

Places for Struggling Teens™

Published by
Woodbury Reports, Inc.™

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

January 2009 - Issue #173



FUTURE TENSE

By: Lon Woodbury



The name of the month of January evolved from the name of the god Janus, the Roman god of "gates and doorways." As commonly used in our culture, it marks a New Year's custom of reflecting on the past and making resolutions for the future. Thus this first issue of 2009 is a perfect time to re-state what we at Woodbury Reports Inc. are trying to accomplish.

First, I need to make a couple of comments of what we are not! Although some view us primarily as a source of information about residential treatment programs for troubled teens, this is too narrow a definition and misses our most important goal. Likewise the comments that we are a compendium of residential therapeutic programs for adolescents also miss the mark. Although our print and online publications can be helpful for these purposes, these are secondary benefits that evolve out of our primary purpose.

Parent Empowerment is our primary purpose. We seek to **help parents** when they have a child making poor, self-destructive decisions. We do this by providing them all the information, support and tools possible so parents can make informed and appropriate decisions regarding intervention for their struggling child. Many of the programs we describe are very therapeutic oriented like hospitals and Residential Treatment Centers, but we also include boarding schools with minimal therapy and a high degree of structure (commonly called emotional growth schools), faith based schools and programs, and home based programs. Although many are residential, there are an increasing number of resources that are home based where professionals are hired by the parents to work with the child and family in their own home and community.

Parent-choice is the first criteria for inclusion in our directory, and to be described in our online and print newsletter. To be included and described in our publications, the parents must be able to make the enrollment decision. Most programs for adolescents look to referrals from courts, law enforcement, psychiatrists or some other authority or professional, and parent involvement is optional. We work only with those programs that accept the parents as key decision makers in choosing what program in which to enroll their child.

The other important criteria for inclusion is that the programs are **private** as opposed to being public programs. A private program is more conducive to parent choice for several reasons. The main reason is that a private program oriented toward parent choice survives so long as it can satisfy the child's parents—the ultimate deciders who usually know more about what their child needs than anyone else. A public program has radically different dynamics. For a public funded program to survive, it must keep legislators and public administrators happy. Parent unhappiness seems to be incidental. Two extreme instances that happened about the same time period in the last few years illustrate this difference.

On one hand, a private therapeutic boarding school had five parents complain, to the extent they filed a law suit against the school. Eventually the case was settled out of court without any culpability proven against the school, but the resulting publicity and attention by state licensing agencies was devastating to the school. The school survived, but with considerable loss.

In about the same time period a public funded Florida boot camp had 182 complaints filed against it by parents and ex-inmates (Lawsuits against a public agency are usually thrown out because the legislature has given them immunity). Out of all these complaints, nothing significant happened, the program continued using the same harsh boot camp methods. It was only when the 183rd incident was caught on camera and showed a beating that likely caused a juvenile's death that the outrage finally got some serious reaction. Even then, the program was not closed until several legislators, state administrators and the media got heavily

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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.]

Lon Woodbury - Publisher - 208-267-5550 - Fax: 208-267-9127 - www.StrugglingTeens.com

Woodbury Reports™ is an information source to help parents find the right school or program when their child has behavioral/ emotional problems. We are specifically concerned with children needing more intensive intervention than local resources or day programs can provide.

Our focus is on high quality and effective Emotional Growth and/ or Therapeutic schools and programs, which can include short- and long-term outdoor programs, family style living arrangements, highly structured boarding schools, therapeutic boarding schools, RTCs or psychiatric hospitals.

An important goal of these schools and programs is to teach self-discipline through consequences, so the child will learn to be more responsible for his/ her actions. How attitudes are changed and who is successful is at the focus of each issue of Reports.

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Places for Struggling Teens™ is published monthly. One year subscriptions are \$35 USD. Non-Continental US postal orders add \$5 USD.

Places for Struggling Teens™ is published by Woodbury Reports, Inc.™
Lon Woodbury, Publisher.

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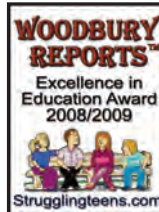


ISSN: 1540-3718

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"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.™**

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involved. It was obvious that the parents of the juvenile inmates were powerless to have any influence. This is a glaring contrast to it only taking five complaints describing much less egregious conduct than complaints against the boot camp to have an impact on the private program.

I think that many parents, and many professionals who work with at-risk teens, usually understand and agree with the above comparison, that too many public programs are underfunded, dangerous and ineffective. As a consequence, an increasing percentage of parents with children making poor decisions are willing to do anything they can to find a better alternative for their child. This leads more and more parents to consider private placement, even if it places the parents in debt for years.

This makes me optimistic for our network of private parent-choice schools and programs in the coming year. Even though the private parent-choice option is more difficult financially for parents, it is balanced out by an increasing percentage of parents wanting to bypass relying on professionals to take care of the problem for them. We empower parents to take action and responsibility on their own.

Should anyone want to discuss this issue further with me, you are welcome to visit my blog at <http://woodburyreports.blogspot.com/>.

BUDDY BASEBALL AT DISCOVERY ACADEMY

By Jennifer C. Jones

Summer is only a memory now but for children with disabilities in Mapleton, UT, it was the summer they played baseball in a league of their own.

Discovery Ranch, working in cooperation with Mapleton City recreation, formed a Buddy Baseball league that benefits both groups of children.

Ranch students who were level appropriate were allowed off campus to mentor young children with disabilities. Students helped their young buddies bat, field, and run the bases in a T-ball game where everyone won.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn more about themselves, to reach out and serve and help others," says Craig Smith, Clinical Director at Discovery. He says students will also participate this fall in a buddy soccer program

Community parent volunteers say this kind of mentoring benefits both groups of children. Keri is a parent who helped organize the baseball league. "Most of these kids don't get that opportunity to participate in sports because of their special needs, so this is a way to allow them to do that," she explains. She says area families were excited about the program. "We started with about ten kids, enough for two teams. And now we have about 61 kids playing and eight teams," she says.

Discovery Ranch students fill a much needed role of helping children with disabilities enjoy the sport and the companionship. "They're a lifesaver," says Robert, another parent. "My son can't play regular baseball so this is the next best thing. It's a lot of fun for the kids and the community."

Continued: **BASEBALL/** pg 4



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Josh, a Discovery Ranch student, says for him, it's a life lesson in communication. "These kids aren't the easiest to communicate with. It gives us an opportunity to put what we've learned into action."

Some of the children have little or no speaking ability. Others struggle with physical disabilities that leave them barely able to walk. Camryn, another Discovery student, has chosen a buddy with both of those disabilities. Speaking about her buddy, Cory, Camryn says she can tell when Cory is having fun. "He kind of waves his arms around when he's excited and he smiles and laughs, so that's how I tell."

She half carried, half pulled Cory around the bases. Both of them took a seat on the grass near second base. Neither seemed to mind the summer heat. When they finally made it back to home plate, both were ready for refreshments.

"I think the Ranch does this just to give us a good experience," Camryn says. "I like helping other people and making others happy." She flashes a broad smile at Cory. "It's worth it to me just to see him be happy and for him to be able to play."

Across the field a grandmother recalls the Ranch buddy her grandson had. "She and Shiloh just connected," the elderly woman explains. She says the relationship didn't end when the student graduated. "She sent him a Christmas card and Christmas present. He sent her one. She still communicates with him." The grandmother added, "Discovery Ranch is really a blessing to these kids."

Christian, took a break from batting to offer his own analysis. "I think there should be more shade, especially for

the base four kids," he observed with a serious tone. He nodded his head decidedly. "It's pretty good," he said thoughtfully. Then, brightening with a smile he added, "Especially the cupcakes and drinks!"

Camryn and Cory sat side by side, finishing their treats. He squealed and she smiled at him. "I feel really good," she said. "I feel like I accomplished something really good."

For video highlights of Buddy Baseball, please visit www.discoveryranch.net/videos.

About the Author: Jennifer C. Jones is a Communications Specialist for Discovery Academy. www.discoveryacademy.com She can be contacted by phone at 801-682-2315 or e-mail Jenniferj@redcliffascent.com.

You should have education enough so that you won't have to look up to people, and then more education so you will be wise enough not to look down on people.

~ M.L. Boren

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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.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

By Bill Valentine PsyD, CC

Good bye 2008 – and good riddance!

Always a time of review and forecast, the end of this year seems to be provoking a greater than usual amount of sober reflection among our clients, family and friends. The past year has doubtless unsettled many Boomers who have lived largely as though the good times would continue to roll and even snowball. Now the heat is on and the snowball is melting.

Our children, now in their prime earning years, are facing the possibility that they will be the first generation to not economically exceed their parents. Indeed, many are finding themselves out of work and short on prospects as entire industries implode.

Our grandchildren (can this be?) are reacting to their parents' fears with growing cynicism and disrespect for the powers that be. Kids' disillusion with adult role models is resulting in anti-social, anti-future behaviors that have many of them showing up in wilderness and residential programs.

This multi-generational storm cloud has a silver lining. There is yet another generation being heard once again, or for the first time. Our parents faced far more stressful times. Children of a depression more debilitating than our current economic difficulties, and veterans of a war that claimed hundreds of thousands of friends and family, our parents learned some lessons about life and living that we need to heed today.

In our work with parents and organizational leaders, we are increasingly hearing our clients repeating these lessons from the past:

1. If you can't pay cash, you can't afford it.
2. Things change. There are no givens
3. There is no free lunch.
4. I am not responsible for my child's happiness. That's their job.
5. I am 100% accountable for my decisions.
6. Work is your love made visible.
7. Parenting is full-time work. (Everything else is a part time job)
8. Honesty is the best policy.
9. Money can't buy happiness.
10. Never leave the house without clean underwear.

One other piece of elder advice, "'tis better to give than

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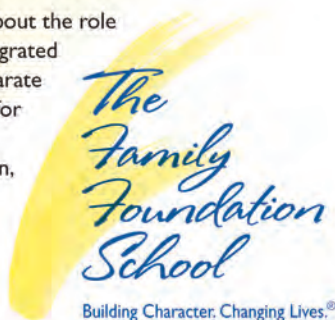


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receive,” came to mind the other day when I received the following email from a fellow coach:

“I am writing to introduce a non-profit organization designed to help veterans [from Iraq and Afghanistan] and their families and to see if you have interest in giving of yourself as a coach to returning veterans. Not all veterans have mental disorders that require therapy/ pharmacotherapy. Many come home with post-traumatic stress (NOT PTSD) and adjustment or transition issues. These are veterans who would benefit most from coaching.” The email went on to introduce Give An Hour, a 501(c)(3) founded in September 2005 by Dr. Barbara V. Romberg, a psychologist in Washington D.C. www.giveanhour.org

As I reread those words, “adjustment or transition issues,” I realized that this is an area for which a coach is uniquely qualified. Focusing on empowering clients to identify and use their strengths to meet current problems and difficulties, a coach can fill an important role in the returning veteran’s support network. For those working with parents of struggling teens and young adults, the issues of transitioning and adjusting to a “new world” are familiar ones. I suspect the coaching methodologies will likewise be similar. I intend to find out. I have volunteered my services pro bono as a coach for any veteran and/or their spouse or partner. *[Certified Coaches interested in volunteering may contact me and I will pass your name and contact information on to the organization. Licensed therapists may register on your own by going to the website.]*

And so I start this new year with resolve and resolutions:

- I will seek to serve as coach and supporter for those who may doubt themselves.
- I will read my history and heed the lessons of the past.
- I will remember the caution, “This too shall pass.”
- I will live this year with responsibility and 100% accountability.
- I will never leave the house without clean underwear.

May your new year be one of health, helping, happiness and hope.

The natural inclination of a child is to take pleasure in the use of the mind no less than of the body. The child’s primary business is learning. It is also the primary entertainment. To retain that orientation into adulthood, so that consciousness is not a burden but a joy, is the mark of the successfully developed human being.

~ Nathaniel Branden

VISITS...

GRIZZLY YOUTH ACADEMY

Camp San Luis Obispo, CA
Lt. Colonel Nancy Baird, Program Director
805-782-6891
Nancy.lee.baird@us.army.mil
www.ngvcp.org

Visit by Larry Stednitz: November 5, 2008

I live a mere 10 miles from Grizzly Youth and have driven by this program many times since my relocation to California six years ago. It is amazing to me that I never took the time to visit this fine program offering. Located on the sprawling Camp San Luis Obispo campus, just a few miles from San Luis Obispo, CA, Grizzly Youth Academy was founded in 1998. The program, called Program Youth, ChalleNGe Academy, was designed to help young adults gain the discipline and life coping skills necessary to succeed in their communities. The program, one of 34 National Guard Youth Challenge Programs across the nation, was designed to help young adults gain the discipline and life coping skills necessary to succeed in their communities.

The program accepts 16 to 18 year old youth and is fully voluntary. The program is reserved for those youth who are ready to accept responsibility for their lives. The following are the criteria for enrollment into Grizzly Youth Academy:

- a legal resident of California
- 16 to 18 years of age upon enrollment
- a high school drop-out or at-risk of dropping out
- significant credit deficiencies
- unemployed or under-employed
- free from illegal drugs/substances
- free from any serious involvement in the juvenile justice system and no felonies
- physically and mentally capable of completing the program.

To address these issues, the ChalleNGe program consists of three phases, a 2 week Pre-ChalleNGe phase, a 20 week Residential Phase, and a 12 month Post-Residential Phase.

The first phase requires the "Cadets" to undergo the rigors of military style training, although it is not considered a boot camp. During this phase, the Cadets are up in the morning at 5 A.M., and often earlier, completing physical training and learning the military procedures and practices. While rigorous, it is not an "in your face" boot camp model. Nevertheless, the physical expectations are high and designed to assess the Cadet's capability of handling the discipline in order to complete the program successfully.

The Residential phase consists of 20 weeks and focuses upon academic achievement, emotional and physical training based upon leadership, followship, community service, job skills, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, coping skills, health, hygiene and physical fitness. The Cadets attend school, participate in group psychosocial skill building activities, 12 step-meetings for those who can benefit, and achieve their completion of individualized goals. All activities are designed to strengthen the Cadets physically and mentally. During this

Continued: **GRIZZLY/** pg 8

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GRIZZLY: Continued from 7

phase, Cadets can earn one full year of high school credits in half the time it would take in their school of residence. Some may complete the GED or the California High School Equivalence.

The final phase is a one year follow up where Cadets are expected to have a mentor to provide support in helping the Cadets find work, enroll in school, continue to build upon what they learned at the Program and achieve their goals.

I spoke with several of the cadets and participated in a tour for prospective Cadets and their families. The Cadets talked about how much they have gained since enrolling in the Academy. All had fallen behind in school, some were involved in alcohol and drugs and most had extremely strained family relationships. They spoke of returning home on their two home visits over the 20 weeks and how their family relationships had improved. A common theme was the feeling of accomplishment and how their old peer group activities were no longer a strong influence upon them.

They appeared to demonstrate pride in their accomplishments and felt they would be less influenced by negative peers. The group of Cadets I spoke with sounded like, looked like and talked like a good number of young people that consultants work with every day. The big difference was that many ethnic backgrounds and those with varied social-economic backgrounds were represented. One Cadet volunteered that he was from a high-social economic background. He told me the background of his fellow Cadets gave him a significantly positive experience and broadened his perspective on life.

I asked the staff how many Cadets are headed for the military. The tour guide stressed the goals are to improve academic standing and help young people develop discipline required to be successful in life. There is no interest in recruiting future military personnel. In fact, even if the Cadet is 18, parents must approve any contact by military recruiters.

Upon enrollment, only two or three percent of the new candidates have any interest in going on to a military career. Upon completion of the program, roughly 15% may enter military service. By contrast, over 50% of the graduates enroll in community colleges upon completion of the program. It was stressed that Grizzly Academy is not a "feeder" system for the military.

Those Cadets who qualify for this program can enroll and participate free of charge. This is a good option for many young people.

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~ Harry Bassett

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Visit by Stephen Migden: September 24, 2008

The Stetson School is a residential treatment facility that specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents with sexual behavior problems. Located in rural Barre, Massachusetts, Stetson works with boys who range in age from 9 to 18 years, each of whom has a history of sexually inappropriate behavior, which may include sexual offending against others, overly compulsive sexual behavior or addiction to pornography, including internet pornography. About half of the boys at Stetson have been adjudicated as juvenile sexual offenders; although I was also told that the non-adjudicated residents do not differ significantly from the adjudicated. Because of the nature of their unique problems, the vast majority of Stetson residents are publicly funded.

In addition to having significant sexual issues, students at Stetson may also have a wide range of other behavioral or psychiatric problems including anxiety, depression, defiance to authority, drug or alcohol use, ADHD, mild learning disabilities, etc. However, the program is not set up to deal with serious substance abuse, nor will Stetson accept a youth who has a history of violence, as it is not a locked facility. Any boy accepted to Stetson must have sexually inappropriate behavior as

his major problem.

Stetson is located in a lovely, rather isolated area in Western Massachusetts. The buildings and the campus are attractive and well maintained. There are a number of separate dorm buildings, and all dorm rooms are singles, as are all bathrooms; there is 24-hour awake staffing.

Residents are responsible for some household chores such as their own laundry, but all meals are provided in a central cafeteria.

There are about 115 boys living on the campus in the separate dorms, with the program broken up into a few smaller sub-programs. For example, there are separate programs for younger boys (9 to 13) and boys with lower intellectual functioning (IQ below 80 but above 55). The school also has transitional services for older residents who are preparing to return to their communities.

Although I did not have a chance to talk with or directly interact with any of Stetson's students, I did observe a number of them playing a game of pick-up touch football with a residential counselor. They were a diverse, healthy looking group of teenagers who were clearly comfortable in their surroundings. They appeared to be serious about the game and certainly enjoying it.

I did spend a good deal of time with the Stetson leadership team, which included the educational director, the residential director and an admissions counselor. Also at this meeting, and taking a leadership role there, were the program director, Allan Ouimet, who has been at Stetson for six years, and the clinical director, Dr. Philip

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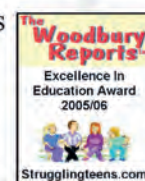
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STETSON: Continued from 9

Rich, a psychologist who, having been at Stetson for ten years, has published a number of books on the psychological treatment of sexually inappropriate boys.

Dr. Rich explained that the treatment approach at Stetson is very individualized. It utilizes a relationship-based approach that combines psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral methods. There is at least one clinician assigned to each of the school's sub-units, which allows for increased integration of the residential, educational and clinical services. Certain specialized treatment techniques, developed for use with sexually inappropriate individuals and generally endorsed by specialists in the field (such as the offense cycle or the polygraph), are employed on an as-needed basis.

The major focus, however, appears to be on providing thoughtful treatment for the whole child, including the sexually inappropriate behavior, not solely the sexual behavior problem. In addition to individual psychotherapy, residents participate in a variety of groups, art therapy, recreation therapy and family therapy, often via telephone. Family visits to the school and resident visits to home are encouraged, though maintaining safety is the key to all visit planning.

The academic program at the Stetson School follows the MA state curriculum, and the on-grounds school is state accredited. The school, which follows a 12-month schedule, has separate programs for the older boys and the younger boys. In addition to their academic classes, Stetson boys have access to a full gymnasium, an exercise room, a ropes course, an indoor swimming pool, and a woodshop.

Stetson has a group care program license from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Nursing coverage is provided from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, and after hours the nurse is on-call. The campus is handicap accessible.

About the author: Stephen Migden, Ph.D., 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. His website is www.psychologicalandeducationalservices.com.

The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt.

~ Cicero

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]

ON PURPOSE TRANSITIONS

Boulder, Colorado
 Edward J. Wenzler III, DPP, CFI, Executive Director
 303-444-0362
info@OnPurposeTransitions.com
www.OnPurposeTransitions.com

Founded in May 2007, On Purpose Transitions is a transition program for young adults who are 18 or older challenged with low performance in school resulting from ADD/ADHD, learning or nonverbal learning disabilities, substance and alcohol abuse, anxiety disorder, oppositional defiance disorder, bipolar disorder, depression, personality disorders, low self esteem and lack of confidence or motivation. Other disorders may include obsessive compulsive, post traumatic stress or cognitive disorders. Young adults in this program must be willing and able to participate in improving their performance in school or work and devote time towards creating positive change, achieving goals and work towards constructive solutions.

Primary staff at On Purpose Transitions includes Executive Director, Edward J. Wenzler III, DPP, CFI; Program Director, James L. Bell, MA, LPC, CAC III, and Counselors, Isabelle Tierney, MA, LMFT, and Matthew Tomatz, MA, LPC, CAC III.


The key feature of this program is the mentoring partnerships. They consist of a program manager who works with the young adult to create an execution plan, a psychotherapist, skills trainers who work directly with the participants to provide skills and motivation to achieve goals within the execution plan and Peer Mentors who provide support and motivation.

There are a variety of educational prospects in the Boulder area including the University of Colorado-Boulder, Naropa University, Regis University, Front Range Community College, the Culinary School of the Rockies and the Lincoln School of Technology.

For those wishing to obtain work skills, On Purpose Transitions has partnered with several employers and local temporary hiring agencies in the area to provide internships and opportunities for gaining skills in a work environment.

[This information came from the On Purpose Transitions website.]

On what principle is it that,
 when we see nothing but
 improvement behind us, we are to
 expect nothing but deterioration
 before us? ~ Thomas Macaulay.




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PENDLETON ACADEMIES

Pendleton, Oregon
Christy Hill, Quality Improvement Manager/
Admissions Coordinator
541-966-7764

Chill@pendletonacademies.org
www.pendletonacademies.org

Formerly called the Eastern Oregon Children's Multi-Treatment Center until 2005, Pendleton Academies is a therapeutic residential boarding school, therapeutic day school and treatment center for children and young adults ages 5-18 years old with severe and multiple emotional problems. These include anxiety disorders, bi-polar and depression disorders, pervasive developmental disorders or schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. In addition, they may display aggressiveness, sexual behavior, fire setting or have run away from home, with their needs exceeding their caregiver's resources.

Pendleton Academies operates as a non-profit, 501(c) 3 corporation and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), and is educationally accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS). In addition, Pendleton is accredited and licensed by the State of Oregon Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services as a provider of psychiatric residential services and assessment services; State of Oregon Department of Human Services, Children, Adults and Families Division and the Oregon Department of Education.


Therapy at Pendleton Academies includes individual, family, group, art and play therapies in addition to equine and animal assisted therapy.

A unique aspect to the program at Pendleton is the majority of the children who attend live with trained host families who live in the community. Host families, who function as part of the child's treatment team, working with the therapist, teachers and clinical staff, go through 30 hours of initial training and then continue with monthly training sessions. Having normal experiences, like living with a family and practicing acceptable behavior while attending school at the Academy, help the children move back into their own families and communities.


*[This information came from the
Pendleton Academies website.]*

A man who knows a subject so thoroughly, a man so soaked in it that he eats it, sleeps it and dreams it - this man can always teach it with success, no matter how little he knows of technical pedagogy.

~ H. L. Mencken



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EXTENDED INSIGHTS...

MIGDEN ARRANGES SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS CONFERENCE

Notes by Stephen Migden Ph.D., ABPP

On October 20, senior staff from Oxbow Academy met with a group of New York based mental health professionals to discuss the residential treatment of boys with sexual behavior problems. The conference, at the Melville Marriott, in Melville, NY, was arranged by Steve Migden, educational consultant in Roslyn Heights, NY and the East Coast Liaison for Woodbury Reports. Oxbow, a residential treatment center based in Wales, UT that offers specialized residential treatment for adolescent boys who have inappropriate sexual behavior, was represented by Steve Schultz, Shawn Brooks and Heather Green.

The conference, by invitation only, was attended by psychologists, psychiatric social workers and probation officers who specialize in working with sexually inappropriate youth. The professionals in attendance all practice in Nassau and Suffolk counties, the two suburban counties of Long Island, NY.

Hosted by Steve Schultz, who directs the marketing program for Oxbow, the meeting featured presentations by Shawn Brooks, the executive director of Oxbow, and Heather Green, LCSW, the program's clinical director. Shawn and Heather discussed issues in the residential and clinical treatment of sexually inappropriate boys, with a particular focus on the unique aspects of the treatment program provided at Oxbow.

Shawn, who has been at Oxbow since its founding, emphasized the importance of providing an integrated treatment milieu in which residential and clinical professionals support each other, while all work together to achieve overall program goals. He also focused on the important role that the peer group plays in a well-functioning residential program, illustrating his

presentation with videotapes of interviews with some Oxbow residents.

Heather described the clinical assessment and treatment model used at Oxbow. Drawing on her prior experiences with adult sexual offenders and adjudicated youth in publicly funded programs, as well as her more recent experiences at Oxbow (which serves private pay clients), Heather emphasized that sexually inappropriate youth have unique treatment needs requiring highly specialized treatment. She stated they should not be placed in programs designed to provide treatment to other types of adolescent behavior problems, such as substance abuse or oppositionalism.

In her presentation, Heather addressed a number of other topics in the treatment of this population, including the clinical use of the polygraph and the clinical process of reuniting the sexually inappropriate boy with his victim. She also described the treatment of the victim-less sexually inappropriate boy, such as those who are addicted to pornography. The New York area professionals who attended the meeting seemed particularly interested in the therapeutic use of horses at Oxbow. Most reported that, prior to the meeting, they had been completely unaware of equine therapy.

One highlight of the meeting was the group's discussion of the all-important differences between sexually inappropriate youth and adult sexual offenders. All seemed to agree that the mass media and courts have too often failed to recognize this difference to the detriment of boys who have sexual behavior problems. Both the mental health professionals and the probation officers who were present agreed, that one result of this was an unfortunate focus on punishment for sexually inappropriate teens rather than on the specialized treatment that they need.

Following the meeting, Steve Migden announced that he has plans to organize a similar conference next year.



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SEEN N HEARD

SANDERSON SPEAKS AT ESI CONFERENCE

(November 18, 2008) Dr. Daniel Sanderson, Clinical Director at RedCliff Ascent, spoke at the 12th annual conference on Critical Issues Facing Children and Adolescents. The conference was sponsored by ESI Management Group in partnership with the Children's Behavioral Health Institute, Primary Children's Medical Center, the University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute, the Edward G. Callister Foundation and the Utah Department of Health. For more information contact Jennifer Jones, Communications Specialist at 801-682-2315.

OSBOW STAFF PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOP

(November 19, 2008) Oxbow Academy's Heather Green and Shawn Brooks, Clinical Director and Executive Director, were guest presenters at a continuing education seminar on recognizing and treating teens with sexual dependencies sponsored by Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy Programs. In attendance were local clinicians, mental health professionals, school counselors and juvenile probation officers. For additional information on this, contact Jennifer Jones, Communications Specialist at 801-682-2315.

LAUGHLIN LAUNCHES SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION

(November 21, 2008) Director and co-founder of Impossible2Possible (I2P), Will Laughlin, 919-428-0050, is excited about I2P's latest expedition, a 700 mile record setting run to the South Pole which will be gathering data for three research projects. Will Laughlin has worked in both traditional and special needs education for 20 years, including Vive!, CEDU and a number of other programs. Impossible2Possible guides young adults and youth in learning adventures that highlight critical environmental issues in the areas where these adventures take place. For more information on I2P and this expedition or future expeditions, contact Will Laughlin.

PEAVEY JOINS RIGHT DIRECTION

(November 24, 2008) Right Direction Crisis Intervention (RDCI) has announced Audrey Peavey has joined the Right Direction Team as their Client Services Manager. Audrey comes to Right Direction in Salt Lake City, UT, after eight years working as the Admissions and Marketing Director for New Horizons for Young Women. Audrey has also been actively involved in NATSAP over the past four years where most recently she is finishing a two-year term on the Board of Directors. For more information, contact Audrey Peavey at 207-356-0930.

REAZIN LEAVES IN BALANCE RANCH

(November 24, 2008) David Reazin said goodbye to his clients, families and coworkers at In Balance Ranch in Tucson, AZ. David, who had worked as a therapist for the past four years, decided to move back to Virginia to be near his family. For questions or concerns, contact Patrick Barrasso, owner and Program Director at 520-390-4426.

JCAHO ACCREDITED FULSHEAR RANCH ACADEMY

(November 24, 2008) Fulshear Ranch Academy, in Needville, TX, an InnerChange program, has been granted a Comprehensive Accreditation for Behavioral Health Care by The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Every InnerChange program: New Haven, Sunrise, Fulshear Ranch Academy, and Alldredge Wilderness Journey are all now accredited by The Joint Commission. For information, contact Ashley Auchterlonie, Director of Marketing at 281-414-3026 (Mobile).

ASPIRO MOVES INTO NEW HOME

(November 25, 2008) Aspiro has moved from its former leased base camp to a new facility. It includes a 7,600 sq. foot facility which will hold offices and conference areas plus a 4,000 sq. foot warehouse. In addition, Aspiro has acquired 120 acres of spectacular land bordering the National Forest. For more information on this move, contact Brian Church, Vice President and Business Development at 801-349-2740.

RED ROCK CANYON SCHOOL FED 1500 FOR THANKSGIVING

(November 26, 2008) An article featured in The Spectrum, reports the students and staff at Red Rock Canyon School, along with other community members were preparing to feed 1500 people in the community, a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at the school. As part

of an ongoing tradition, the students learn about helping others and participate with the cooking, dishing and serving as well as the clean up.

CHARTER SCHOOL HELPS AT-RISK YOUTH

(November 26, 2008) Hyde School in Bath, ME has written an article chronicling a young man's journey through his stay and eventual graduation from the Hyde School. To read this article in full, visit the struggling teen's website, or for more information on the Hyde School, contact Rose Mulligan, Marketing and Media Outreach at 207-443-7379.

CANADVENTURE ACCREDITED BY AEE

(November 28, 2008) Sandra Hamilton, Marketing Director for Can Adventure Education, Vancouver Island, BC, Canada, 250-412-7723, reported CanAdventure has been fully accredited by the Association of Experiential Education (AEE), one of only two organizations in Canada to gain full accreditation. For more information contact Sandra by phone or email.

REDCLIFF ASCENT ON THE NET

(November 29, 2008) Parents, alumni and staffers at Redcliff Ascent in Springville, UT, are keeping connected via the Internet. Blogging, FaceBook and YouTube are all creative ways the program is communicating, sharing photos, videos and messages. For more information, contact Redcliff Ascent at 800-898-1244.

JOHNSON & CALDER VISIT WOODBURY REPORTS

(December 3, 2008) Jan Johnson, MSW, LCSW, Executive Director of Summit Preparatory School and Jason Calder, LMFT, LCPC, Clinical Therapist at Summit Prep stopped by Woodbury Reports, Inc. for a visit while touring programs in North Idaho.

PINNACLE NAMES DIRECTORS & ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR

(December 3, 2008) The Pinnacle Schools in Huntsville, AL, announced the following new staff appointments: Zane Slocumb, L.P.C., N.C.C., D.A.P.A. has been appointed as the Clinical Director of the Elk River Wilderness Challenge, Elk River Lifestyle Challenge and Elk River Academy. He holds a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from Alabama A&M University and is a licensed professional counselor, a nationally certified counselor and diplomat of the American Psychotherapy Association. Bonnie Robertson, RN, MSN, CRNP has been named Director of Medical Services. Robertson is a Nurse Practitioner with over 25 years experience; Ann Corley, B.A. has been named the Director of Marketing and Admissions of The Pinnacle Schools and Carah Lynn Billups, B.A., M.A., M.Ed. has been named Academic Administrator for The Pinnacle Schools and Elk River Academy. For more information, contact Alexa Nuessle at 256-518-9998.

WILDERNESS PROGRAMS RAMP UP FOR ADMISSIONS SURGE

(December 4, 2008) PR Web reports more families are turning towards wilderness therapy programs, such as SUWS and Aspen Education Group for support and help with their struggling teens during the stressful holiday season, where many parents are pushed to the breaking point with their acting out, defiant and angry teen.

HAPPENINGS AT OLIVERIAN

(December 5, 2008) The Oliverian School is offering its students an Intersession trip in February 2009, to Bosque Seco Lalo Loor, Ecuador, where students will be working and living in the village, helping the Peace Corps volunteers with local projects, reforestation projects and assisting with data collection. Also at the school, Martial Arts has been added as an activity for students which focuses on Kenpo, a Japanese art form on discipline and self defense and is taught by Sensai Joe Champagne, a local instructor. For more information on The Oliverian School, contact Julie Gaffey at 603-989-5100.

TRIPLETT MOVES ON

(December 7, 2008) After 2 ½ years at Morningside Recovery, Jana Triplett has left Morningside Recovery, and has taken a position at Mark Houston Recovery Center in Manor, Texas. Her new phone

Continued: SEEN N HEARD/ pg 16



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SEEN N HEARD: Continued from 15

number is 512-289-4143. If you have questions concerning Morningside, contact Mark Greenberg or Jeremy Broderick at 949-675-0006.

TIMBER RIDGE PARENTS SCHOLARSHIP

(December 8, 2008) The parents of a recent graduate of Timber Ridge Preparatory School for Girls in Clark Fork, ID, have established a scholarship for one new student who enrolls into Timber Ridge in the amount of \$1000.00 per month for the next 12 months. Please call Virginia Short, Director of Admissions at 208-777-1615 for more information.

SAVING TEENS CALABORATIVE BBB MEMBER

(December 8, 2008) Saving Teens In Crisis Collaborative (STICC) has announced they have met all 20 Standards of Charity Accountability and is now a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity and has received a license to display the BBB Seal on their website and is now in the BBB National Database as an Accredited Charity. For more information, contact Patricia R. Abreu, Executive Director at 617-894-1703.

REAP CALLS FOR PAPERS FOR SYMPOSIUM

(December 9, 2008) The 5th Annual Research and Evaluation of Adventure Programming (REAP) Symposium will be held March 18-20, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Atlanta, Georgia. For more information on the symposium contact Alison Rheingold at 978-524-4650 or by email.

PARENT PLEASED WITH BERKSHIRE HILLS MUSIC ACADEMY

(December 10, 2009) In a letter to Berkshire Hills Music Academy, a parent from Morris, NY, shared the positive experience their 16 year old daughter, with Down syndrome and is on the autism spectrum, had at their Summer Camp Program, which they discovered while reading a review of the school written by Larry Stednitz. To view this letter in its entirety, visit the struggling teen's website.

WHITE MOUNTAIN OFFERS SUMMER ADVENTURES

(December 10, 2008) White Mountain School, Bethlehem, NH has announced their upcoming 2009 summer adventure programs, which include: Exploration and Expression, June 27-July 12, 2009; White Mountain Kayak, July 12-July 18, 2009; White Mountain Climbing, July 12- July 18, 2009 and Ultimate Northeast, July 18-August 7, 2009. For more information, contact Ben Mirkin, Director, at 603-444-2928.

CHAPEL HAVEN WEST ON ABC WORLD NEWS

(December 10, 2008) ABC World News has featured an article on Chapel Haven West Program, a transitional residential program for young adults with autism attending the University of Arizona in Tucson.

HILLSTEAD JOINS REDCLIFF ASCENT


(December 10, 2008) Dr. David Hillstead has joined the team at RedCliff Ascent, Springville, UT as a therapist. Dr. David Hillstead has more than 11 years experience as a therapist, with his prior experience at Aspen Achievement and Second Nature. Dr. Hillstead earned his doctoral degree in Marriage and Family therapy from Brigham Young University. For more information, contact Steve Nadauld at 801-380-8819.

MCKINNON BOOK "AN UNCHANGED MIND" NOW AVAILABLE

(December 10, 2008) John McKinnon, MD has announced his book: "An Unchanged Mind: The Problem of Immaturity in Adolescence", about the struggle teenagers have in growing up, is available now at Lantern Books Warehouse. To order call 1-800-856-8664 or order online.

BURDICK VISITS PATHWAYS OF ARGENTINA

(December 11, 2008) Pathways of Argentina had a visitor last month, Dr. Mark Burdick, an educational consultant, who spent 5 days in Mendoza, exploring and visiting the program. While there, Mark, a




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song writer who had a number of his songs recorded by artists in the 80's, started a song with the students, which they hope will be completed in spite of his busy schedule. For more information on Pathways contact owners, Rich and Wendy Simpson at 208-935-6195.

STAFF CHANGE AT ASPEN INSTITUTE FOR BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

(December 11, 2008) Jared Balmer, PhD, Executive Director for Aspen Institute for Behavioral Assessment in Syracuse, UT, 801-825-5222 announced Dr. Parth Gandhi has left Aspen Institute to pursue independent psychological consulting interest. In addition, Dr. David Ericksen, a licensed clinical neuropsychologist has joined the team. Dr. Ericksen obtained his PhD. in 1982 from the University of Utah and has worked with numerous inpatient and residential programs for adolescents and adults since 1980.

VARDELL PART OF ISLAND VIEW FUTURE

(December 11, 2008) In an announcement from Dr. Jared Balmer, Executive Director, Aspen Institute for Behavioral Assessment and Island View RTC, Don Vardell will take over as Executive Director of Island View effective January 12, 2009. Don has served as Executive Director of Peninsula Village, Academy of Swift River and most recently, Excel Academy. Don Vardell can be reached at 801-773-0200 and Jared Balmer at 801-825-5222.

PAT MOORE FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 23 YEARS

(December 11, 2008) The Pat Moore Foundation in Costa Mesa, CA, 866-537-6495, celebrated 23 years of drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery on November 13, 2008, with a gratitude luncheon for staff, family and friends, with special guest speaker Donald J. Kurth, MD, FASAM, MBA, MPA.

RED HILL ACADEMY GRAND OPENING

(December 12, 2008) Red Hill Academy in San Anselmo, CA, is pleased to announce their grand opening event will happen January 21 and 22, 2009 with a cocktail and dinner event at Insalata's on the 21st and a brunch, tour and question and answer period with the

students following on the 22nd. For more information or assistance with travel and accommodations, contact Jodie Mathison at 415-256-9312 or contact her via her email.

ALPINE ACADEMY ADDS TRANSITION PROGRAM

(December 15, 2008) Alpine Academy, Erda, UT is excited to announce the addition of a small transition and life skills program, named FOUNDATIONS, to their facility. Also, the academy is proud to announce their full academic accreditation with NAAS, as a secondary special purpose school that serves students from 7-12 grades. For more information on Alpines news, contact Janet Mulitalo, Program Director at 800-244-1113.

WELLSPRING ADVICE ON WEIGHT LOSS GOALS

(December 15, 2008) News Blaze reports Wellspring Weight loss camps have shared advice with families whose teens have made their New Year's resolution to lose weight and exercise.

ONE PEARL DONATES TO SAVING TEENS

(December 15, 2008) Theresa Wing Hines, founder of One Pearl, a private jewelry business, and a Saving Teens in Crisis Collaborative (STICC) board member, held a sale of her jewelry during the holiday season, and donated 40% of all of their web purchases to Saving Teens in Crisis Collaborative. For more information on this, contact John D. Reuben, President and Founder of STICC at 877-249-1336.

SECOND NATURE PROGRAMS 1ST TO RECEIVE ACCREDITATION

(December 15, 2008) Devan Glissmeyer, PhD; Brad Reedy PhD; Cheryl Kehl, LCSW; and Vaughn Heath PhD, founders of Second Nature are proud to announce Second Nature is the first therapeutic wilderness program accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. In addition, the visiting accreditation team has asked Second Nature's Academic Administrator to assist in the ongoing development of academic standards and evaluations for all

Continued: SEEN N HEARD/ pg 18



Photo by Skyler Jensen

THE GATE OF HISTORY SWINGS ON SMALL HINGES, AND SO DO PEOPLE'S LIVES.



With the click of a mouse your son may be stepping into a trap carefully laid to prey upon his own developing body. More than 11 million teens view pornography on line (Washington Post 2004). *Early intervention can help your boy break free.*

Oxbow offers treatment *specifically designed for teenaged boys who struggle with sexual dependency.* Here students can acknowledge their behaviors more quickly, then learn to overcome them.

If you fear your son may struggle with sexual dependency, don't make him fight alone.

Answers and information are available at www.oxbowacademy.net or call Barbara at 435-590-7198

SEEN N HEARD: Continued from 17

wilderness programs.

12: IS THERE LIFE AFTER REHAB IN RECOVERY

(December 15, 2008) Jack V. Sinclair, 405-842-2334, announced the documentary "12" - Is There Life after Rehab in Recovery? is now available in DVD format. This 44 minute documentary is about young people who are seeking recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. For more information contact Jack by phone or email.

EXCITEMENT AT AULDERN ACADEMY

(December 16, 2008) Aulderm Academy in Siler City, NC announced they have just received full accreditation from the National Independent Private Schools Association for both their academics and therapeutic program. In addition, six students graduated from the program on December 13, 2008, releasing colorful balloons as a symbolic gesture of their new lives. For more information on Aulderm Academy, contact Jane Samuel or Joyce Latimer at 919-837-2336.

ALLDREDGE ACADEMY TO CLOSE DEC. 31

(December 16, 2008) In a letter written by David Michel, President and CEO of InnerChange, it was announced that Allredge Academy will be closing as of December 31, 2008, due to low census levels and the current market downturn and national economic slump. For more information, contact David Michel at 214-272-6870 or by email. To view this letter in its entirety, visit www.strugglingteens.com.

ATG ANNOUNCES AT-HOME PROGRAM

(December 16, 2008) Achievement Transition Group, Missoula, MT, 406-546-9574, announced the addition of their new program: AT-HOME, which is an early intervention service that assists parents by providing support and connects them to community resources to help keep their struggling teen at home. For more information, contact James Morton, CEO of ATG at 406-546-9574.

BOBBIE JENSEN JOINS CARE SCHOOLS

(December 16, 2008) Bobbie Jensen announced she has joined CARE Schools (Falcon Ridge in Virgin, UT, 866-968-4673 and Red Rock

Canyon, St. George, UT, 800-635-4441) as their Assistant Admissions Director. Bobbie previously worked as Admissions Director at Sunrise Academy. For more information, contact Bobbie at 435-673-6111 x 106.

OXBOW & FREER SEMINAR ON PORN

(December 16, 2008) The Oregonian reports professionals that included social workers, psychologists; school counselors and foster parents attended a workshop presented by Heather Green, Clinical Director of Oxbow Academy and Shawn Brooks, Executive Director at Oxbow, addressing the growing concerns parents have with their children's use of online pornography. Oxbow staffs have been giving workshops across the country similar to one that was organized by the Catherine Freer Wilderness Therapy program in November in Albany, OR.

SUMMIT PREP FEATURED IN MONTANA LIVING

(December 17, 2008) Summit Prep School in Kalispell, MT, 406-758-8113 shared their exciting news with us: an article about the school and its program is featured in the December issue of Montana Living magazine, which you can view in its entirety on their website.

FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOOL NEWS

(December 18, 2008) Rabbi Michele Medwin is the new Director of Jewish Studies at The Family Foundation School in Hancock, NY, 845-887-5213, replacing Ellen Singer who retired after serving in the post for 13 years. Medwin joined FFS a year ago and currently leads weekly Jewish services on campus and teaches classes in Beginning Hebrew, "The Jewish Approach to the 12 Steps," and meditation techniques. She also serves as rabbi for a Jewish congregation in nearby Monticello, NY. Another exciting happening at FFS includes Athletic Director and head coach, Bill Musgrove, has been named Section IX winner of the 2008-2009 Athletic Administrator Award by the New York State Athletic Administrators Association. Musgrove has been on staff at FFS since 1997. Additional news from FFS includes a record mid-year graduation of 39 students received both Family Foundation School and New York State Regents diplomas at



BENCHMARK YOUNG ADULT SCHOOL

The Solution for Troubled Teens & Young Adults

For students who are struggling to find success, Benchmark can be the answer. As a residential emotional growth school for young adults 18-28 years of age, Benchmark's mission is to prepare young people to become capable of attaining their own level of emancipation and independence.

Benchmark's proven results set the standard as a transitional living school by providing an environment built for success. Our established curriculum includes an exclusive combination of dynamic emotional growth classes, traditional educational options, independent living and relationship development situations, caring and experienced life coaches and mentors as well as real-life work skills opportunities. They will stretch their wings - and fly!



For information
and admissions call
Richard Brimhall

1-800-474-4848

admissions@benchmarkyas.com

Visit our web site at www.BenchmarkYoungAdultSchool.com

ceremonies held on December 13, 2008, with 34 of the students admitted to 2- or 4-year colleges beginning in January or next fall.

FFS EARNS GOLD SEAL

(December 18, 2008) The Family Foundation School, Hancock, NY, 845-887-5213 has been accredited by the Joint Commission, earning the Gold Seal of Approval™ for meeting the group's national standards for safety and quality behavioral health care services. A Joint Commission evaluation team visited the school and conducted an extensive on-site survey in October. FFS president, Emmanuel ("Mike") Argiros, shared their therapeutic program is now receiving the same recognition for excellence as their academic program. For more information on the Family Foundation School, contact Jeff Brain, MA, and VP for External Relations and Acting Director of Admissions.

AULDERN ACADEMY LAUDED BY NIPSA OFFICIAL

(December 18, 2008) Jane Samuel, MA and Head of School at Aldern Academy, Siler City, NC, 919-837-2336 received a letter from Allan J. Blau, EdD, VP Clinical Certification for the National Independent Private School Association, who performed the therapeutic portion of their recent accreditation. To view this in its entirety, visit the struggling teen's website.

CROSSROADS ACADEMY OPENS SKATEPARK

(December 18, 2008) Sam Dahlin, PhD., LMFT, Owner and Clinical Director of Crossroads Academy, Ogden, UT, 801-369-0238, shared with us that Crossroads Academy opened up its own 9000 sq. foot skateboard and snowboard shop with an indoor skate park on November 15th. The store allows the boys to gain work experience and a hands on business 101 course, in addition to providing the community a drug free environment for kids and adults. For more information on this, contact Sam by phone or email.

CORE TO PUBLICIZE NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION DAY

(December 18, 2008) Coalition for Residential Education (CORE), Bethesda, MD, 301-656-6101, is excited to share a new CORE event, The National Residential Education Day, on May 6, 2009, in which CORE will explain "residential education" to national media and organizations and CORE members will reach out to local and state individuals and organizations, inviting them to visit and learn about their specific RE program. For more information, contact Heidi Goldsmith, Executive Director of CORE.

THE LOSS OF BRIAN EDWARD BREKKE

(December 18, 2008) Brian Edward Brekke, 30, the son of John and Nancy Brekke, Owners of Wilderness Treatment Center, passed way Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, in Tempe, Arizona. He was born Oct. 12, 1978 in Kalispell, MT. Brian graduated from Montana State University with a degree in psychology and started his career as a wilderness instructor for Wilderness Treatment Center. He then became a licensed addiction counselor and continued his work at WTC until 2004. At age 26, Brian followed his dream and became a founding member of Sober College in Woodland Hills, CA, and as that program became successful, he wanted to do more. His drive helped him to develop Sober College University. For more information, contact Ben Dorrington, LAC, Director of Referral Relations at WTC; 406-854-2832. Woodbury Reports extends our condolences.

ACADEMY AT SISTERS HOSTS NEW BLOG

(December 19, 2008) The Academy at Sisters in Bend, OR, announced its Academic Department has posted a new informational blog site for their parents. It displays the students' work, class projects and field trips. There are individual sites for both the Read Campus and the Lodge Campus. The parent login has graduated security and postings are updated weekly. For more information, contact Guy LeGuyonne at 800-910-0412.

NEW VIEWS FOR CLEARVIEW

(December 19, 2008) Mary Thielbahr, Clearview Horizon, 208-263-5894, announced the lodge at Clearview has two new wings from which students and staff enjoy wilderness views during therapy and yoga. These views include a creek and endless forest with the mountain ridges, in addition to supplying comfortable viewing areas for watching the students on the sledding hill.

PINE RIVER INSTITUTE RE-OPENS BENO'S GYM

(December 19, 2008) Working since last May, students and staff at Pine River Institute have refurbished an old garage on campus with new flooring, walls, doors and trims, insulation and paint to officially re-open Beno's Gym which is now equipped with top quality work out equipment and boxing equipment. In addition, staff member Mile Benotto brought in Heavy bags, speed bags and boxing gloves. For more information contact John Fallis, Executive Director at 519-925-9225.

JOHN DEWEY'S 2009 GRADUATES ADMITTED IN EARLY DECISION

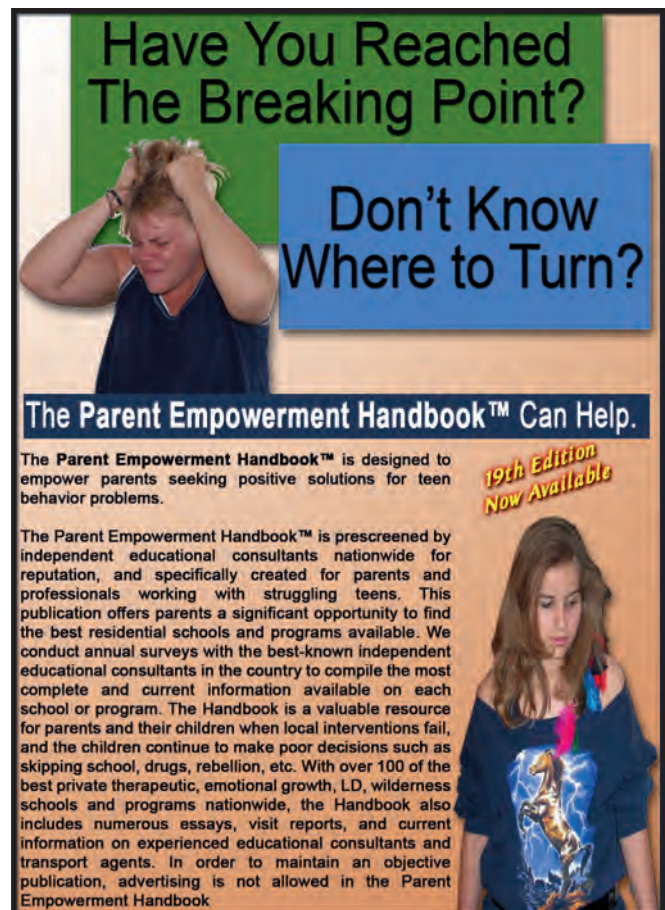
(December 19, 2008) Tom Bratter, President of John Dewey Academy, Great Barrington, MA, announced members of the JDA class of 2009, were admitted, early decision and will attend Columbia University, Grinnell and Skidmore Colleges and The University of Chicago. For more information call 413-528-9800.

APPARENT PROGRAM AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

(December 22, 2008) Woodbury Reports, Inc. has found through persistent phone calls and web site searches that several programs and schools appear to have closed. These include Big Sky Youth Home, Robert Brown and Robert Becker, Program Directors, Thompson Falls, MT; Distant Drums, founded by Mark and Lee Wardle, Nephi, UT, and Sommerville Young Adult Community in Cleveland, TX, Terrence Mullaney, Director.

A little government and a little
luck are necessary in life, but only a
fool trusts either of them.

~ P.J. O'Rourke



Have You Reached The Breaking Point?

Don't Know Where to Turn?

The Parent Empowerment Handbook™ Can Help.

The Parent Empowerment Handbook™ is designed to empower parents seeking positive solutions for teen behavior problems.

The Parent Empowerment Handbook™ is prescreened by independent educational consultants nationwide for reputation, and specifically created for parents and professionals working with struggling teens. This publication offers parents a significant opportunity to find the best residential schools and programs available. We conduct annual surveys with the best-known independent educational consultants in the country to compile the most complete and current information available on each school or program. The Handbook is a valuable resource for parents and their children when local interventions fail, and the children continue to make poor decisions such as skipping school, drugs, rebellion, etc. With over 100 of the best private therapeutic, emotional growth, LD, wilderness schools and programs nationwide, the Handbook also includes numerous essays, visit reports, and current information on experienced educational consultants and transport agents. In order to maintain an objective publication, advertising is not allowed in the Parent Empowerment Handbook.

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In the many classrooms of Aspen Education Group - a young person's journey begins.

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