, could she be at all like you?*

**Client:** *What do you mean?*


**Coach:** *I'm wondering about how Julie feels about herself. Do you think she has any of the same feelings you had when you were her age?*

**Client:** *I doubt it. I was so painfully shy around boys that I just sat home most nights, afraid a boy would call and afraid one wouldn't.*

**Coach:** *Did you want boys' attention but just didn't know how to go about it the right way?*

**Client:** *Yeah, that's about it. You know, I was actually boy crazy, I guess. At least I thought about them a lot. I just didn't know how to compete with the other girls, so*

Continued: UNDERSTANDING/ pg 10

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## UNDERSTANDING: Continued from 9

*I just didn't ... Wait a minute, are you saying that Julie may feel the same way I did but just handles these feelings in a different way?*

**Coach:** *Isn't that what you are saying? How can you let Julie know that you can understand how she might be feeling?*

The coach who guides his clients into these waters will be introducing them to a whole new way of understanding and relating to their teenager or young adult. However, relating to how a young person is feeling does not necessarily mean condoning how they are behaving. Like acceptance, relating can be accomplished without agreeing.

**NOTE:** The International Coach Federation will hold its 2008 Annual International Conference November 12-15 at the Palais de Congres de Montreal in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Over 1700 conferees are expected. For more information, contact the International Coach Federation website at [www.coachfederation.org](http://www.coachfederation.org).

**About the Author:** Bill Valentine, Redmond OR, 541-504-4748, [bvalentine@everhigher.com](mailto:bvalentine@everhigher.com) and his accredited coaches of Next Step Coach Training give "real life" condensed snapshots of what Coaching is about. Next Step For Success, is a parent and family coaching consortium offering nontherapeutic, skill-based support for parents of struggling teens and young adults. Next Step Coach Training offers accredited certification training for coaches. [www.nextstepforsuccess.com](http://www.nextstepforsuccess.com)



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## VISITS...


### VOCATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

Central Islip, New York  
Sheree Incorvaia, Director of Recruitment  
631-348-3139  
[www.nyit.edu](http://www.nyit.edu)

Visit By: Stephen Migden, September 18, 2008

The Vocational Independence Program (VIP) at New York Institute of Technology is a post-secondary special education program for young adults having a variety of neuro-developmental problems including Asperger's Disorder, Autism, other types of Pervasive Developmental Disorder and ADHD. The goal of the three-year program is to assist young adults to develop independence, especially the capacity to maintain employment and to interact in a socially appropriate manner with peers, neighbors, co-workers, supervisors and family.

The typical VIP student is between 18 and 22 years old, with an IQ in the 70's. (However, I was also told that there is an enormous range of intellectual abilities among VIP students, with some having IQ's in the Superior range or even higher.) Most come directly from high school, and most have been in special education programs. A few are students who have not been able to adjust to a regular college program due to either learning problems or social/emotional problems. Although VIP will take a student with a history of psychiatric or behavioral problems in addition to his/her



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developmental or learning disorder, the psychiatric or behavioral problem must not be the student's major or primary problem. Also, students who are actively suicidal, self-injurious or who have a substance abuse problem are not accepted at VIP.

There are essentially two tracks to the VIP program. Track I is mainly geared toward the development of vocational skills, along with social and academic skills. Students in this track take classes in practical subjects such as study skills, personal budgeting, computers, interviewing for a job, writing a resume, etc. These non-credit classes take place in a separate VIP building and are taught by VIP faculty. Students in Track II are in a pre-college, academic program. They take classes similar to those in Track I, also in the separate VIP building, although they may also register for a limited schedule of credit classes at NYIT. Track I and II students interact with each other continuously, and the distinctions between the two groups are not at all rigid. In fact, according to individual needs, students may move from one track to another. A very small number of Track II students have gone on to graduate from college.

All VIP students have internships which are arranged by the program. Much of the focus of the second and third years is devoted to vocational training and cooperative education. Students are placed at a variety of job sites including those dealing with child care, food service and hospitality, retail and clerical work. In addition to their work experiences, upper level students are encouraged to develop other independent living skills such as personal cooking, shopping

and food preparation. All students are provided with an individualized program that, in addition to class work and internship, includes weekly individual meetings with various counselors, including vocational, social, academic and independent living counselors. Families may also contract for additional fee-based professional services such as psychotherapy, speech/language therapy, etc.

The VIP residential program is designed to offer students a good deal of freedom, with back-up support available, in order to provide an experience as close as possible to that of a residential college. VIP students must live on campus in one of the dormitories that is dedicated to the VIP program. The dormitories are mixed gender with separate male and female floors; there are rules regarding the presence of boys in girls' areas and vice versa. The dorms are fairly typical for a traditional type of college dorm, with a mix of single and double rooms. The single room that I viewed was fairly spacious, and I noticed that the young man living in the room kept it neater than just about any boy's dorm room I've ever observed either in a college or boarding school. I was told that the buildings housing both the dormitories and the classrooms are about 100 years old, though, of course, they have undergone some renovation over the years.

The dorms are supervised by a staff of residential advisors who live in the dorms and, in typical college dorm fashion, are upper level college undergraduate or graduate students (mainly from NYIT, though occasionally also from other nearby colleges). The residential advisors are supervised by

Continued: **VIP/** pg 12

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## VIP: Continued from 11

the VIP program's director of residential life, currently a woman who was formerly a residential director at NYIT's mainstream college program. The residential office in each dorm is staffed during waking hours and, of course, the residential advisors are on-call 24 hours a day. The advisors organize evening and weekend activities, which include on-campus clubs and off-campus trips. Attendance at these activities is typically voluntary, as is attendance at the nightly supervised study hall, although in certain circumstances, a student may be required to attend study hall. There is a full-time nurse on staff during the days.

On my visit to VIP, I met with Bill Russell, the director of academics and the chair of the admissions committee. Mr. Russell, who has been at VIP about ten years, impressed me as being knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the program. He interacted easily with students that we passed as we walked around the campus. All of the VIP students that we met seemed to know him, and most called him by his first name. Both the first year students and the upper level students that I met seemed to be comfortable in their surroundings and at ease with each other. I did not notice the VIP students interacting with the other, mainstream students on the campus or in the dining hall, although in my experience it is not unusual for the students from one program within a university to have little interaction with students from another program. Bill Russell assured me that, although they had their own coffee bar type lounge in one of the VIP buildings, the VIP students were not shy about using any of the facilities on the larger campus.

VIP has been in existence for over twenty years. It had a significant change in leadership about three years ago. The program is located at the Central Islip campus of NYIT, which is a satellite campus of the main university. The main campus is located about 30-45 minutes away, in Old Westbury. The Central Islip campus of NYIT, which is on the grounds of a former state psychiatric hospital in suburban Long Island, New York, also houses the university's nursing school and its culinary arts program. VIP's buildings are not fully handicapped accessible; I was told that there are plans to make them fully accessible. The VIP program itself does not have any sort of separate license or accreditation, although NYIT is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Stephen Migden, PhD, ABPP is a licensed psychologist and educational consultant who specializes in the needs of adolescents and young adults with learning, developmental or behavioral problems. He is the East Coast Liaison for Woodbury Reports. His office is located in Roslyn Heights, NY, and he can be reached at [drmigden@verizon.net](mailto:drmigden@verizon.net). His website is [www.psychologicalandeducationalservices.com](http://www.psychologicalandeducationalservices.com).

Growth becomes a two-way traffic between the child's initiative and the teacher's provision of healthy moral and physical surroundings.

~ EB Castle



# NEW PERSPECTIVES...

[New Perspectives schools and programs are those new to Woodbury Reports, Inc., and are presented to expand your knowledge, with the disclaimer that we know little more about them at this time than what appears here. Inclusion in Places for Struggling Teens™, of course, does not imply any endorsement by Woodbury Reports, Inc. -Lon]

## CRAMER CREEK

Clinton, Montana  
John McKay, Administrator  
406-825-2600  
[j.mckay@cramercreek.org](mailto:j.mckay@cramercreek.org)  
[www.cramercreek.org](http://www.cramercreek.org)

Cramer Creek, part of the Social Learning Environments (SLE) school network, is a new residential treatment school and center for young men and women ages 12-18 years old. Founded in 2008, this program is a sister program of Rancho Valmora and High Frontier and is designed for teens struggling with family and peer relationships, substance and alcohol abuse, ADD/ODD/ADHD, self harming behaviors, anxiety and mood disorders, and/or those having academic problems.

John McKay is the founder and Administrator of Cramer Creek and previously worked at Rancho Valmora as the Administrator. McKay is a board member of NATSAP. Assistant Administrator is Christopher C. Woodward, who previously worked at High Frontier. Clinical Director at Cramer Creek is Becky Frost, LCPC, who previously worked as an Adolescent Day Treatment Therapist at the Western Montana Mental Health Center. Accreditation is through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) and the National Private Schools Accreditation Alliance (NPSAA).

Cramer Creek utilizes a positive peer culture (PPC) model in the students' daily social interactions, individual and group therapy sessions, experiential and formal education and during their recreation and activities. Students are assigned a treatment team, with a teacher designated to each team who is trained in the PPC model. Each student receives an education plan that identifies goals, pace of study, and emotional or behavioral issues. Courses offered at Cramer Creek include math, science, social studies, English and Literature, art, ethics and altruism.

Recreational activities include mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, fishing, hiking, camping, swimming and canoeing. In addition, students also participate in volunteer services to the local community.

[This information came from the Cramer Creek website.]

The singling out of the very young to be celebrities or sources of wisdom is really a form of child abuse.

~ Robert Bly



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- ♦ Family Maladjustment
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[www.youthcare.com](http://www.youthcare.com)



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## RED HILL ACADEMY

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[rhughes@redhillacademy.org](mailto:rhughes@redhillacademy.org)  
[www.redhillacademy.org](http://www.redhillacademy.org)

Red Hill Academy, founded in September 2008, is a specialized co-ed day and boarding school for young men and women ages 14-17 years old who struggle with learning differences, including dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome. In addition, these students have difficulties with social, emotional and behavioral issues due to their learning differences.

Brad Freed is the Executive Director at Red Hill Academy and is a licensed Marriage and Family therapist, holding a Master's degree in clinical psychology. Jodie Mathison is the Marketing Director for Red Hill Academy and previously worked at James R. Sylla School, a nonpublic special education school, as the principal. She holds a Master's degree in education. Laura Taylor is the After School Program Director and has worked with special needs adolescents for 25 years. Red Hill Academy is a program of Sunny Hills Services. Sunny Hills Services is a member of the Child Welfare League of America and the California Alliance for Child and Family Services.

Red Hill offers three distinct programs for students, which include the residential program, after school program and the academic program, offered to both day and residential students. Academically, each student is assessed weekly, is required to document a plan daily and is required to evaluate him or herself at the end of each period. Curriculum includes project based learning, skills tutorial classes, hands-on career counseling classes, elective courses including an art media lab, music, art and athletics. Core classes include reading, language arts, math, science, social studies and PE. Additional student support includes the RHA resource specialist who also provides one-to-one tutoring in reading and math and Assistive Technology, which is computer support, using the Kurzweil Educational System.

The after school program is required for residential students, optional for day students and available for students attending other schools in the community. Recreational activities, an equestrian program, experiential activities and skills building groups are offered.

*[This information came from the Red Hill Academy website.]*

Platos idea of education was that it was like a slow vegetable growth - a notion almost wholly absent from the individualistic methods of sophists.

~ W. Jaeger



## BOOK REVIEWS...

### BEAUTIFUL BOY:

A Father's Journey through his Son's Addiction  
by David Sheff  
Houghton Mifflin Co.  
ISBN-10: 0618683356

### TWEAK:

Growing Up on Methamphetamines  
by Nic Sheff  
Ginee Seo Books, February 19, 2008  
ISBN-10: 1416913627

Reviewed by Judith E. Bessette, EdD

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America defines methamphetamine — also known as meth, crystal meth, crank or speed — as an addictive central nervous system stimulant that can be smoked, snorted or injected. Its use is at epidemic levels in the US — with the highest percentage of users falling between the ages of 16 and 25.

David Sheff, a brilliant writer best known for works that have appeared in various newspapers and magazines including the *New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Fortune*, has written a remarkable book, **Beautiful Boy**, that traces his journey through his son's addiction to crystal meth.

A companion book, **Tweak**, was written by Sheff's son, Nic. It is a memoir that reflects the young author's recollections of *growing up on methamphetamines* which is the subtitle of the book. A twenty-something who battles daily to stay clean and sober, Nic is also a writer with articles published in *Newsweek*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *Nerve*, an on-line publication.

These two books paint a powerful, albeit painful, picture of addiction — its effects on the user and on the entire family. Reviewers have described the books as honest, harrowing and heartbreaking...but not without hope.

David Sheff decided to write his book after the enormous success and public acclaim he received for an article he wrote in 2005 for the **Sunday New York Times Magazine** entitled *My Addicted Son*. The article won an award from The American Psychological Association for *Outstanding Contribution to Advancing the Understanding of Addiction*.

**Beautiful Boy** tells the story of the charming, funny young man — a varsity athlete and an honor student — who becomes addicted to meth. It chronicles how a father attempts to intervene, time and time again, and help his son get clean and sober.

Much of the book is focused on David's obsession with Nic's addiction — almost an addiction in itself. At the end of the book, as David is learning to let go, he shares some of the wisdom he gained on his journey.

The book is beautifully written and offers both truth and healing. At the very least, the book lets other parents in similar situations know they are not alone. Hopefully, it will also save lives.

Continued: BOOKS/ pg 16



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## **BOOKS:** Continued from 15

Nic's book is raw and often disturbing. He describes the first time he got drunk (at age eleven) and takes the reader through treatment, recovery and relapse. The book is peppered with gritty details about his day-to-day existence...dumpster-diving for food...stealing from his parents, their friends and even his eight-year old brother...to his eventual prostitution to support his out-of-control need for meth.

While often brutal, Nic's story ends on a hopeful note — his understanding of the need for truth and authenticity in his life. The need for truth and authenticity in all of our lives is one of the great lessons from this book.

Asked for some words of advice in a recent interview that appeared in US News & World Report, David said, *"There are many things I wish I could redo as a parent. Talk to your children about drugs. Have an open conversation with them. You need to prepare them for what will probably happen."* (Read more at [www.davidsheff.com](http://www.davidsheff.com))

Nic added, *"If I could just tell young people, if you feel insecure and scared, that's ok. It's a burden, but nothing that you ever look for outside of yourself is ever, ever, ever going to fill that hole."* (And...[www.nicsheff.com](http://www.nicsheff.com))

For those of you who prefer to listen rather than read...two short podcasts featuring the authors are available at Amazon.com and a more in-depth interview is available from radio KQED's *Forum* (3/13/08) on Mefeedia.com.

## **SEEN N HEARD**

**SOBER COLLEGE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK** (September 13, 2008) Seventeen residents, four alumni and three staff members of Sober College in Santa Monica, CA, 866-757-6237, volunteered for the annual Out of the Darkness walk, for suicide prevention and awareness that took place in Santa Monica. The event brought in 600 participants and almost \$60,000 in donations.

### **RED HILL'S NEW SCHOOL**

(September 17, 2008) Executive Director of Red Hill Academy, San Anselmo, CA, 415-256-9312, Brad Freed, announced the grand opening of the new campus based school program for high school age children with learning challenges at Red Hill. For more information about this new program, contact Robin Hughes, Admissions Director.

### **NEW RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM AT MCLEAN HOSPITAL**

(September 19, 2008) Blaise Aguirre, MD, Medical Director at 3East McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA, 617-855-2000, announced McLean Hospital has opened a new residential dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) program for teen and college age young women, 3East, located on the McLean campus. For more information, call 877-967-7233 or email.

### **TIBBITTS A "TOP 40 UNDER 40"**

(September 22, 2008) Dustin Tibbitts, LMFT, was honored in September as one of Utah Valley Magazine's "Top 40 Under 40" in the Business Quarterly edition. The article notes Tibbitts' leadership in quality of care, with 90% of New Haven's students going home or to college after treatment.



Photo by Skyler Jensen

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Tibbitts – the Executive Director of New Haven Residential Treatment Center in Provo, UT – is featured with other honorees on page 31 of the magazine. For more information on New Haven, call 801-794-1218.

**NEW STAFF AT OAKLEY**

(September 22, 2008) Oakley School in Oakley, UT, has several new staff members. Arwynn Harris Jensen is new to the Admissions staff, previously working at Oakley teaching Experiential Education classes. Lauren Alexander, MA, is the new College Counselor. She will be assisting in both the Admissions office and with Mark G. Del Vecchio, who is the new Academic Director for Oakley School. For information, contact Carrie Thompson, Admissions at 435-783-5001.

**ZAUGG NEW CEO AT HERITAGE**

(September 22, 2008) Glen R. Zaugg is the new CEO of Heritage Schools, Inc. Zaugg replaces Heritage founder and CEO Gerald Spanos. Glen Zaugg began working with Heritage Schools, Inc. in 1993, when he served as Chief Financial Officer. In 2004, he took over Chief Operating Officer responsibilities. Heritage Schools is located in Provo, UT. Call 800-433-9413 for more info.



**SUMMIT PREP THANKS ED CONSULTANTS**

(September 22, 2008) Co-Founders Rick Johnson, MSW, and Jan Johnson, LCSW, of Summit Preparatory School in Kalispell, MT, 406-758-8139, would like to thank all the Educational Consultants they have partnered with in serving the students and families at their school for the last five years. In addition, they would like to thank the program staff and the neighboring programs in Montana and Idaho for helping them reach this important milestone.

**CATHERINE FREER WINS AWARD**

(September 22, 2008) Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Programs in Albany, OR, won the 2008 Oregon Governor’s Volunteer Awards for their region in the Outstanding Youth Volunteer Program category. They were nominated by the Middle Fork Ranger District for their more than 20 years of service in Willamette National Forest. This year alone, students and staff helped to develop a mountain bike trail, built a bridge, assisted with trail maintenance, stocked cross-country ski shelters with firewood and worked on a number of other recreation projects. For information, call 800-390-3983.

**CARLBROOK VISITS WRI**

(September 23, 2008) Darren Miller, and Gail and R. Grant Price of Carlbrook School, stopped by the Woodbury office during a trip visiting local young adult programs in the northwest.

Continued: **Seen N Heard/** pg 18



**BENCHMARK YOUNG ADULT SCHOOL**

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~ Steve Case



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## **SEEN N HEARD:** Continued from 17

### **MOORE FOUNDATION'S NEW PROGRAM**

(September 24, 2008) Pat Moore Foundation in Costa Mesa, CA, recently opened The Collegiate Treatment Center (CTC) adding components specific to college students planning on returning to campus following recovery treatment. For more information, contact Jill Nugent at 866-537-6495 or Randy Haveson at 866-578-4248.

### **SOAR'S CHRISTMAS KEYS**

(September 24, 2008) SOAR (Success Oriented Achievement Realized) in Balsam, NC, has released the dates of its upcoming Christmas Keys Adventure, offered December 27, 2008, through January 1, 2009, in the Florida Keys. For more information and registration contact the admissions office or email Richard Lance at 828-456-3435.

### **NATSAP MIDWEST CONFERENCE**

(September 24, 2008) The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (NATSAP), recently held its first annual Midwest Regional Conference in Chicago/Oakbrook, IL.

### **WEDIKO/DARTMOUTH PARTNER**

(September 24, 2008) The psychiatric services at Wediko School & Treatment Program in Boston, MA, are now provided by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Psychiatric Associates, Clinical practice of the Dartmouth Medical School, Department of Psychiatry. For more information on Wediko, contact Kathryn Walsh, MDiv, LCSW, Admissions 617-292-9200.

### **HERITAGE PERFORMING ARTS**

(September 24, 2008) Heritage Schools, Inc., in Provo, UT, was recently featured in the Salt Lake Tribune. The school developed a performing arts program over the last 10 years as a form of therapy and treatment for the students attending. Previous years the musicals were staged outside or in the school's gym, but the cast will perform in a new \$4.5 million performing arts facility that was completed this summer. For information, call 800-433-9413.

### **HRON CEO AT CRITTENTON**

(September 24, 2008) The Kansas City Star reported Janine Hron will take over as Chief Executive officer of Crittenton Children's Center in Kansas City, MO, when Stephen Churchill retires in December. Hron was previously President and Chief Executive Officer at Spofford, a Kansas City RTC for abused children. For additional information, call 816-765-6600.

### **DUCK RIVER JOINS PAINT ROCK**

(September 25, 2008) Three Springs, Inc. consolidated two of its outdoor therapeutic programs in Alabama and Tennessee. In October, Three Springs re-located the Duck River program near Nashville, TN, to Paint Rock Valley in Trenton, AL. To contact Gary Saliba, CEO of Three Springs Adolescent Treatment Programs, call 256-880-3339.

### **ERVIN RETURNS TO ASPEN**

(September 25, 2008) Mike Ervin was appointed Eastern Regional Director of Admissions for Aspen Education Group's Outdoor Division. Mike's tenure at Aspen totals more than 11 years, including his previous work at SUWS



and as Executive Director at Aspen's Lone Star Expeditions.

#### **ARLIEN AT WILLOW SPRINGS**

(September 28, 2008) Dana M. Arlien, MD joined the clinical staff at Willow Springs in Reno, NV. Arlien received her Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of Nevada, and has participated in the Space Life Sciences Training Program sponsored by NASA at the Kennedy Space Center, FL. For more information on Willow Springs Center, call Pam Golden at 800-448-9454.

#### **LEIBERSBERGER JOINS SPRUCE MTN.**

(September 27, 2008) Ed Levine, LICSW, will limit his responsibilities at Spruce Mountain in Plainfield, VT, and redefine his role as Director of Referral Development and Outreach. Grant Leibersberger, MEd, MBA, was hired to replace Levine as Assistant Director of Spruce Mountain Inn. Grant previously worked at Blackwater Academy as the Director and Field Director of the Blue Mountain Family Center in Utah. To contact the program, call 802-454-8353.

#### **VALENTINE CERTIFIED**

(September 29, 2008) Penelope Valentine, Co-Founder of Next Step for Success, Redmond, OR, 541-504-4748, received certification in "Coaching Teen and College Students With AD/HD." This course is approved by the International Coach Federation and is offered through the Edge Foundation.

#### **HORIZON FAMILY OPENS CENTER**

(September 29, 2008) Dore Francis, MA, Founder of Horizon Family Solutions, LLC, in Bend, OR, opened a new coaching office. The coaching center, specializing in parent coaching, opened October 1, 2008. The office number is 541-312-4422.

#### **SOLTREKS AND CHELSEA MORNING FARM**

(September 29, 2008) Soltreks students recently participated in a service-learning project with Chelsea Morning Farm, a program of the Silver Creek Institute in Two Harbors, MN. Silver Creek Institute is a working model of sustainable living and is a resource for individuals and communities, both urban and rural, who are committed to the holistic frameworks of sustainability. For more information about Soltreks or the project, contact Lorri Hanna, MA, CTRS, President and Executive Director of Soltreks, Inc, 218-834-4607.

#### **MOUNT BACHELOR IN THIRD DECADE**

(October 1, 2008) Mount Bachelor Academy in Prineville, OR, is starting its third decade as a therapeutic boarding school. Executive Director, Sharon Bitz, who has been with Mount Bachelor for 18 years, believes the success of the program comes from "never losing sight of the need to hold fast to the original vision, philosophy and mission." For information on Mount Bachelor Academy, call 888-416-3665.

#### **WARREN AT TIMBERLINE KNOLLS**

(October 3, 2008) Timberline Knolls in Lemont, IL, will strengthen the spirituality focus of the program with the appointment of Todd Warren, a contemporary Christian singer and ordained minister, as Timberline Knolls ministry outreach representative. More information may be obtained by calling 877-257-9611.

Continued: **Seen N Heard/** pg 20

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## **SEEN N HEARD:** Continued from 19

### **SANTIAM CROSSING'S ADDITIONS**

(October 3, 2008) Santiam Crossing's campus is expanding and improving with the addition of a new classroom yurt and a new basketball court. They have also added slack lines outside of each student cabin. Similar to a tightrope, but situated just a couple feet off the ground, the slack lines give students one more option for staying fit and active at their living quarters. In addition, they have purchased a fleet of mountain bikes and have built a new building to house them. For information about Santiam Crossing in Scio, OR, contact Julia Andrick, Marketing Communications Director, 800-390-3983.

### **HORSE SENSE HOSTS SEMINAR**

(October 3, 2008) Horse Sense of the Carolinas conducted its first annual Business Building Intensive held in September in Marshall, NC. The seminar provided business basics to practitioners operating Equine Assisted Practice programs around the nation, including in-depth information for creating, operating, managing and marketing an equine-assisted business. For more information, contact Shannon Knapp at Horse Sense of the Carolinas in Hendersonville, NC, 828-683-7304.

### **ASPEN DONATES TO SAVING TEENS**

(October 3, 2008) Aspen Education Group in Cerritos, CA, 562-467-5531, had such an abundance of gift baskets for the Fourth Annual Professional Development workshop that they used several of them for a silent auction to raise money for Saving Teens in Crisis Collaboration, in the spirit of giving and in memory of Michael Reuben who died last

month. Michael was the son of Chairman and Founder of Saving Teens in Crisis Collaborative, John D. Reuben.

### **KOHLSTAEDT TO PRESENT AT IECA**

(October 3, 2008) Dr. Elizabeth Kohlstaedt PhD, Clinical Director at Intermountain Children's Home, Helena, MT, 406-457-4744, will be presenting at the upcoming IECA conference in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Kohlstaedt's presentation is titled "When All You Have is a Hammer, Everything Looks like a Nail," which explores a developmental approach to understanding and treating serious emotional disturbances in children.

### **FITZGERALD SURPRISED BY INTERMOUNTAIN**

(October 3, 2008) Intermountain Board and staff held a surprise reception for Executive Director, Jim Fitzgerald, to celebrate his 30 years of service. For more information about Intermountain in Helena, MT, contact Sami Butler, RN, Professional Relations at 406-457-4744.

### **CURTIS HOSTS PRESENTATIONS**

(October 5, 2008) Steven Curtis, PhD, NCSP, hosted two free bookstore presentations in October at Liberty Bay Books in Poulsbo, WA, and at Barnes and Noble in Silverdale, WA, for parents and teachers of a child with behavioral, social or learning challenges.

### **ECS PARTNERS WITH HOMEWARD BOUND**

(October 5, 2008) Education Consulting Services (ECS) owned and founded by Dr. George Posner, and Homeward Bound, after care transition specialist, have partnered up to

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provide better aftercare treatment to more families with struggling teens.

### PEAK EXPERIENCE WELCOMES TURPIN

(October 6, 2008) Catherine Turpin, MS, joined the faculty at Peak Experience in Ashland, OR, as an instructor for the Clinical First Responder Training. Catherine earned her Master's in Adventure Therapy and previously worked in both wilderness therapy and residential treatment. For information on Peak Experience Training, contact Scott Bandoroff, PhD at 541-951-4329

### CHEROKEE CREEK NEWS

(October 7, 2008) David LePere, Executive Director at Cherokee Creek Boys School, Westminster, SC, 864-647-1885, announced Cherokee Creek was recently licensed as a Group Care Facility by the State of South Carolina. In addition, Cherokee Creek is now a US Department of State-designated sponsor organization and authorized to issue Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)-generated documents such as the I-20 visa for international students approved for enrollment. For more information, contact the admissions department.

### HAPPENINGS AT MONARCH SCHOOL

(October 7, 2008) The new drama center at Monarch School in Heron, MT, is nearing completion. In addition, the Equestrian Program, currently held in Sandpoint, will be moved on campus with the arrival of five horses and an additional two more next year. An indoor arena, complete with indoor stalls, will accommodate the horses, making it

possible for the students to ride five days a week. For more information, contact Sarah Fausett or Bambi Marshall of the Admissions Team at 406-847-5095.

### EXCEL ACADEMY CLOSES

(October 8, 2008) Aspen Education Group consolidated the services of Excel Academy in Conroe, TX, with Sunhawk Academy in St. George, UT, and other addiction-based Aspen programs. This consolidation discontinued the services at the Texas program.

### FOUR CIRCLES CARF ACCREDITED

(October 8, 2008) Four Circles Recovery in Horse Shoe, NC, achieved accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for a period of three years. Contact Jack Kline, Executive Director for more information, 877-893-2221.

### GLENHOLME SCHOOL NEWS

(October 9, 2008) The Glenholme School's international enrollment increased this year, with students from Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, Panama and Switzerland. In addition, the school started a new robotics program, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) which completed its FIRST Technical Challenge with a crew of ten high school students in September. Team competitions begin in January 2009, and will culminate in June under the Georgia Dome. Contact David Tuttle, Marketing Director for the Glenholme School, Washington, CT, 860-868-7377.

### NEW HORIZONS FOR YOUNG WOMEN CLOSED

(October 10, 2008) New Horizons for Young Women in Orrington, ME, will no longer serve adolescent girls and their families as of October 10, 2008, with their last student discharged on October 9. Jacqueline Danforth, Founder, wishes to thank both colleagues and staff for the support they have received in the last seven years. For more information, contact Audrey Peavey at 207-992-2424.

### TELOS NEWS

(October 10, 2008) The construction of a new addition to Telos Residential Treatment Center in Orem, UT, is nearly complete. The 20,000 square foot addition consists of living quarters, dining room, fitness center, theatre, game room, classrooms, art rooms and woodshop. In addition, Telos now has a full time crew of teachers, replacing its outsourced education program, which offers the students extensive tutoring and organizational coaching. For information, contact Kristen Williams, Admissions Director, at 801-426-8800.

### SILVERADO OPENS BUILDING

(October 11, 2008) The new academic center at Silverado Boys Ranch in Panguitch, UT, is now complete. It features nine classrooms, including state of the art science and computer labs with interactive whiteboards. In addition, Brett Haderlie joined the academic team and has a teaching certificate in Physical Education, Spanish and Psychology. Contact Denise Westman, Director of Admissions, 435-676-8482, for more information.

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Continued: Seen N Heard/ pg 22

## **SEEN N HEARD: Continued from 21**

### **TIMBER RIDGE – SEVEN YEARS!**

(October 13, 2008) Virginia Short, Director of Admissions at Timber Ridge Preparatory School for Girls, Clark Fork, ID, 208-777-1615, announced Timber Ridge is celebrating its seven-year anniversary. They would like to thank the families, educational consultants and everyone else who supported them through the years.

### **JOHNSON JOINS SUNHAWK**

(October 13, 2008) Ben Harris, Executive Director at SunHawk Academy, St. George, UT, 800-214-3878, announced SunHawk Academy, a program of Aspen Education Group, appointed Jeff Johnson as Director of Admissions. Jeff worked as Director of Marketing and Admissions for several Aspen Education programs, including Mount Bachelor Academy, SUWS of Idaho, Adirondack Leadership Expeditions and as Director of Special Projects for the Outdoor Division. Most recently, Jeff served as Executive Director of AMATS, the Association of Mediation and Transportation Services.

### **NATWC CONFERENCE EXPANDS FOCUS**

(October 13, 2008) The National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camping (NATWC) hosted its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference on Jekyll Island, GA, in September. In addition to the training sessions designed for front line wilderness staff, a symposium on broader issues facing outdoor programming was addressed by a panel consisting of Sharon Laney, Rosemary Tippet, Rob Meltzer, Lon Woodbury, Len Buccellato, Judge Hirsch and “Tick” McClintock.

### **CENTER FOR CHANGE LAS VEGAS**

(October 13, 2008) Center for Change, a treatment program for eating disorders, opened a new program in Las Vegas called Center for Change Las Vegas. They are now accepting patients. An open house to celebrate the new center was held October 22, 2008, at the Longford Medical Center in Las Vegas. For information contact Tamara Noyes, Business Development Director, 801-224-8255.

### **HUNT AT SWIFT RIVER**

(October 13, 2008) Lisa Hunt joined the admissions team at Academy at Swift River as an admissions counselor. She previously worked as a Senior Trainer and Consultant with Project Adventure, Inc. for ten years. Contact her at 800-258-1770 for information.

### **MIGDEN/OXBOW TO HOST PRESENTATION**

(October 14, 2008) Stephen Migden, Director of Stephen Migden, PhD, ABPP and Associates, Roslyn Heights, NY, 516-625-0824, organized a presentation, hosted by Oxbow Academy, Wales, UT, 435-590-7198 on “New Directions in Treating Teens with Sexual Behavior Problems.” The meeting for New York area mental health professionals who deal with sexually inappropriate youth was held at the Melville Marriott in Melville, NY, October 20, 2008. Shawn Brooks, Executive Director of Oxbow Academy, and Heather Green, LCSW, clinical director of Oxbow, led the presentation.

### **FALCON RIDGE HORSE AUCTION**

(October 14, 2008) The students and staff from Falcon Ridge Ranch in Virgin, UT, hosted their first annual horse auction,

complete with craft consignment booths, a Dutch oven dinner, a silent auction and entertainment. The students washed and groomed over 100 horses for auction that they had raised and trained for over a year. Over three hundred guests enjoyed the auctions and festivities and almost all the horses consigned were sold, with a percentage of the revenue from consignment fees going toward a nonprofit scholarship. Contact Mariah Pogue for information, 435-635-5260.

### **POSNER ANNOUNCES INTENSIVE EARLY CARE**

(October 14, 2008) Dr. George Posner, IECA, CEP, founder of Educational Consulting Services, Ithaca, NY, 607-273-5400, offers a new service intended to help struggling families called Intensive Early Care, an innovative intervention service. It provides in-home coaching, 24/7 access to a family specialist, increased coordination and communication among all professionals and family members, a teen or young adult library, drug testing, a parenting library and parenting seminars. Families can modify practices, address underlying issues and help their children overcome difficulties. For more information, visit the firm’s website.

### **CHERRY GULCH THANKS SUPPORTERS**

(October 15, 2008) Andrew Sapp, PhD, Founder and Clinical Director of Cherry Gulch, Emmett, ID, 208-365-3437, announced Cherry Gulch recently celebrated its two-year anniversary. Cherry Gulch thanks every educational consultant, program, professional and parent that helped make the program a success.

### **FAMILY FIRST NOT FOR TROUBLED TEENS**

(October 15, 2008) Lisa Noonan, Director of Admissions at Family First Academy, Erie, PA, 814-860-9660, wrote a letter explaining Family First is not a school for troubled teens. She wrote, “FFA is a traditional, college prep school and does not have the programming to help a troubled student. We are capable of helping students who need a little extra focus on their academics and focus on helping students move on to college.”

### **HOMEWARD BOUND CREATES FAMILY FRONT**

(October 15, 2008) Homeward Bound in Lehi, UT – which has offered in-home aftercare services for four years – has expanded services by creating Family Front, “a wholly owned subsidiary of Homeward Bound.” The stated purpose of Family Front is “to support families earlier in the process... [to provide] an effective alternative to a much more costly and disruptive out-of-home placement.” Contact Tim Thayne PhD CEO/Founder at 801-768-1441 for more information.

### **SAVING TEENS® FUNDS THIRD CHILD**

(October 15, 2008) Patricia R. Abreu, Executive Director at Saving Teens in Crisis Collaborative (STICC), Sudbury, MA, 617-699-8245, announced STICC has funded its third teen, from Columbus, OH. The Foundation thanks their Collaborative Partners: Tamara Ancona and Denni David for pro bono educational consulting services, and Building Bridges for providing a program scholarship.

### **CHRISTENSEN CLINICAL DIRECTOR AT OUTBACK**

(October 16, 2008) Outback Therapeutic Expeditions’ new Clinical Director is Dr. Neal Christensen. Neal originally



began working at Outback Therapeutic Expeditions as a Field Therapist in 2004, while he worked to complete his graduate studies work. He earned his MS and PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kansas. Neal also worked as a therapist for Marillac Center for Children.

#### **BECKET HOUSE AT LITCHFIELD LICENSED**

(October 16, 2008) Becket House at Litchfield was recently approved for a three-year license from Maine's Department of Mental Health. DMH worker, Jill Dorsey spent two days thoroughly visiting the house. For more information, contact Jeff Caron, MEd, CAGS, Executive Director/ Admissions at 603-359-5951.

#### **REED JOINS BLUEPRINT EDUCATION**

(October 16, 2008) David Reed recently joined Blueprint Education in Phoenix, AZ, as Curriculum Director. Before his hiring at Blueprint, David worked for Blue Ridge International Academy as the Assistant Education Director. He has also worked for the Gilbert Public Schools as a teacher, as assistant administrator for the district's alternative education program and manager of Gilbert's Online Distant Education Program. Call 800-426-4952 for more information.

#### **'TIS A GOOD LIFE' VISITS WOODBURY**

(October 17, 2008) Thomas and Stacy Jenkins of Tis A Good Life (a new transitional living home in Sandpoint, ID for young men and women ages 17-24 years old) stopped by the Woodbury office for a visit and to introduce themselves.

#### **SILVERADO WORKSHOP A HUGE SUCCESS**

(October 17, 2008) Over 100 parents, siblings and other family members attended the parent workshop in August at Silverado Boys Ranch in Panguitch, UT. The families participated in conferences, experiential therapy, individual sessions and workshops addressing key issues. The first night concluded with an outdoor chuck wagon dinner and western show. The winter parent workshop is scheduled for December 18-20, 2008. For more information, contact Denise Westman, Director of Admissions at Silverado Boys Ranch, 435-676-8482.

#### **US TRANSPORT REDUCES RATES FOR CLOSURES**

(October 17, 2008) Randy Stewman, Owner of US Transport Service in St. George, UT, 435-634-6255, announced they lowered fees on transports for anyone needing to be relocated because of a school closure or any other similar concern. For more information, contact Randy Stewman at 435-632-1248.

#### **HARRIS JOINS POSNER**

(October 20, 2008) Myrna Harris, MEd, CAS, joined Educational Recourses Unlimited, LLC in Katonah, NY. Myrna is a member of IECA (Independent Educational Consultants Association), NATSAP (National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs) and the NLD Association (Nonverbal Learning Disorders Association). She received her post-graduate degrees at Fordham University and Teachers College-Columbia University, and is a New York State certified special education teacher, as well as a school and district administrator with additional training in the Life Space Crisis Intervention. For information, contact Barbara Posner, 914-232-4000.

#### **AUCTION BENEFITS FFS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

(October 20, 2008) The Family Foundation in Hancock, NY, successfully completed its first annual online auction this fall. Among the most popular items were hand carved ducks and birds created by students in woodcarving classes at The Family Foundation School. Richard Reeve, Director, noted that bids came in from all over the country and totaled more than \$6,000. Proceeds will benefit The Family Foundation's scholarship fund for at-risk youth. Contact Richard Reeve at 845-887-5213.

#### **FFS'S CHERIPKO SPEAKS TO GROUPS**

(October 20, 2008) Jan Cheripko, English teacher at The Family Foundation School, Hancock, NY, 845-887-5213, was a featured speaker at the recent "Literary Extravaganza" presented by the Rockland County Reading Association and St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, NY. The conference drew educators from New York and New Jersey. Jan, the author of seven books for children and young adults, is also scheduled to speak on *Shakespeare and the At-Risk Teen* at the National Council of Teachers of English convention to be held this year in San Antonio, TX.

#### **WELCOME TYLER RAY CATES!**

(October 20, 2008) Melvin Cates, MA, LCCA, WEMT, Executive Director at Lone Star Expeditions, Groveton, TX 936-831-3133, proudly announced the birth of his new son, Tyler Ray Cates, born on September 29, 2008, at 5:15 pm, weighing in at 7 lb. 12 oz and 19 ¾ inches. Tanner Cates loves his new job as big brother. Congratulations from all of us at Woodbury Reports!

#### **OPI WELCOMES DUPLESSIS-BARMORE**

(October 20, 2008) Tiffany Duplessis-Barmore, MEd, is the new Director of Education at the Optimum Performance Institute in Woodland Hills, CA, replacing Joan Erskine. For further information, contact Anne LaRiviere, Director of Admissions, 888-558-0617.





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