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## AREN'T PARENTS TO BLAME?

By Lon Woodbury



We have come a long way in the last 30 years in programs for struggling teens. In the 1970s, a number of things happened that created the impression that if a child had behavioral problems, it was the parent's fault. Laws were passed in virtually all states to protect these children from what was considered abuse, and part of the result was that any time a child acted out, or acted in, it was generally believed that it was the fault of the parents.

This automatic "blame the parents" attitude had a long history. Long before the 1970s, a mother was blamed for being "cold" if her son turned out to be gay. There was a similar blame against the mother if a child was autistic. Increasingly, fathers became suspect as possible predators, and if there were abuse in the house, it was always blamed on the father first.

By the 1970s laws were passed in most states to punish parents if abuse could be found. It got so bad that if a child so much as made an accusation against a parent, many social workers would proclaim "A Child Would Not Lie!" and proceeded automatically to move against the parents, even using a small child's complaints against the parents. I'm not by any means indicating that all children lied or that there weren't legitimate cases of real abuses involving parents, but in so many of the cases children were trying to "get back" at their parents for following through on boundary setting or because the parent had said no to them.

As cases wound their way through the courts, and some of the most visible of the cases were thrown out because they were found to be baseless, there was a revision of the widespread "blame the parents" accusation.

By the time I started as admissions director for an emotional growth boarding school in 1984, the "blame the parents" perspective was on its way out, especially in parent-choice schools and programs for struggling teens. Blaming the parents was counterproductive in most cases and professionals were beginning to realize just how counterproductive. By being parent choice, these schools and programs began to realize that whether or not parents were the cause of the problem, they absolutely were in almost all cases part of the solution. The old maxim said parents had messed up their children and their only duty was to enroll the child, not interfere with the school or program so the child could be "fixed." The new maxim became helping the parents become better parents at the same time the children were helped to learn more positive attitudes and behaviors. This new maxim not only reduced relapse when the child returned home, but convinced more parents to flee from the mainstream education and mental health systems when these systems were not helping their children. More and more families turned to private, parent choice options for their families as they realized the mainstream systems were broken.

Parents need help; they need advice and parenting education, not a punishment that might make their children virtual orphans. I recently interviewed a radio show guest about this topic. We discussed the recognition in parent choice schools and programs, and to a lesser extent education and mental health systems, that blaming the parents is not only pointless, but even harmful to the children. When the parents are the cause of their child's troubles, isolating parents from children doesn't help to fix the problem. It is much more productive to work with the parents and family as a whole.

## SCOTTS VALLEY SCHOOL

Yoncalla, OR  
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[www.scottsvalleyschool.com](http://www.scottsvalleyschool.com)

Scotts Valley School is a therapeutic boarding school. The program is designed to address negative behavioral issues, which may include experimentation with drugs and alcohol, self-sabotaging, lack of motivation, low self-esteem, defiance, and/or manipulative behaviors. The Comprehensive Program, which includes therapy and academics, is six to eighteen months. They also offer a 90 day Focus Program for youth that you may need to evaluate their placement needs, refocus their behavior or do not need a long term program.

The program is licensed as a therapeutic boarding school. David M. Thomas, M.S. Psy.D, is the Executive Director of the program.

The academic Program includes a comprehensive and fully accredited college prep curriculum complete with advanced placement and honors courses.

The program offers two seminars that include the parents and family members are provided to supercharge the progress of the students toward a great life. Completion of these seminars by the enrolled student and parents provides the maximum effectiveness in creating a great student-family fit for a returning student.

The campus is located in Oregon on over 20-acres where it contains a full indoor gymnasium, a football/soccer field, a baseball diamond, and other areas for exercise and play. Students who will remain with them through the season of a particular sport are able to play on the team at the local high school. This includes football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, and soccer, limited only by the trust level of the student. The youth also get to attend off-campus activities to include white-water river rafting, local hiking and camping, and deep-sea fishing.

*[This information came from the Scotts Valley School website]*

## INTERVENTION ASAP

Phoenix, Arizona  
Carey Davidson, M.A.C., Founder/Director  
602-606-2995  
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<http://interventionasap.com>

Intervention ASAP helps people of all ages with addictions realize that they have an addiction before they hit rock bottom. They can help the family on the families' terms with the help of a professional interventionist.

Carey Davidson is the founder of Intervention ASAP. He has a Master's degree from Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies, addiction counseling (MAC). The desire for him to help

others came from his own life experiences. After he graduated college and began his career in the fast-paced business world, he started drinking heavily. His addiction cost him all but his life. He went through a rehab program and ended up relapsing again three years later with only his sister and parents to help intervene. He is now here to help others in the same way.

The Interventionists will listen to the needs of each family and create individualized intervention plans, explore treatment facility options and execute interventions with the families. In addition to the initial stage, Intervention ASAP will also provide an escort to treatment, a family follow-up conference, and questions, updates, and treatment expectations are explained and sobriety coaching is made available.

*[This information came from the Intervention ASAP website]*

## MERCY HOME FOR BOYS & GIRLS

Chicago, IL  
Father Scott Donahue, President and CEO  
877-247-8278  
[admissions@mercyhome.org](mailto:admissions@mercyhome.org)  
[www.mercyhome.org](http://www.mercyhome.org)

Founded in 1887, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls is a privately funded Catholic organization ministering to children in crisis. The organization operates a residential youth program for children under the age of 18 who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. Children are accepted both from private families as well as the Department of Children and Family Services. Youth enrolling in the program must commit to a year long stay at Mercy Home.

President and CEO of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls is Father Scott Donahue, who prior to becoming President served as Associate President of the organization for 10 years. He also has served on their Board of Regents and holds multiple Master's degrees in social work, theology, and applied spirituality.

Each child in the care of Mercy Home has an individual plan created to help address emotional, behavioral, and educational issues unique to that child. The plan contains goals for the child to work towards during their time at Mercy Home. Each child is also assigned to the care of an individual staff member who guides the child on a day to day basis in terms of needs and meeting goals. Youth over the age of 16 are required to obtain a part-time job with the assistance of the staff in locating the position. Children in the program are placed in an appropriate school by members of the admissions staff. The schools attended by youth in the program vary from parochial, public, and alternative schools. Specific educational plans for each child address educational needs including goal-setting, motivation, and learning disabilities.

Aftercare, a unique attribute of the organization allows the program to continue to follow the progress of the youth even after they have left the home and assist them with transitioning into other environments whether it is college, internships, finding jobs and apartments, or providing counseling.

*[This information came from the Mercy Home for Boys & Girls website.]*

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- **Dr. Kathleen T. Brady, MD, PhD** - Professor of Psychiatry, Medical University of South Carolina; Researcher
- **Dr. Thomas J. Brady, MD, MBA** - Medical Director, Villa Fairmont Mental Health Rehabilitation Center; Medical Director, Sausal Creek Outpatient Stabilization Clinic; Behavioral Health Consultant
- **Lee T. Feldman** - Co-Chair & Chief Scientific Officer, Integrya; Executive Director and Member of the Managing Board, The Institutes for Human Security
- **Dr. Marc Fishman, MD** - Medical Director, Maryland Treatment Centers; Psychiatry Faculty Member, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; President, Maryland Society of Addiction Medicine
- **Dr. Michael T. Flaherty, PhD** - Founder, Institute for Research, Education and Training in the Addictions (IRETA)
- **Dr. Norman G. Hoffmann, PhD** - President, Evinco Clinical Assessments; Adjunct Professor of Psychology, Western Carolina University
- **Jim Hudak, MPP** - Chief Executive Officer, Paradigm Management Services
- **General Barry R. McCaffrey, MA** - Former Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; President, BR McCaffrey Associates LLC
- **Cardwell C. Nuckols, MA, PhD** - Author; Former Clinician, Program Director and Hospital Administrator
- **Dr. David Powell, PhD, CCS, LADC, LMFT** - President, International Center for Health Concerns, Inc. and the Clinical Supervision Institute; Author (Clinical Supervision in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling, 2004)
- **Gerald Shulman, MA, MAC, FACATA** - President, Shulman & Associates; Behavioral Health Consultant and Trainer



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## New Perspectives:

### THE SPIRE SCHOOL

Stamford, Connecticut  
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The Spire School was founded in 2010 by Greenwich Education and Prep. The private day school is designed to help students, grades 8-12, develop resilience, responsibility and self-efficacy. The school's curriculum emphasizes wellness and personal growth for students who struggle with depression, anxiety, and other emotional challenges.

Executive Director, Frank Bartolomeo, Ph.D., has over 20 years experience in the child and adolescent mental health field. He has worked in residential treatment centers, schools, outpatient clinics, and hospitals in the Boston area. He has served as Co-Chair of the

Children's Group Therapy Association in Boston. He has also worked for the Academy at Swift River as Executive Director. Greenwich Education and Prep schools are accredited by Middle States as K-12 Supplementary Education Centers.

Students of The Spire School are intellectually capable individuals who simply require additional direction or assistance to achieve their full academic potential. The academic program for each student is individualized and allows for students to address issues about their academic ability and potential scholastic achievement. The curriculum is based on a metacognitive approach and emphasizes exercise, nutrition, self-care, communication skills, listening, empathy, and conflict resolution.

The Spire School puts great emphasis on parental involvement in their child's academic progress and success. The staff of the program collaborates with family members and other professionals to best address the needs of the individual student.

*[This information came from their website.]*

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## EXTENDED INSIGHTS...

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### CUMBERLAND HEIGHTS

Nashville, TN  
Hugh Nash - Director of Admissions  
800-646-9998  
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[www.cumberlandheights.org](http://www.cumberlandheights.org)

Visit by: Candace Bynum, September 13 – 14, 2011

Each year music lovers in the Nashville area wait anxiously to find out who will be performing at John Hiatt's Concert for Cumberland Heights—a fund raiser held annually for the past sixteen years to raise money and awareness for the Adolescent Center of Cumberland Heights. Since its inception, the event has raised over \$1.8 million. When it was announced that the 2011 concert would feature The Fray, everyone was excited. This group has worldwide popularity and the title of their hit song, "How to Save a Life," which chronicles the lead singer's experience with a friend struggling with the disease of addiction.

I was honored to have the opportunity to attend this year's festivities. The event started with a get-acquainted dinner, followed by an opportunity to tour the beautiful facilities the next morning. Located on the banks of the Cumberland River, the property sits on 170 acres of wooded countryside, providing a tranquil and inspiring environment for healing. The main campus includes 125 beds and over 200 employees. Programs include traditional men's and women's programs, as well as the focus of the concert—a 24-bed residential treatment program designed specifically for adolescent care.

The adolescent program serves youth ages 13 to 17 in single-gender groups. Adolescents participate in a 30 day intensive curriculum, with the option to remain an additional 90 days. With an accredited high school, River Road Academy, onsite, students are able to maintain, and most often improve, their academic studies with no lapse in credits or hours. Using a multi-dimensional curriculum that includes an introduction to the 12-steps combined with CBT, DBT, art, equine and adventure-based therapies,

adolescents are able to address the impact their substance use has had on their lives and the lives of their loved ones, and begin taking the necessary steps toward a healthier and less destructive lifestyle. Students are guided toward internalizing their new-found knowledge and experiences of recovery, while developing new cognitive patterns to replace the old self destructive habits.

After my very educational day spent at the Cumberland Heights facility, we were treated to a night of music and fun. It began with a pre-concert party and silent auction for special guests and long time supporters of Cumberland Heights. John Hiatt, a long time and committed supporter of Cumberland Heights, put together the silent auction items which of course included a variety of music memorabilia.

The highlight of the evening was The Concert for Cumberland Heights at the historic Ryman Auditorium. The Fray wowed the audience and a great time was had by all. Their appearance was the latest in a long line of famous entertainers who have performed at the event including Lorrie Morgan, Lyle Lovett, Patty Loveless, Emmylou Harris, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Rosanne Cash, Rodney Crowell, Michael, Billy Currington, Trace Adkins, Peter Frampton, and Lynyrd Skynyrd. The concert, hosted annually by John Hiatt, is the single largest source of revenue for the facility. Proceeds are used to provide scholarships to adolescents in need of treatment, but who do not have the financial resources to access it. Hiatt started this fundraiser in 1996 because understands the addiction process and how it ultimately affects teenagers, families, and friends. His public stance about his own recovery from drugs and alcohol abuse has been courageous and inspiring and he is committed to giving back to the community that helped him help himself.

Over the 45 years of its existence Cumberland Heights has developed and grown. It has helped more than 70,000 patients and has directly touched the lives of more than 200,000 family members of patients. It has had patients from all 50 states and a number of foreign countries. They have made their presence well known as it was very impressive to see all of the support from the alumnae and community on my visit.

# SEEN N HEARD...

**Pine River Hosts First Parent Workshop:** The Family Program at Pine River took another leap forward in February by hosting the first Parent Workshop. It was an intensive two days that demonstrated the strong commitment that Pine River parents show for their children's growth as well as their own. We had parent representatives attend from every family whose child was in OLE and at the school (almost 50 parents in total). Pine River Institute is a Residential Treatment Centre and Outdoor Leadership Experience for youth 13 to 19 struggling with mental health issues, and specifically addictive behaviors. 416-955-1453

**Pacific Quest Trademarks Sustainable Growth®:** Pacific Quest wilderness therapy program announced they were awarded a registered trademark for Sustainable Growth from the United States Patent and Trademark office. They received international recognition for innovative treatment for youth and families in crisis and the recent trademark only confirms its ongoing leadership in the wilderness therapy industry. Sustainable Growth is a holistic treatment model differentiating Pacific Quest from other outdoor therapy programs. When asked to comment on the recent announcement, Mark Agosto, Pacific Quest's Business Director stated, "Our trademark shows that Pacific Quest continues to be the innovative leader in outdoor and wilderness therapy." Much of the Sustainable Growth model is based on the ability to offer outdoor programming that utilizes the nurturing environment of an organic garden in Hawaii, while incorporating the aspects of safety and structure of residential treatment. 808-987-7809

**Rosecrance Executive Abate Named Woman of the Year:** Mary Ann Abate, VP and COO of Mental Health Services for Rosecrance Health Network, was named "Woman of the Year" for 2012 by the Rockford Woman Magazine, for her outstanding work in the mental health field. Announcing the honor in the March/April issue of Rockford Woman, the judges wrote: "Mary Ann Abate has dedicated herself to bringing mental health issues to the forefront of our community for more than 40 years . . . She wholeheartedly understands what is needed to provide and support mental health workers for the future. We applaud her for her tireless efforts and thank her for reminding all of us why mental health is important to our community." 815-387-5605

**OBHIC to Host Wilderness Therapy Symposium:** OBHIC is pleased to announce the Wilderness Therapy Symposium will be held September 21-23, 2012. The Symposium will consist of interactive presentations, speakers and outdoor kinesthetic workshops. It will bring a diverse cross-section of clinicians, field instructors, rites of passage guides, educational consultants, professors, research specialists, students and residential program staff under one roof to share theories, insights and best practices in an open spirit. We do this to improve ourselves and the therapeutic services we provide. The symposium offers us a place to explore, inform, and educate ourselves on a diverse range of topics all centering on wilderness therapy. 510-367-3680

**National Summit on Co-Occurring Disorders:** WestBridge hosted a two-day summit of national thought leaders in the field of Co-Occurring Disorders. Co-hosts of the summit included WestBridge, NAADAC and Hazelden. 877-461-7711

**Q&A Associates Announces Program Enhancements:** Q&A Associates has added new program delineations to the Journey to Authentic Self Young Adult Program in Davis, WV. "We have grown over the past year, and it became necessary to put more emphasis and definition to our services for young men and young women," says owner Angie Shockley. To that end, the program now offers Applewood Transitions for Young Woman and The Journey Transitions for Young Men. 304-642-9070

**Wilde Returns to Island View:** It is with great pleasure and excitement that Island View announces the return of Jennifer Wilde, LCSW, MSW, as the new Clinical Director. Jennifer worked at Island View from 1999-2006. Most recently, she has been a therapist at a wilderness-based

program in eastern Utah. Jennifer has worked with adolescents for over 20 years across the treatment continuum in both private and public programs. Her strong clinical background and experience, coupled with her positive attitude and outstanding leadership abilities, will further solidify Island View's position as one of the pre-eminent residential treatment centers in the country. 866-952-7930

**Adirondack Leadership Partners with Bartky HealthCare:** Adirondack Leadership Expeditions has announced a partnership with Dr. Eric Bartky and Bartky HealthCare Center to provide supplemental telepsychiatric and video conferencing services to students. Adirondack Leadership Expeditions' (ALE) treatment team will carefully select appropriate students who could benefit most from telepsychiatry services prior to or following enrollment. The treatment team will collaborate with the student, student's family, and a psychiatrist to provide a thorough assessment, and specialized telepsychiatry and video conferencing services will be provided accordingly. 860-227-3316

**College Excel Students Support Special Olympics:** Eight College Excel students and one staff member braved the icy waters of the Deschutes River in near freezing temperatures for Special Olympics Oregon in the 2012 Bend Polar Plunge. 541-388-3043

**Parent Choices Hosts Flora and McKeown of Trails Carolina:** In a segment titled "Treating the Whole Family for Adolescent Substance Abuse" Lon asked his guests, Mary Flora, Primary Therapist, and Jason McKeown, Family Therapist, of Trails Carolina, about the importance of treating the whole family for substance abuse when it is the adolescent who is using. Both agreed the family support is necessary. 828-885-5920

**Baldo Joins Squaw Valley Academy:** Squaw Valley Academy hired a Special Education Teacher, Peter Baldo. Peter is Level I certified and is in the process of completing Level II certification. In addition, Squaw Valley announced they will offer a summer session this year. 530-853-9393

**Carlbrook Member of Association of Recovery Schools:** Carlbrook School is excited to announce that it has been accepted as an Institutional Member to The Association of Recovery Schools (ARS). The mission of ARS is to promote, strengthen and expand programs designed for students and families committed to both education and recovery. Members of ARS must fit specific eligibility requirements that support a recovery curriculum and enroll students committed to being abstinent from alcohol and other drugs. 434-476-2406

**Newport Academy Day School Recognized By KTLA:** Newport Academy Day School announced that leading Los Angeles news source, KTLA-TV, aired a special segment about the Newport Academy Day School recently. The Newport Academy Day School is designed specifically for teens committed to remaining abstinent from alcohol and other drugs, while provided with the tools necessary to flourish in a structured academic setting. 866-382-6651

**Eagleton School Utilizes NAPPI International Family Training:** Throughout the years one of the major points of focus at Eagleton School has been the need and concern for the safety and well-being of students and staff. Difficult behaviors can erupt at any moment and must be addressed in a quick, safe, and effective manner. In accordance with this principle, Eagleton utilizes a behavioral management program created by NAPPI International (Non-Abusive Psychological and Physical Intervention). NAPPI International, now established in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, is a training company that specializes in teaching direct-care staff and teachers how to deter contentious behavior by building a culture of cooperation with the people with whom they work and those whom they serve. 413-528-4385

**Staff Changes at Turn-About Ranch:** Turn-About Ranch, a licensed residential treatment program for adolescents and a program of Aspen Education Group, has announced the appointment of Chris Christensen, MS, to Executive Director and Becky Brown to Admissions Director. Chris



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[doug.czyz@boystown.org](mailto:doug.czyz@boystown.org)



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## SEEN N HEARD

has been with Turn-About Ranch for 15 years, and is a licensed school counselor and earned his Master's degree at Utah State University. He also has an Administrative Endorsement from Southern Utah University. Chris first started at Turn-About in 1997 as a Primary Counselor and worked in that capacity until Turn-About started a school program in 2004. Chris developed the school program and worked arduously to ensure it became accredited. The academic program at Turn-About has since earned a reputation for producing excellent results as they assist students in meeting the requirements for high school graduation. Chris also assumed the role of Program Director during his early years at Turn-About and was able to oversee the day-to-day operations of the ranch while simultaneously performing his other duties. Becky has been employed with Aspen for 16. Becky Brown spent several years with the Wayne County School District Special Education Department before joining Aspen Ranch in 1996. While at Aspen Ranch, she worked closely with referring professionals, fostering lasting relationships. Becky earned recognition for her hard work including Aspen's Customer Service Award and Employee of the Year Award. She also developed successful marketing plans, and assisted in securing special funding and SEVIS accreditation through the Department of Homeland Security to host international students. In addition to her admissions and marketing responsibilities, she was responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day operations of Aspen Ranch as part of the management team.  
800-842-1165

**Chapel Haven Celebrates 40 Years:** Chapel Haven is very proud to announce that 2012 marks their 40th year helping adults with cognitive disabilities, Asperger Syndrome and those on the autism spectrum with three distinct programs: REACH (New Haven), the Asperger Syndrome Adult Transition Program (New Haven) and Chapel Haven West (Tucson, AZ). 203-397-1714 x 148

**Spectrum College Offers Summer Sample:** Spectrum College Transition Program is offering a Summer Social Program for students, age 17-24 years old who present with a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, Executive Function deficits or High Functioning Autism. The focus of this summer program is to give students a two-week snap shot at how it feels to live away from home; experience social activities that they may not normally attempt; and tour various college campuses.  
480-443-7331

**Parent Choices Hosts Seymour:** Kristi Seymour, a certified Clinical and EAGALA therapist, was recently a guest on Parent Choices. Lon asked Kristi - Do horses really know what you are thinking? Her immediate answer was yes. They (the horses) read our body language and are very intuitive.

**Moriarty Joins Sober College:** Sober College has always worked to bridge the gap between addictive behaviors and addiction in the brain. We are excited to announce that Dr. Therese Moriarty, Neuropsychologist, has joined the Sober College Clinical Team. As part of the development of each student's individualized treatment plan, Dr. Moriarty will conduct the intake neuropsychological assessments with all Sober College students. Her experience in the field of Neuropsychology and Addiction makes her an integral part of Sober College's dual-diagnosis treatment model. 818-274-0304 x 107

**Dennison Announced Head Master of Greenbrier:** Dr. Mark Dennison was announced as the new Headmaster of Greenbrier Academy. He has earned PhDs in both Counseling and Clinical Psychology and has many years of experience in school leadership and administration in both public and private schools. For the past year Dr. Dennison has been deeply involved in both the therapeutic department of Greenbrier Academy as a therapist and later in the academic department as Academic Director. Under his direction the academic department has expanded to encompass college credit courses, a wider variety of subject matter, a more rigorous curriculum and higher scores on achievement tests. 877-788-8422

**O'Connor Professional Group Opens:** O'Connor Professional Group is a new private pay consulting business that opened in New England, dedicated to serving families with behavioral health issues, including addiction, mental illness and eating disorders. 617-910-3040 x 301

**E. Gordon Associates Relocate:** Liz Gordon, founder and director of E. Gordon Associates, Inc, is pleased to announce that she and her husband, Jim, have re-located their educational consulting business to Wisconsin. Liz is well known for her educational consulting expertise for many years in Michigan and Florida, specializing in clients with emotional and behavioral disorders. 248-762-8679

**Ashcreek Ranch Academy To Open:** Ashcreek Ranch Academy, a Residential Treatment Center for adolescent boys, specializing in Substance Abuse and other Addictive Problems, opens March 2012. Drawing on their vast experience in operating highly successful residential treatment programs in the past, Tammy Behrmann and Darren Prince have created a unique treatment environment, integrating clinical milieu, academic, horsemanship, spiritual and recreational/ activity program components. 435-215-0500

**Message From John Dewey Academy:** As 2012 begins, Ken Steiner, Head of School at the John Dewey Academy shared news from the Castle. In 2011, the first priority was to increase our census while maintaining high standards and high expectations for our students. Despite challenges, census of students increased by 50%. In addition, Dr. R. Joseph Hoffman has joined JDA as history teacher and chair of the Social Sciences Department, replacing Michael Sletcher who left for a position at Stanford University. Joe has a BA and MA from Florida State, two Master's degrees from Harvard, and a PhD from the University of Oxford. 413-528-9800

**White Publishes History Of Wilderness:** Dr. Will White, Co-founder of Summit Achievement in Stow, ME, has completed a four year research study on the history of wilderness/ adventure therapy. White's doctoral dissertation is titled, "Stories from the Elders: Chronicles and Narratives of the Early Years of Wilderness Therapy." The completed doctoral dissertation will be available for download on Proquest and other academic research websites in March. He will be speaking on the evolution of wilderness therapy on Parent Choices in April.  
207-697-2020

**Condolences To Spires Family:** It is with deep sadness that we send our hearts and prayers to Jeanette Spires (and family) for the loss of her husband James.

**Family Foundation Introduces The Bridge Program:** The Family Foundation School opened an on-campus fifth-year program in January for students age 18-20 in need of social and/ or academic support in transitioning to college. "The Bridge" is an integrated program consisting of the 12-Steps, individual and family counseling, and an extensive academic component that includes accredited college courses on and/ or off campus through Broome Community College in Binghamton, NY; independent living off campus or in a collegiate wing on the FFS campus; work-study employment opportunities; and access to many FFS extracurricular offerings including music, art and outdoor programs. 845-887-5213 x 465

**Little Keswick Welcomes Barter To Staff:** At Little Keswick School, teaching is not just what happens in the classroom. Sometimes boys need to learn outside the box. Little Keswick School is honored to announce the newest staff member, Barter, a facility assistance dog! After over a year of applications and interviews, the school has been awarded the opportunity to receive a facility dog for the school through a nonprofit organization, Canine Companions for Independence. This organization enhances the lives of people by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. These dogs are specifically trained to work with people with attachment issues, difficulty with verbal interactions, and a variety of other issues the students at Little Keswick School work on. 424-295-0457

## SEEN N HEARD

**Monroe Joins Discovery Ranch:** Clinton Dorny, Executive Director of Discovery Ranch announced Lexi Monroe has joined the therapy team at Discovery Ranch. Lexi's expertise working with girls who are victims of trauma and abuse adds a new depth to the clinical team. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and LSAC trained. In addition to abuse and trauma, Lexi has experience treating issues of attachment, adoption, identity and substance abuse. 801-489-3311

**Parent Choices Hosts Elaine Williams:** "The number of grandparents raising their grandchildren in this country today has more than doubled in the last ten years," shared Elaine Williams, guest on Parent Choices, "and grandparents sacrifice so much, to be able to give their grandchildren a stable home, often giving up their dreams and struggling with a lack of resources and support." Elaine Williams has a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan and has spent her career working with children, adolescents, and older adults. She is the author of the book *The Sacred Work of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* published in 2011. 248-396-5735

**Tomes Executive Director of Asheville Academy:** Asheville Academy for Girls, a therapeutic boarding school for girls' ages 10 to 14 located outside of Asheville, NC, is excited to announce Bryan Tomes as Executive Director. Tomes, who has been serving as Head of School since the Academy's opening in early December, will continue to provide oversight, guidance, and mentoring to Asheville's team, while further growing and developing a comprehensive curriculum that provides the highest quality services to girls and their families. Bryan received formal training from the University of South Carolina Columbia in the area of secondary education. He also received training in secondary education from Mars Hill College. Recently, he has been studying with Western Carolina University on program leadership with an emphasis on alternative education. 828-484-9946

**Levin Joins Prakash Ellenhorn Mental Health Program:** Ed Levin, who for 28 years handled outreach and referrals at Spruce Mountain Inn (VT) residential mental health facility, is using his marketing expertise to raise the profile of Prakash Ellenhorn, a private, primarily non-residential treatment program offering clients a multidisciplinary, highly individualized team approach as a proven-effective alternative to residential or hospital programs. 802-922-3048

**Rosecrance Celebrates Role of Art Therapy in Treatment:** Patients receiving inpatient treatment at Rosecrance's adult campus on Harrison Avenue worked on their own recovery while reaching out to thank veterans who otherwise might be forgotten on Valentine's Day. Students and staff worked hard to produce over 120 hand-made cards. 815-387-5605

**Parent Choices Hosts Krehbiel:** Lon interviewed James Krehbiel, author of "Troubled Childhood, Triumphant Life: Healing from the Battle Scars of Youth." After working in schools as a guidance counselor and teacher for over 30 years, James changed direction of his course, became a therapist and soon noticed that his adult clients "felt stuck and were haunted by past behaviors, whereas old patterns and scripts from childhood were coming into play in their own parenting strategies." 480-664-6665

**Next Step for Success Changes Name To Parent Coach Professionals:** Barbara Cass and Vicki Jones, owners of Next Step for Success, are excited to announce a new name for their parent coaching business - Parent Coach Professionals. 530-836-1980

**Shortridge Academy Welcomes Langevin To Clinical Team:** The Shortridge Academy Counseling Services team is pleased to announce the addition of Cara Langevin to the professional staff of the school. Cara has a B.A. in Social Work from the University of New Hampshire and a dual M.A. in Expressive Therapies and Mental Health Counseling, Art Therapy Specialization from Lesley University, Cambridge MA. Cara is close to completing the requirements for Master's level LADC license as well. 877-903-8968

**InnerRoads Wilderness Program Expands:** InnerRoads Wilderness Program, a program of the Youth Homes, has released dates for their upcoming expeditions. Expeditions will run April 6 - May 18 for the Spring Expedition, June 15 - July 27 for Summer Expedition, and October 5 - November 16 for the Fall Expedition. A new Adventure Trip is currently scheduled for August 8 - August 18. For more information, contact Amy Schaeer. 406-541-1652

**Little Keswick School Honored by VAISEF:** Little Keswick School is proud to announce they have been honored for their commitment to the high quality of service they provide with an inaugural 'Partlow Insurance Best Practice Award', which is given by the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Facilities (VAISEF). 434-295-0457

**Expedition Therapy Welcomes Peyton As Primary Therapist:** R. Michael Peyton has joined Expedition Therapy as Primary Therapist. Mike received a B.S. Degree in Psychology, followed by a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, both from Michigan State University. He has been designated as an Approved Supervisor for the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, training new therapists in their profession. Mike's clinical foundation includes strategic family therapy formulated by Jay Haley and Cloe Madanes. He draws from twenty years of working with parents and their children, in addition to his twenty-seven years of experience as a husband and co-parent of five children, to bring relief to his clients, identifying the core values and needs of family members. 435-899-9115

**Venable Named Head of New Family Center:** Cherokee Creek Boys School is pleased to announce launch of the Cherokee Creek Family Center. This new department will be headed by Beth Venable. Beth was selected because of her excellent experiential education and program development background and deep interest in family-centered healing. She was the founder of our weekend CCBS Treks program for students and the Family Treks program for our parents and siblings. She will continue to manage marketing and communications duties during the startup of the department. Once the Center is fully up and running, marketing and communications will be assigned elsewhere within the organization. 864-647-1885

**Smithson Joins Summit Prep:** Summit Prep is pleased to announce the welcome addition of Sara Smithson, LMSW to the Summit Prep clinical team. Sara received her LMSW in Social Work from the state of Georgia, her MSW from Smith College School for Social Work and a BA in English from Vassar College. 406-261-9437

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR ~ APRIL 2012

**April 12-15:** AEE Northeast Region Conference, Woodstock, CT, [www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org)

**April 13-15:** AEE Northwest Region Conference, Squamish, British Columbia, Canada, [www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org)

**April 12-14:** Level 1 Equine Training, Orange, CA, [www.newport-academy.com](http://www.newport-academy.com)

**April 16-19:** Therapeutic Business Administrators' Conference, Snowbird, UT, [www.tba-services.com](http://www.tba-services.com)

**April 19-21:** 10th National Conference on Adolescents and Young Adults, Las Vegas, NV, [www.usjt.com](http://www.usjt.com)

**April 19-22:** 4th Adventure Therapy Best Practices Conference, Mayer, AZ, [www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org)

**April 20-22:** AEE Southeast Region Conference, Hendersonville, NC, [www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org)

**April 30-May 3:** 26th National Conference on The Self & The Family, Santa Fe, NM, [www.usjt.com](http://www.usjt.com)



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**PLACES FOR STRUGGLING TEENS™**

published by Woodbury Reports, Inc.

**Lon Woodbury, Publisher** - 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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ISSN: 1540-3718



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Others take courses at FFS while taking up to four courses at Broome Community College (BCC) in Binghamton, NY spending two full days each week on the BCC campus, fully integrated into campus life and working with a transition mentor.

Students may take BCC courses while living and working part-time on the FFS campus, or even while living in Binghamton and receiving gradually decreasing support from us.

The relationship between BCC and Binghamton University (BU) (part of the State University of New York [SUNY] system), allows BCC students with a 3.0 GPA or higher to transfer credits to BU, Cornell, Marywood, various SUNY schools and University of Buffalo among others.

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