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EXIT STRATEGY

By Lon Woodbury



Is there anybody who anticipates working forever? I doubt it, because everybody knows that at root, none of us are immortal. So, what is your exit strategy?

Many people I've worked with in this network of private emotional-growth and therapeutic schools and programs for struggling teens over the past several years seem to have been so involved, and so enjoyed their work, that they have given little thought to how they were going to exit gracefully from this work. In our conversations, any talk of an exit strategy was for the most part vague, or perhaps hoping that when they decided to withdraw from working so hard some solution would present itself. Many of those who said they had a plan seemed to me more based on wishful thinking than a specific plan. Even some of those with a specific exit strategy have trusted the wrong persons and were devastated.

Of course these comments are directed toward those who are owners of their practice or program. Employees have it set up for them. They have to just time when they quit their jobs and hope that their preparations for retirement are sufficient. They just have had to follow the rules, such as contribute to an IRA or 401(k) or some equivalent, work hard and effectively for many years, hopefully own their own home and perhaps have some income producing investments, and plans to cut future expenses.

The owners have a more complex set of problems and issues to handle. They tend to be risk-takers in the first place. That is what got them where they are. They might have other investments, but their main asset is the result of their life work, their practice, school or program. An emotional attachment might interfere with clear thinking when it comes time to turn it over to someone and convert it into dollars. There is a good chance that you will estimate the value of your business higher than any buyer. You'll need to be realistic.

You also will have to reconcile yourself to the fact that once the process has started, you will no longer be calling the shots. Whether you agree with an outright sale, timed buyout with you remaining in your position for a specified time, or take some kind of "emeritus" role, your business will be accountable to someone else who can overrule you. "Letting go" might be the most difficult step.

The previous two points are emotional barriers to an effective exit strategy. The other point is "who can you trust." Once you turn your business over to someone else, whether outright sale or a phased in procedure, your satisfaction over what happens to your life work is in the hands of another person. If you don't choose someone who is honest, reliable, competent and straightforward, there are all kinds of pitfalls that could happen.

One founder I know was hoping to help transition their program to the new owner and the buyout was over a period of time. Once he took over, the new owner was exceedingly ambitious and had visions of grandeur. The overspending was breath taking and by the time the program failed, things were so confusing that it would have taken a fortune in attorneys and court costs to even determine who owned what. Needless to say the founder came out with very little or nothing.

Another founder wanted to sell part of her business and do only limited work, a little like an employee. However, as soon as the new owner took over, the founder was not only squeezed out and the practice started doing what she considered unethical practices, but promises were not kept. Needless to say, the result was not happy while attorneys were kept busy sorting things out.

While it's important to have a clear exit strategy, that's only as good as the integrity of the person acquiring the practice, school or program. I've recently talked to a few younger people who are interested in slowly expanding their own program by helping owners develop exit strategies. In other words, what they were describing was to provide the means for owners to write their own script for an exit strategy.

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EXIT STRATEGY

For an exit strategy to work, the founder/owner must have three things. One is to have a very clear idea of their exit plan, whether it is to sell and walk away from it, or sell and help with the transition as a necessity, or to take a less active role but keep working in a way that allows more flexibility for personal activities.

Second, the founder/ owner must emotionally prepare for the transition, keeping in mind that their business will have become

accountable to somebody else.

Third, they need to find a person or corporation with integrity who will respect how the owner wants to transition, whether in a reduced role or to totally drop all responsibilities and fully retire.

All these steps must be navigated successfully for a founder of a program to achieve a successful exit strategy.

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.]

HARMONY PLACE

Los Angeles, CA
Don Grant, Admissions Director
888-866-9778
www.harmonyplace.net

Harmony Place is a residential treatment center focusing specifically on women ages 18 and above who suffer from drug or alcohol addiction and or co-occurring disorders. Admission is voluntary and participants must be physically able to participate.

Psychiatrist and Addictionologist M. David Lewis received his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri and his M.D. from the University of Colorado. He has served as Chief Psychiatry Resident at Wilford Hall Medical Center and as a clinical professor at UCLA. He is a presidential appointee to the White House Conference on Drug Free America. Mary Lou Devlin, M.S., is the Executive Director for Harmony Place. She is a licensed MFT and has worked in the addiction field for

almost 20 years. She has also served as the primary therapist for the facility and as Clinical Director.

Harmony Place's treatment program takes a holistic approach to recovery from addiction. The program uses proactive relapse prevention education, cognitive and psychodynamic theories, as well as the 12-step philosophy. Group counseling, individual, and family counseling are important components of the program. Harmony Place also offers detoxification services and pain education groups. As part of the recovery process and the holistic, whole-body approach to healing, Harmony Place offers Pilates classes, TAO wellness group, and Spirituality Group. The Spirituality Group introduces or strengthens the patient's relationships and connections with others.

Harmony Place is located on a country estate in a Los Angeles neighborhood. Gourmet chefs prepare meals daily and clients live in the treatment center which houses a pool, Jacuzzi, fitness equipment, and deluxe bedrooms.

This information came from their website.

DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH

Minot, ND
Kacey Dupre, Admissions
701-852-3628
admissions@dakotaranch.org
www.dakotaranch.org

Founded in 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, is one of three campuses operated by Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. It provides residential treatment facilities to girls and boys ages 10 to 17 that have psychiatric issues, substance abuse issues, sexual issues, autism spectrum disorders, and academic difficulties. Youth who pose an extreme safety issue to themselves or others are not admitted.

The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Youth in the program receive counseling and therapy on an individual and group level. Family therapy is also used to include the family in the process. Equine therapy is also utilized by the program. The campus includes an on-site school for grades 1 through 12 and approximately two thirds of the residents attend this school. The sexual responsibility program is male specific and treats males determined to be in need of 24 hour intensive care for recovery purposes.

The program includes extensive recreational activities including biking, sledding, aerobics, hiking, swimming, and more. An independent living program is available for older youth making the transition into adult living.

[This information came from the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch website.]

MOUNT PLEASANT ACADEMY

Mt. Pleasant, UT
435-229-1156
Todd Hockenbury, Admissions Director
jtodd@rrrtc.com
www.mtpleasantacademy.com

Mount Pleasant Academy is a residential treatment center for males, ages 12-18, who are struggling with compulsive sexual behaviors or sensitive sexual issues and digital addictions. The average length of stay is 8-13 months or as needed.

Upon a student's enrollment a comprehensive Sexual Behavior Risk Assessment (SBRA) will be made based on student observation, history, bio-psycho-social evaluations and other assessments. From the information gathered, each student receives an individualized treatment plan that includes standard sex offense treatment and group, individual, family, and experiential therapy, which consists of equine therapy, animal responsibility and adventure based activities.

Through a positive peer culture, the young men at Mount Pleasant learn conflict resolution, allowing students to be creative in problem solving and using the power of choice, experiencing the positive and negative consequences that come with those choices. Peers help each other stay focused and hold each other accountable for behaviors. Other areas focused on include kindness, respect, dignity, anger management, positive communication skills, moral reasoning and accountability. Within this open and honest culture, students can talk about their issues without shame or guilt or secrecy and therefore there is less likelihood of negative acting out.

Recreational and experiential activities include basketball, boxing, flag football and other team sports. Once gaining the trust of staff and peers other off campus activities include bowling, camping, hiking and fishing, tennis and winter sports.

Mount Pleasant holds membership in NATSAP, IECA, US Dept. of Homeland Security and NAAS. Academics are accredited through the Northwest Accreditation Commission.

[This information came from the Mount Pleasant website.]

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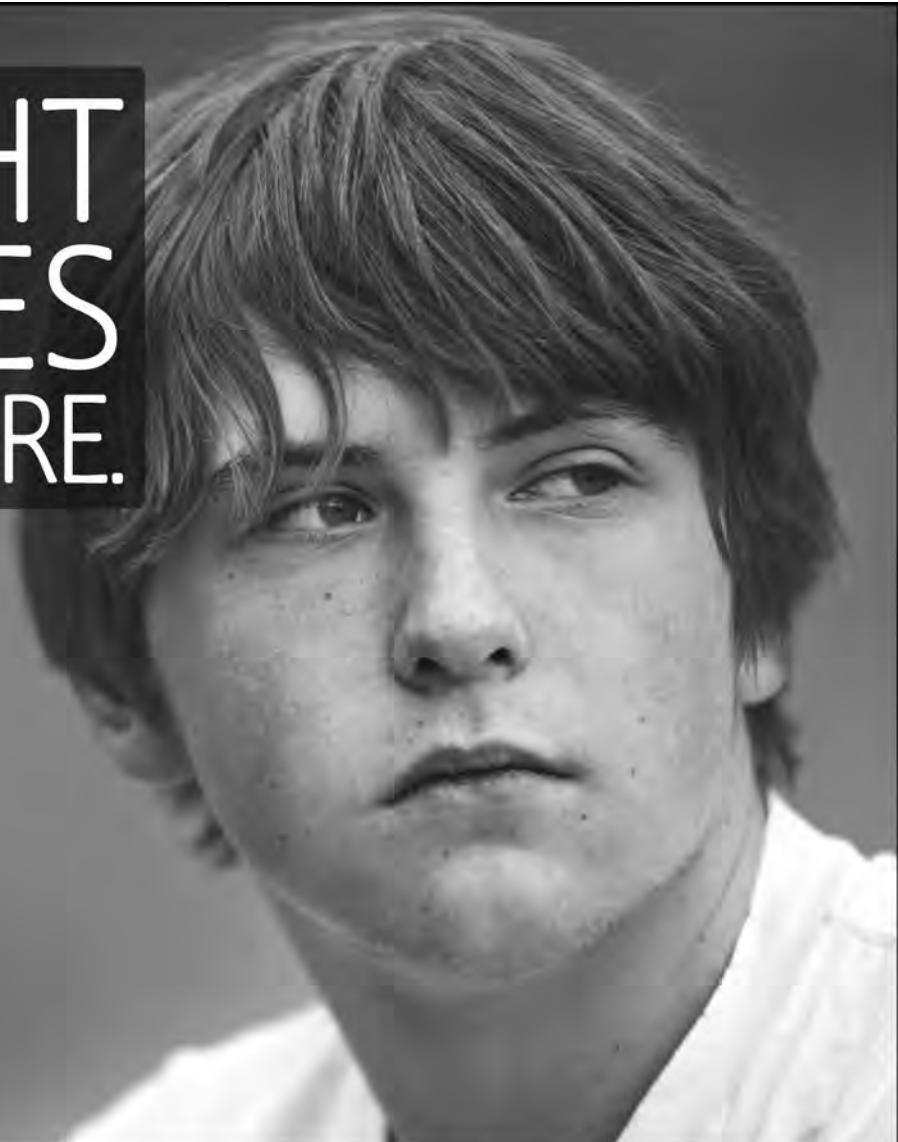
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For more information, please contact:

Doug Czyz, National Admissions
Office: (402) 498-1973 | Cell: (402) 990-5371
doug.czyz@boystown.org



ASCEND RECOVERY

Highland, Utah
 Johanna Salter, Program Director
 800-813-4250
contact@ascendrecovery.com
www.ascendrecovery.com

Ascend Recovery is a drug and alcohol addiction treatment facility for men and women aged 18 and over. The program has three options for treatment length: 30, 60, and 90 days.

Clinical Director, Ryan Salter, LCSW, received his Master's degree from the University of Utah. Ryan has an extensive clinical background and specializes in working with addiction issues. He is also a professor at Utah Valley University. Johanna Salter is the Program Director. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and has training in both mental and physical health. Johanna previously owned and operated a holistic education company.

Ascend Recovery is a dual diagnosis facility that uses individual therapy, experiential therapies, medical intervention, and western physical assessment to treat dual diagnosis patients. The program is equipped to treat both alcohol and drug addicts as well as additional mental health issues. Ascend Recovery uses a holistic approach, treating not just the patient's addiction issue, but also addressing needs like nutrition. A family therapy meeting is held once a week for each patient where their family comes to the facility for a counseling session on the recovery process. Ascend is unique in that they offer lifetime aftercare support to their clients.

The location of Ascend Recovery allows for extensive outdoor recreation opportunities. The outdoor recreation is a crucial part of the program and clients have the opportunity to participate in hiking, swimming, water skiing, and more.

[This information came from the Ascend Recovery website.]

EXTENDED INSIGHTS...

ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY

In the Treatment of Trauma

By Jennifer Lombardi

Trauma is common, with about 60 percent of adults in the United States experiencing at least one trauma in their life. People experience a range of reactions following trauma, and while most people recover given a little time, a small but significant number go on to develop more serious problems, like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The men and women struggling with eating disorders often have very painful thoughts about sad and traumatic experiences on their minds, and they judge themselves harshly as a result.

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is a cognitive behavioral therapy that teaches patients the skills and practices needed to take steps toward the life they value and not be ruled by their emotions, thoughts or feelings. This therapeutic approach is used extensively in adult treatment at Eating Recovery Center, and can help individuals with eating disorders live a rich, full and meaningful life. Additionally, ACT specifically includes each of the components of PTSD treatment that are known to have the most effective outcomes, including psycho-education, anxiety management and exposure/ tolerance/ acceptance work.

Dr. Steven Hayes, one of the founders of ACT, notes a special relationship between Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and trauma recovery. Dr. Hayes states:

"Bad things do happen to good people. It does not have to be for a reason. Often, things are beyond our control. Trauma survivors know how deeply this reaches. ACT helps people learn to let go of the "we are in control" when that is no longer working. Instead it walks through the process needed to come into the present moment, and to still care, and to move toward the lives we want to live. ACT creates a way to help trauma survivors to be themselves, to be present, and to care, without first trying to create some kind of order of the mix of thoughts, feelings and traumatic experience they leave behind." (Forward from "ACT for the Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder & Trauma Related Problems," Walser, PhD, Westrup, PhD,

2007)

PTSD limits and narrows people's lives in many ways. Trauma sufferers are most likely working hard to avoid anything that might "trigger" the thoughts, feeling or memories of their experiences, and avoidance behaviors can often spiral into evasion of many other things that aren't directly related to the trauma. Many people, including those suffering from anorexia, bulimia, EDNOS and binge eating disorder, turn to numbing, addictive processes to try to be free of past painful experiences. While these harmful practices might give short term relief to the sufferings, untimely addictive processes add to the suffering problem, causing people to lose connection with the life they want and value.

Trauma recovery means being able to be fully involved in a life that is rich with value rather than one ruled by past painful experiences and avoidance strategies, no matter what thoughts or feelings or body sensations show up in the mind. ACT processes are designed to help people learn how to take "committed actions" toward the life they want for themselves.

ACT and Trauma at Eating Recovery Center: The Course of Recovery

From the ACT perspective, people are not broken—rather, they are stuck. No one is taught the skills necessary to be able to tolerate pain and function after a traumatic event. ACT is focused on helping people change their relationship with the difficult emotions so their lives are not ruled by them and they are free to make the choices toward their valued lives. At Eating Recovery Center, the trauma recovery process is based in ACT processes and includes the following components:

Medically and Nutritional Stability: Simply put, no one has the ability to do the hard work of trauma recovery without this basic platform.

Values Work: Identifying values and valued life directions is a key part of trauma work. Values serve as a compass for people's lives, helping to understand why change is necessary, even when it feels overwhelmingly difficult. People who have had traumatic experiences can be at risk of never focusing on or having developed an idea of what they value. Values work sheds light on the "big picture," as

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ACCEPTANCE

opposed to the everyday small experiences which can fill our lives and steal our time.

Mindfulness Skills: Mindfulness means being able to be present, as opposed to slipping into thinking about the past, or jumping ahead to worrying about what is next in the future. Gaining the skills to not turn to old addictive coping methods to manage the moment when having flashbacks or becoming flooded by emotion when discussing trauma is critical to trauma recovery.

Grounding, Safety and Containment Skills: This set of skills allows the trauma sufferer to be able to tolerate that which shows up in her or his mind. These skills provide the "outlet" for painful feelings so that individuals do not become so overwhelmed that they turn to old behaviors to "numb out" and avoid emotions.

Exposure Work: Cognitive and exposure-based treatments have empirical evidence of the best outcomes for treatment of trauma. Together with their therapists, patients work to slowly tolerate exposure to the "feared" things so that they may learn to accept these

things instead of being ruled by them.

Cognitive Work: The ability to be able to "think about how we think" is a key part of trauma recovery. Patients cultivate the ability to examine their thoughts and perceptions, and learn to notice how their minds work, which thoughts show up and how they react.

Psycho-Educational Work: Patients learn how the brain functions, including how they are "wired" and have been "programmed" into beliefs about themselves and others over the years. The brain likes to judge, evaluate, compare and make connections, and these simple mental processes can cause trouble until they are understood and managed.

About: *Jennifer Lombardi, MFT is the Chief Admissions Officer for Eating Recovery Center in Denver, CO. For more information about Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and its use in the treatment of eating disorders at Eating Recovery Center, visit their website at www.EatingRecoveryCenter.com, or contact Jennifer at 877-218-1344 or info@EatingRecoveryCenter.com.*

SEEN N HEARD...

Parent Choices Hosts White: "The Miracle of Wilderness Therapy - II" According to Dr. William White, co-founder of Summit Achievement in Stow, ME, "Wilderness therapy is chocked full of story tellers and their stories, with the origins of wilderness therapy dating back to the late 1800's." This is the inspiration that led to Will's doctoral dissertation on the Evolution of Wilderness Therapy. 207-697-2020

FFS Plans Summer School Enrichment Program: The Family Foundation School will offer a Summer School Enrichment Program for students completing the residential program and in need of transitioning support through the summer. The schedule includes college-credit classes and transcript-building assistance, 12-Step recovery support, individual and group transition counseling, and extracurricular activities including soccer and basketball clinics. 845-887-5213

Pacific Quest Hosts Hiring Seminar: Pacific Quest Wilderness Therapy Program held a four-day hiring seminar with fourteen applicants and three facilitators in the Bay Area in April. The goal of the event was to move beyond basic phone interviews and create a more interactive interview process, offering prospective staff a hands-on experience of what life at Pacific Quest entails. Facilitators included Chris Kaiser, co-founder, Oren Grimm, former Field Instructor and Field Supervisor, and Rene Fay, former Field Instructor, Solo Supervisor and current HR Recruiter. The seminar started with an overview of the program, and an opportunity for facilitators to share their own unique and personal experiences with Pacific Quest including facilitator presentations- complete with video footage from the PQ gardens in Hawaii. The seminar also allowed applicants to demonstrate their leadership and teaching skills, providing several opportunities for applicants to showcase their creativity and group interactions. 808-987-7809

WellBalance Opens Basic Training For Young Adults: WellBalance has announced the opening of WellBalance Basic Training, a two-week intensive weight loss management for adults aged 20-29. The food and fitness weight loss boot camp was designed by famous TV fit coach John Taylor. 617-792-4121

Asheville Academy Develops Bullying Campaign: Asheville Academy for Girls has developed a curriculum for teens and families to identify bullying and how to prevent it. "Bullies look to inflict the same sense of hopelessness and vulnerability they feel, which is why we help our students and their families strategize how they can help change the bullies' bullying behavior," explains Equine Therapist Robert Jacoby, MS, LPC, NCC. Asheville Academy's Bullying GamePlan is a curriculum specifically developed for troubled girls and parents to help develop assertive communication skills, one of the cornerstones to successfully dealing with bullying. Through the GamePlan lessons girls recognize the

signs of bullying, develop skills for assertiveness, and are challenged to stand up for themselves and others who are bullied. The lessons also highlight the nature of the bullies and how support and understanding can lead the bullies to find more positive means to gain attention. 800-264-8709

Family Foundation School Adds to Counseling Staff: Mark P. Vogel, PhD, Director of Counseling, The Family Foundation School, has announced the addition of Rochelle L. Rhyno, MSW to the school's counseling department. Ms. Rhyno holds degrees in human development and social services from Binghamton University where her research projects focused on children and youth protection services. Previously employed by the Department of Social Services, she has 15 years' experience in the field of addiction and anxiety-related disorders. 845-887-5213

ASR Enhances Visual Arts Program: The Academy at Swift River (ASR) is pleased to announce enhancements to its Visual Arts program including photography, studio art and painting / printmaking. 860-227-3316

Eating Recovery Center Contracts with United Behavioral Health: Eating Recovery Centers are pleased to announce their comprehensive eating disorders treatment programs will be an in-network provider for patients insured by United Behavioral Health. They "understand that navigating the broad spectrum of available eating disorders treatment options can be overwhelming for patients, families and referring professionals alike." Upon finding the treatment program that best fits their needs, securing the financial resources to make it work often represents another hurdle. Contracting with United Behavioral Health removes this critical barrier to treatment for hundreds of patients and families seeking a higher level of care at Eating Recovery Center each year. 720-258-4052

Life Designs Introduces LifeTreds Expeditions: Life Designs, Inc. is thrilled to announce that they are adding a domestic and international expedition component (called LifeTreds) to the program. Beginning in May, all Life Designs clients will participate in one or more guided, domestic expeditions. Partnering with Breakwater Expeditions upcoming treks include: 1) Upper Missouri River Breaks (Montana) Canoe Expedition; 2) San Juan Islands Sea Kayaking Expedition. For Alumni, they are offering international expeditions partnered with TrekEpic.org. Upcoming treks include: 1) Offa's Dyke Trek Pass on the English/Welsh border; 2) The Lake District/ Hadrian's Wall, England. 509-671-2487

PRN for Families Introduces Sarah Kornegay: PRN for Families is happy to announce that Sarah Kornegay has joined our team. Sarah received her Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications from Metropolitan State College. Sarah will be handling marketing and public relations for PRN for Families and is eager to create new relationships and learn about the field.

Continued: SEEN N HEARD/ 9

Benchmark Transitions

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SEEN N HEARD

Please feel free to reach out to her if you have any questions about PRN, or to simply introduce yourself and share tips that you might have about this business. 888-762-5973

Alpine Academy Visits Woodbury Reports:

Christian Egan, Admissions Director, and Jason Stout, Residential Supervisor from Alpine Academy stopped by the Woodbury office while in town for a regional NATSAP conference.

800-244-1113

Parent Choices Hosts Cash and Clark:

"Internet Gaming: The Plusses and Minuses" - The guests on Parent Choices for Struggling Teens episode for April 16 hold different perspectives of the fast-growing industry of Internet Gaming. Dr. Hilarie Cash, PhD, cofounder of reStart, and Neils Clark, lecturer for DigiPen, discussed the plusses and minuses of the gaming industry, barely touched the tip of the iceberg in this controversial epidemic influencing our kids and young adults. Dr. Hilarie Cash, PhD is the co-founder and partner of reStart: Internet Addiction Recovery Program, started specializing in Internet and video game addiction in the 90s, and started an outpatient clinic for Internet/Computer Addiction Services, in 1999. Neils Clark, MA is a lecturer at DigiPen, where he teaches Media and Ethics and Introductory Psychology. This episode was sponsored by Spring Ridge Academy. Hilarie: 425-417-1715 | Neils: 253-514-3775

Gillan Smith PhD Joins Aspiro Programs: Please join us in welcoming Gillan Smith, PhD, to the Aspiro Family of Programs! Gillan brings more than 20 years of counseling experience working with families and adolescents in a wide variety of clinical settings. His clinical experiences include Program Director for Turnabout Day Treatment, Clinical Supervisor for Norton Sound Behavioral Health, Adjunct Professor in the Clinical Psychology Department at the University of Alaska, Clinical Director for Outback Therapeutic Expeditions and most recently the Dean of Advising at Carlbroke School in Virginia. 801-349-2740

Summit Achievement Selects Blueprint Education For Academic Blend:

Blueprint Education and Summit Achievement are pleased to announce a new academic partnership. This partnership will enhance academics and learning for Summit Achievement participants by expanding curriculum options to better meet their students' needs. "This partnership expands our ability to provide an individualized academic experience for our students and allows us to more precisely meet their academic objectives" says Adam Tsapis, External Relations Director for Summit Achievement. "We now offer an expansive variety of accredited courses in addition to the core English, math, social studies, and sciences." Summit Achievement's Academic Director, Jeff Hudson, will work with families and schools to select courses that will provide appropriate support for students with learning differences and to engage and intellectually challenge the most motivated students. 800-426-1952 ext. 4840

Rossiter New Executive Director At Santiam Crossing:

Santiam Crossing School is pleased to announce that Brian Rossiter is joining the program as its new Executive Director. Rossiter brings more than 20 years of experience working in the field of therapeutic education to the position. His experience ranges from leadership and management roles, program and curriculum development, staff supervision and training, marketing and referral development, to working directly with adolescent clients. He has worked in both therapeutic wilderness programs and therapeutic boarding school settings. 208-265-8355

Rocky Mountain Regional NATSAP:

"The Black Hole of Cyberspace" was the theme for the Rocky Mountain Regional NATSAP Conference in Sandpoint, ID. Hosts Christopher Edwards, Clinical Director for SUWS Adolescent and Youth Programs, and Jason Calder, Assistant Clinical Director of Summit Preparatory School announced the conference theme was directed on how technology impacts adolescents. The conference kicked off with a



collaboration session on the main topic. Hilarie Cash, PhD, was the Keynote speaker. Christopher: 888-879-7897 |

Jason: 406-758-8112

Parent Choices Hosts Olsen and Sanchez:

"The Miracle of Wilderness Therapy" - Lon Woodbury interviewed two of the "pioneers" of wilderness therapy: Larry Dean Olsen and Ezekiel Sanchez, Founders of Anasazi Foundation on April 9, 2012. In an emotional interview, the two shared their history as leaders in wilderness therapy. They shared that the mission at Anasazi Foundation has always been the Ten Guiding Principles of the Anasazi Way: to prepare the parents and the children to turn their hearts to one another, begin anew and walk in harmony in the wilderness of the world.

800-678-3445

Eating Recovery Center Welcomes Michael Spaulding-Barclay MD:

Eating Recovery Center is pleased to announce that Michael Spaulding-Barclay, MD, MS, FAAP, has joined its medical team as Attending Physician, Child and Adolescent Services. In this role, Dr. Spaulding-Barclay will work collaboratively with Medical Director of Child and Adolescent Services Ovidio Bermudez, MD, FAAP, FSAHM, FAED, CEDS and the multidisciplinary treatment team to develop and deliver comprehensive eating disorders treatment plans to boys and girls ages 10 through 17. 877-218-1344

Fourth Annual Eating Disorder Conference:

The 4th Annual Eating Recovery Center Foundation Eating Disorders Conference will be held Friday, August 10 and Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the Denver Marriott City Center. Formerly known as the Rocky Mountain Eating Disorders Conference, this two-day event explores the trends, research and emerging best practices shaping the field and offers an invaluable opportunity to learn from and connect with the leaders that develop standards of excellence and drive innovation in the treatment of eating disorders. Conference agenda, continuing education information and registration will be available online soon. The event is being coordinated by Sarah Gilstrap, Marketing Communications Specialist at Eating Recovery Center. 720-258-4008

New Autism Guide Provides Tools for Families and Professionals:

The first comprehensive guide to evidence-based interventions for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders will be published in Summer 2012. "The Guide is unique because it brings together summaries of six recent nationally recognized systematic research reviews of evidence-based ASD interventions in a clear, concise manner both parents and professionals can understand," says Bernard Simons, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities for the Missouri Department of Mental Health. 573-795-1198

First Annual Campus Cookout Scheduled at NSI Academy:

Rather than hold our standard formal banquet again this year, we have decided to shift to a more casual, fun annual campus cookout. We'll be inviting families of our students and staff as well as many of our supporters, to include community members, elected officials, local businesses, probation officers, social workers, case managers and judges. I assure you that there will be fun games, entertainment and, of course, good food! 307-674-6878

Dr. Melillo Speaks At Green Valley Ranch:

For parents and teachers concerned their children might have a learning or behavioral disorder, help has arrived. In conjunction with the grand opening of The Brain Balance Achievement Center in Henderson, NV, program founder, Dr. Robert Melillo, presented a lecture in Southern Nevada in April. 702-778-9500

Avalanche At Santiam Crossing School:

A number of Santiam Crossing School students are now American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) Level 1 certified as part of the therapeutic boarding school's outdoor leadership and professional development program. The certification in avalanche hazard management was held in Willamette

Continued: SEEN N HEARD/ 10

SEEN N HEARD

National Forest. The experience involved experiential activities including studying the remains of a huge avalanche that the trainers had set off the day before the students' arrival. Students also gained skills in understanding and managing risk, using sound judgment, and rational decision-making. They also learned about snow stability factors, group self-rescue, terrain observations, operational decision-making, backcountry travel and route finding. 503-394-4394

Lead - Influence - Changes At Linden Hill School: Headmaster Jim McDaniel announced Dr. Mark Jackson as the new Assistant Headmaster. Dr. Jackson will oversee operations, assessment and curriculum revision, and partner with Mr. McDaniel and Mr. David J. Tuttle, Associate Headmaster to direct the most rigorous, creative and influential strategic plan ever seen by the LHS community. In addition, Stephanie Daniels joined LHS in April as Director of Admissions. Stephanie recently worked at the Glenholme School for 12 years in a variety of professional roles, most recently as Associate Director of Admissions. 413-498-2907

Bryan Lepinske Joins Elements Wilderness: Elements Wilderness Program is excited to announce the addition of Bryan Lepinske, LCSW to our clinical team. Bryan joins us with over eleven years of experience in working with at-risk adolescents and their families, having served for the past seven of those years as a clinician at such programs as Second Nature Uintas and Vista Treatment Centers. His unrelenting passion for wilderness therapy and his multidisciplinary approach to treating families in this context will surely be an asset to our program. 801-505-8481

New Additions to the Lake House Academy Team: Please join the Lake House staff in welcoming both Carl Cunningham and Gayle Oslund to the LHA Team. Carl's teaching experience includes work exclusively with "at-risk" students in a variety of educational settings, including Chicago Public Schools, the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. This experience has sharpened Carl's ability to connect with those who have learning differences, those, whose academics are compromised because of trauma and addictions in their families, those who have been marginalized at school and others who have lost their belief in their potential. Carl received his bachelor's degree (summa cum laude/Phi Beta Kappa) in the Teaching of English from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is now pursuing a master's degree in Instructional Technology from North Carolina State University. Gayle Oslund, RN has also joined the team at Lake House Academy. Gayle has over twenty-five years of professional work in pediatrics, neurology, orthopedics and even geriatrics who has the diagnostic instincts and care skills of a pro with the versatility of a veteran health care professional. 828-355-4595 ext. 8001

Shortridge Academy Announced Scholarship: Shortridge Academy announced the establishment of its inaugural Merit Scholarship Program for the Arts. Beginning in April 2012, the program is open to new female applicants who demonstrate excellence in, and passion for, artistic endeavors that can be supported by the Shortridge Academy Program. Awards will be offered in the form of reduced tuition for their stay at Shortridge, subject to maintaining a 3.0 GPA. 877-903-8968

Cashman Joins Stonegate at Rushford: Laura Cashman comes to Stonegate with a background in Admissions, working with referral sources and families. She will step in for Rhonda Papallo who was promoted to H3W Facilitator. 860-349-2043

New Integrated Website For Penrith Farms: Penrith Farms Young Adult Program launched their new website. The website has been modernized and made much more dynamic with an integrated Facebook feed so visitors can see what's new at Penrith on a daily basis. The site is also much more user friendly than before and easier to navigate. 509-447-0665

OSU-Cascades and Northwest Regional NATSAP Collaborate: The Northwest Regional NATSAP Conference in Bend, OR was a success, with the Conference Theme of "Collaboration." NW NATSAP Board Members partnered with Daniel Stroud, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Coordinator of the Oregon State University - Cascades Campus (OSU-Cascades) to enhance the experience of the attendees. Chesley Strowd: 800-910-0412 | Michael Griffin: 541-3822-1620

Fire Mountain Boys Learn to Serve: The boys at Fire Mountain recently

volunteered to serve 100 men at the Mason's Lodge in Boulder, CO. In exchange for what turned out to be a stellar effort, the boys received copious complements and positive feedback from the men in attendance; and, perhaps something more valuable to them, a bit of job training. 303-443-3343

Dr. Foster Cline Presents "Love and Logic" to Boulder Creek Parents: Boulder Creek Academy welcomed Dr. Foster Cline, Co-Founder of the Love & Logic Institute, as keynote speaker for the school's Spring Parent Conference & Visit Weekend. This was part two of Dr. Cline's recent partnership with Boulder Creek, providing both staff and families with a common language for communicating with adolescents. Dr. Cline's presentation, "Parenting With Love & Logic" examined ways of working with children in a manner that reduces conflict and rebellion. 208-946-0275

Cherokee Creek Receives Re-Accreditation With High Commendations: Cherokee Creek Boys School is proud to announce the full re-accreditation of its program for another five years. Three expert educators, members of the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Team of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), recommended another 5 years accreditation after visiting our campus at the end of February. During their visit the QAR Team spent 3 days reviewing over 1000 pages of documentation, observing classes, and interviewing our staff, students, parents, and board members. 864-647-1885

Vasquez-Guzman Assumes Education Role With IECA: The Independent Educational Consultant Association is thrilled to announce Valerie Vasquez-Guzman has joined the education department. Valerie has worked in the private business, government and non-profit sectors, including time as Global Learning Director for Entrepreneur's Organization (EO). Her complete bio will appear in the upcoming issue of Insights. 703-591-4850

Parent Choices Hosts Brownstein and Sklarow: "Professionals: A Matter of Public Trust" April 2, 2012 on "Parent Choices for Struggling Teens", guests included leaders from professional associations in the network of private, parent choice schools, programs and services. Cliff Brownstein, Executive Director of the National Association of Therapeutic Schools And Programs (NATSAP), and Mark Sklarow, Executive Director of the Independent Educational Consultant Association (IECA), joined Lon Woodbury to discuss the term "professionalism" in the network representing families with children struggling with emotional, behavioral and learning problems. The term "professional" has come into question recently, often due to those in the public eye who have acted unethically. So the first question asked for the guests' professional opinion of the definition of "a professional." Both Cliff and Mark agreed stated that a professional puts the needs of the client first. Cliff: 301-986-8770 | Mark: 703-591-4850 ext. 12

Parent Choices Hosts Corabi and Schrom: "Second Chance for Underachieving Boys" On Parent Choices for Struggling Teens, the guests included Sam Corabi, Director of Admissions for Grand River Academy in Ohio and John Schrom, Founder of Schrom Boy's Home in Idaho. Together they joined Lon Woodbury in discussing how today's young men are lacking direction, feeling unconnected, working below their potential in school and needing a second chance at success. Sam: 440-275-2811 | John: 208-267-6569

CONFERENCE CALENDAR ~ JUNE 2012

June 6-9: AFCC 49th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, www.afccnet.org

June 7-9: 6th Annual Eating Disorder Conference: Clinical Recipes for Success, Los Vegas, NV, www.BFIsummit.com

June 9-12: National CASA Conference, Washington, DC, www.casaforchildren.org

June 23-26: Annual Conference ASCA, Minneapolis, MN, www.schoolcounselor.org

June 27-30: NAMI Convention, Seattle, WA, www.nami.org

June 28-30: Level I Equine Training Workshop, Orange, CA, www.newport-academy.com

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PLACES FOR STRUGGLING TEENS™

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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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