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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 blaming 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, 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.

# THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE:

## Supporting the Adolescent Rite of Passage

By: Mary Flora, MBA, MA, LPC, LCAS

Clinical symptoms exhibited by teens are a call for transformation. The instinctual drive to find meaning in life produces seeking behaviors that look for fulfillment. This instinct appears in archetypal patterns easily recognizable in any family constellation; the pleaser/co-dependent, the victim, the hero/heroine, the saboteur, the scapegoat, the addict, the perfectionist, the prostitute, the sloth and so on. The urge to transform carries a paradoxical force of energy responsible for both the forward drive hidden in the unconscious as well as its own declining regressive action. This tension appears necessary in creating emotional discomfort that leads to unrest, cognitive dissonance, and a subsequent call to action. When the hidden instinctual drive to move forward releases energy, it filters into consciousness resulting in a moment of clarity, or a cognitive shift causing one to pay attention, feel inspired or motivated. An environment that creates opportunities for individual transformation is critical to supporting the adolescent developmental process that requires the creation of an identity of their own.

A regressive tendency and the opposing call to renewal is a story common to all and a story line often accompanying adolescence. The adolescent is torn between a need for parental guidance and the developmental pull toward establishing a sense of personal authority. The parent's role is to stand in the middle of the two opposing forces and hold the tension of the opposites, not an easy task. Wilderness is one such environment worthy of supporting the adolescent in the psychological call to action. Nature provides the perfect backdrop for self-discovery and a challenging environment for the shift in consciousness that is often sought in adolescence.

Working with teens in a wilderness environment is an honor and a privilege and requires special care to guide them through the conflicting and often self-defeating messages they receive in today's culture. Placing teens in a wilderness environment affords them the opportunity to strip away cultural stereotypes and distractions that have thwarted their attempts at forming a positive self-image. The passage from childhood into young adulthood requires formal markers and acknowledgment of the need to transform as still present in the modern adolescent psyche. This rite is essential to

psychological health even though the cultural constructs needed to positively support this passage are absent (Frankel, 1998). The literal practice of initiation has ceased, but still may be influencing the psychology of adolescence. If positive cultural constructs to initiate are missing, the adolescent will be left to his or her own devices to act out this ritual in whatever way the culture is demanding as the appropriate ideal to attain. Drug use, eating disorders and cutting become habitual and ritualistic, oppositional attitudes, promiscuity and violence mimic what can be seen on reality TV and the internet. These behaviors become the unconscious treatment plan in an attempt to meet the cultural expectation of what is ideal.

An important question to consider is how the absence of the rite to initiate is influencing adolescents and in what way is this absence causing psychological stress in the maturation process and becoming a self-destructive narrative for teens.

Personal authority is the ability to validate one's own thoughts and actions as good and true. It develops gradually as others recognize and communicate the value of one's ideas and contributions, both for the family and for the larger social group. Society designates authority symbolically by conferring decision-making influence, social status, and power over material resources. (Young-Eisendrath & Wiedemann, 1987, p. 1)

The therapeutic wilderness experience is one that validates, contributes to the adolescent rite to initiate in an empowering way, and offers decision-making influence in a peer society while fostering transformation as the agent for personal change and renewal.

### References:

Frankel, R. (1998). *The adolescent psyche*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Young-Eisendrath, P. & Wiedemann, F. (1987). *Female authority: Empowering women through psychotherapy*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

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Every teacher should realize he is a social servant set apart for the maintenance of the proper social order and the securing of the right social growth.

In this way, the teacher is always the prophet of the true God and the usherer of the true kingdom of heaven.

~ John Dewey





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### LEGACY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

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Visit by: Nancy P. Masland, Ed.S., on June 2, 2012

As the first Independent Educational Consultant to visit the Legacy Outdoor Adventures since their opening in January, I offered to write a visit report to share my perspective of this program.

Legacy Outdoor Adventures is a “state of the art” wilderness program, for young men ages 18-30 years old. The program lasts eight to nine weeks and utilizes many of the facilities formerly owned by Aspen Education Group in Loa, BLM and National Forest Service lands.

When the three Loa programs closed in the spring of 2011, Gil Hallows gathered experienced and seasoned staff, both therapists and field instructors who had previously worked with him, and designed an innovative program. The team work is evident in the people involved and Independent Educational Consultants have referred appropriate students on the basis of their reputation.

Criteria for admission into Legacy Outdoor Adventures include but are not limited to dual diagnosis, substance abusers, spectrum disorders, and young men with “failure to launch” issues who are willing to change. Those unsuitable for enrollment are those with suicidal ideation, psychosis, eating disorders, diabetes and/ or violence.

There are several examples that highlight the quality of Legacy and its success. First is the exceptional hand-picked staff. If not certified as LSACS, they are working towards it and senior guides all have WFR certification. The 8:4 ratios in the field blend seamlessly therapy with both adventure and traditional wilderness skill building. Weekly in-service trainings are held in the field for all staff, both on and off duty,

during which time students learn culinary skills with the chef.

The philosophy at Legacy is based on Don Miguel Luis’ The Four Agreements: Speak impeccably, don’t make assumptions, take nothing personally and do your best at all times. Terence Gorsky’s - Life Success Plan, is also used to help identify the attributes and obstacles in the way of each participant becoming the man he wants to be. Each participant writes a letter to the aftercare placement stating why he is coming and giving them permission to ‘call him out’ if needed.

The process for a young man at Legacy begins when he is picked up in Salt Lake for the three hour drive. He is taken for a physical examination en route, and then outfitted with gear in Loa where the program explained to him. High quality gear is chosen and all wear bright blue shirts for identification.

Adventure activities include rappelling into slow canyon pools, fishing, searching for wild buffalo and wild horses and climbing 11,000 foot peaks. Local medical facilities and personnel, as well as Medivac from Page, AZ are readily available.

As Gil Hallows states “When we do well, we can afford to do good.”

About two-thirds of the way through a young man’s journey at Legacy, his family will visit the program for workshops in Loa. These workshops include families rotating among three activities: therapy, adventure and wilderness skill building.

During our visit, we met a new participant, several of the therapists and field instructors and spent time with Gill. We are truly impressed and plan to apply with our first appropriate client.

**About the Author:** Nancy P. Masland, Ed.S., is an Independent Educational Consultant located in Tucson, AZ. Founder of Nancy P Masland and Associates, she has more than 45 years of experience in counseling, administration and teaching, is a Certified Educational Planner and holds professional memberships in the IECA, NATSAP, NAIS, SSATB, LDA, NACAC, NAMI and NAMISA.

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## EXTENDED INSIGHTS...

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### KEEPING YOUR TEEN BUSY DURING SUMMER VACATION

By: Charles Elias

Summer is here, and your teen is getting ready to get out of school or already is. This is a time filled with excitement for kids and unease for parents. Most parents have to work all day, with the exception of a vacation in the middle of summer,

which means most kids are left to their own devices while parents are away.

This is a time when a lot of kids get into trouble because they are “bored,” or they plop themselves in front of the computer or TV and the only activity they partake in is changing the channel or playing games. Education.com states, “More teens try marijuana for the first time during the summer months than any other time of year.”

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## SUMMER VACATION

Here are some suggestions on how to make sure your teen is staying active and out of trouble:

**Sports:** Have your teen join a summer sports team. This can be done in combination with the options listed above. Maybe they can even coach younger kids. People often overlook the benefits of partaking in sports. One big benefit is your teen learns team work and collaborative skills, which we all know is a necessary part of growing up. It's fun! It's summer time and your teen has been looking forward to having some fun; so while work is a good option this allows your teen to have some fun on the side as well. Another added benefit is sports encourage a healthy life style. There is a variety to choose from, your teen can be part of a dance team or play ultimate Frisbee or any of the other traditional sports out there. There is also the possibility of a sports scholarship if your teen does well and enjoys the sport they take up.

**Volunteer work:** This is a great way to have your teen involved in the community and meeting new positive people, and there is never a shortage of organizations looking for help. This is also another thing your teen can put on a resume or college application. Volunteer work can also aid in opening your teens eyes to how fortunate they are and move them

from entitlement and teach gratitude.

**Try something new:** Ask your teen to make a list of things they have always wanted to do but haven't been able to. Some examples might be, learn about photography or how to paint, perform poetry, or go rock climbing. Look for summer programs in your area that would teach them these skills. This will allow them a positive outlet and enable them to learn to try new things. Your teen will appreciate that you are showing interest in them and allowing them to choose something they would like to do.

**Summer job:** This will teach them responsibility; accountability and build up their resume which will be looked at positively by colleges and future employers and keep them busy for a better part of the day. You can also use this opportunity to teach them money management skills.

**Summer Camp:** Look into summer camps in your area. They might even be able to be a camp leader or mentor. This will teach much needed leadership skills and also look good on a resume or college application. Your teen might find they really enjoy the experience and want to continue to do it in summers to come.

**About the Author:** Charles Elias is the founder of PRN For Families in Snowmass Village, CO. To contact Charles, call 888-762-5973, email [celias@prnforfamilies.com](mailto:celias@prnforfamilies.com), or visit [www.prnforfamilies.com](http://www.prnforfamilies.com).

## 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.]*

### TAG COUNSELING GROUP

Alpharetta, GA  
Tamara Ancona, Founder  
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[www.tagcounseling.com](http://www.tagcounseling.com)

TAG Counseling is an educational consulting company that works with parents and family members of children who potentially need placement in an emotional growth, clinical, or other program. The company works with parents of children who may be experiencing low self-esteem, poor academic performance, anger, impulse control issues, opposition, substance abuse, learning disabilities, suicidal tendencies, sexual issues, and a multitude of other issues.

Tamara Ancona, Founder and Director of TAG Counseling Group holds a master's degree in Psychology and is a licensed

professional counselor in the state of Georgia. She has experience working in clinical, corporate, and private practice settings. She is a member of IECA, ACA, and LDGA.

The first step in the counseling process is a thorough assessment of the child. This includes interviews with the parents and child, testing, consulting with other professionals who have worked with the child, and reviews of all educational and psychological records. Following assessment recommendations can be made for placement. Once placed, the service follows the child through the duration providing family support and guidance as well as communicating with the program. Following release from the program, TAG offers aftercare services including recommendations on follow-up programs, college and career counseling, and recommendations of other professionals that may be beneficial.

*[This information came from the TAG Counseling website.]*

### LIVES UNDER CONSTRUCTION BOYS RANCH

Lampe, MO  
Ken Ortman, Administrator  
417-779-5374  
[ezra51@tri-lakes.net](mailto:ezra51@tri-lakes.net) | [www.lucboys.org](http://www.lucboys.org)

Founded in 1982, Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch is a residential treatment center for boys ages 7 to 21 that are

experiencing a myriad of problems including criminal offenses, substance abuse, violence and aggression, chronic truancy, disrespect for authority, and emotional problems. The program generally lasts 15 to 18 months.

Founders Ken and Sheila Ortman previously had been foster parents, worked with prison ministries, and were youth counselors for the Mennonite church. The faith-based program used at Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch grew

Continued: LIVES UNDER CONSTRUCTION/ 8





## LIVES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

out of the couple's experience working with these various ministries.

The Christian program focuses on behavior modification through changing old habits and behaviors. Therapy is performed through a clinical setting multiple times a month and is based on Biblical principles. Accountability and good work habits are strongly encouraged through caring for animals on the ranch as well as through various trade programs. The boys can learn a number of different trades including mechanics, carpentry, landscaping and lawn care, cooking, housekeeping, and welding. Boys in the program

work with the program's Educational Coordinator to develop a study plan while the boys attend the public school system in the area.

The Lives Under Constructions Boys Ranch is located in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. The ranch-setting provides opportunities for the boys in the program to perform ranch maintenance chores such as landscaping and animal care. The boys also learn skills such as cooking which assist them in their independent lives after leaving the ranch.

*[This information came from the Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch website.]*

## AMERICAN HEALTHCARE LENDING

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American Healthcare Lending is a technology and finance company focused on providing creative lending solutions to consumers, providers, and lenders in the healthcare industry. American Healthcare Lending offers a variety of loan programs including unsecured installment and revolving, secured installment loans, HELOC's, 2nd mortgages, stock, bond and CD secured loans and many other options. They offer these programs through over 600 lenders nationwide.

Partners with decades of experience in consumer direct lending, indirect lending, and healthcare technology founded the company in 2010. Billy McKee is the President / CEO and Nick Sorensen is the VP of Product Development. American Healthcare Lending is a division of MyFinanceGuys.com.

American Healthcare Lending's loan programs extend into the \$100,000 range although most fall between \$15,000 and \$30,000. Payments can be stretched out over seven years and more in many cases. This allows families to stretch out the cost of treatment and ultimately allows programs to market to a wider range of clients. The rate, term, and monthly payment will all depend upon a variety of factors including your credit profile, payment history and income level. Typically, an installment loan will have a much lower rate than a credit card and a much lower monthly payment due to more favorable terms.

*[This information came from the American Healthcare Lending website]*

Life is the movie you see  
through your own eyes.  
It makes little difference  
what's happening out there.

It's how you take it that counts.

~ Denis Waitley

## INTERCEPT CA

By Outward Bound, Inc.

Minneapolis, MN  
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[www.outwardbound.org](http://www.outwardbound.org)

Intercept CA is designed to help struggling teens ages 12 to 17 and young adults 18 to 20 years old from all over the United States wanting to transition their lives in more meaningful and positive directions. Some examples of their behavior may include doing poorly in school, having anger issues, no motivation, and showing signs of risky behavior such as sneaking out of the house, skipping school, and drug and alcohol abuse. The course was developed for teens and young adults to be an early intervention for teens who may have started down a self-destructive path, but who have not yet burned any vital bridges. The program does require that the student agree to participate and follow their rules.

Josh Miner developed the first Outward Bound program in the United States in 1961. John C. Read, has been President and CEO of Outward Bound since 2001. During his tenure, he has helped develop many new programs and helped raise money for the availability of more scholarships. Internal and external outdoor professionals review Outward Bound programs and most of the staff members are certified as Wilderness First Responders or Wilderness Emergency Medical Technicians or the equivalent.

Students develop wilderness communication and teamwork skills while on course and are empowered to redefine their self-image through personal achievement. Each expedition is between 20 – 28 days. Some skills you will learn include cooking, navigation, map reading, how to pack and adjust you pack, foot care, hydration, knots and most importantly teamwork. Parents join them for the last three days of the program, in a pivotal and productive workshop with instructors and their child. Some scholarships are available for this program.

*[This information came from the Outward Bound website]*



**Facility for Sale or Lease in New York City Suburbs:** A 61-bed licensed facility, used for children and adolescents with psychiatric or dual diagnosis issues, licensed by the Office of Mental Health, is now available for sale or lease by its owners. For additional information, contact A. Carter Pottash at Adolmd@gmail.com or 917-710-2456.

**Little Keswick Opens New Residence:** Little Keswick School announced we are opening our brand new residence center, when the boys return for the summer session. In addition to the recent upgrades to the campus, Little Keswick School is currently interviewing for fall openings, beginning August 26, 2012. 434-295-0457 ext. 14

**Wediko Summer Program Opens Additional Cabin:** Wediko is pleased to announce that we have opened an additional cabin group in the Wediko Summer Program. 617-292-9200

**FFS Honors 15:** Dr. Gerald Janauer, Academic Dean at The Family Foundation School, cited the outstanding academic progress of 15 students during graduation ceremonies held June 16, and awarded high school diplomas to 12 of them. One will finish his diploma requirements over the summer, and the other two will return home to finish high school, having completed the character education portion of the FFS program. According to Janauer, "All fifteen have accomplished more than just about any normal high school graduate at a regular school can lay claim to." 845-887-5213, ext 465

**Carrie Cameron Joins Center for Change:** Tamara Noyes announced the addition of Carrie Cameron to the Business Development Team at the Center for Change. Carrie comes to the Center with fifteen years of experience in marketing and client services, and a passion for helping families in need. 888-224-8250

**Todd Fiske New Executive Director at Summit Prep:** Todd Fiske steps into the Role of Executive Director for Summit Preparatory School in Kalispell, Montana. Todd holds a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Montana. Fiske has been the Superintendent of the West Valley School District in Kalispell, Montana, a position he held since 2000. His relationship with Summit began when he joined the Board of Directors of Summit nearly 10 years ago, during which time Fiske has brought hands-on experience in education and school administration, particularly in the areas of educational leadership, health, vocational training, physical education, and special needs students. 406-758-8139

**Cedar Ridge Signs With Park City Independent:** Cedar Ridge Academy has evolved from a very small residential treatment center to a still small but sophisticated therapeutic boarding school. Park City Independent will not only give the students options such as foreign language, but it will also offer students the flexibility to work on their classes while on home passes, and it will allow students to continue class work after they have reached their therapeutic goals and returned home. 435-353-4498

**Skyland Trail Announces New COO:** Skyland Trail is pleased to welcome Mark (Klay) Weaver to the organization as Chief Operating Officer. Klay's leadership experience in behavioral healthcare organizations makes him a great fit for Skyland Trail. In this role, he will help develop strategic solutions for the challenges of our growing organization, including enhancing and improving systems, increasing profitability, and continuing to develop and implement innovative models of care. 678-686-5926

**Smalley Promoted to Interim Clinical Director:** Shortridge Academy has promoted Christina Smalley to the position of Clinical and Counseling Director on an interim basis as the search for a Clinical and Program Director continues. This move comes alongside the repositioning of Kay Patch to Medical Director and the departure of Julie Barker to the private practice world. 877-903-8968

**Aspen Institute Introduces Dr. Wilson as Medical Director:** The Aspen Institute for Behavioral Assessment is excited to announce the hiring of Jeffrey J. Wilson, MD, FAACAP as the full-time Medical Director of the Institute. Dr. Wilson brings an incredible depth and breadth of knowledge and experience in adolescent psychiatry to the Aspen Institute. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and the University of Medicine in New Jersey who completed his psychiatric residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. During this time, he was the chief resident in emergency psychiatry. Dr. Wilson then completed a child fellowship at Stanford University, serving as chief resident and also began his research training during this time. He then completed a post-doctoral addiction fellowship at Columbia University, becoming an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry. Dr. Wilson is board certified in general, child and adolescent and addiction psychiatry. 802-362-9966

**Wilson New Admissions Director At CERTS:** CERTS is pleased to formally announce Shawnale Wilson as the new Director of Admissions for our Southern Utah programs. Shawnale has been working with at risk youth since 1996 at a therapeutic program in Idaho. She began working directly with families as a Family Services Coordinator, but has spent the last 12 years as an Admissions Director. While working with families and professionals over the years, she has made a name for herself in the industry. Parents and their children have always been her number one priority, but her skill in communicating with referring professionals has set a high standard. Shawnale attended Cabrillo College and graduated Aims College with a certificate as an Emergency Medical Technician. 214-679-0095

**Montcalm School Graduates 14 Students:** Graduating from high school is a monumental occasion for any young person. It is the culmination of many years of hard work, dedication and a commitment to securing a better future. For the students of Montcalm School, a program of Starr Commonwealth, graduation means even more. On Saturday, June 16, 14 students realized their dream of obtaining a high school diploma; each one took a different path to get here. 517-630-2434

**Parent Choices Hosts Schwenkler of Greenbrier:** Titled, "The Eyes Are The Windows To The Soul," the topic for the June 18 radio show was brainspotting. Brainspotting is a very different type of psychotherapy and one of the more recent therapeutic practices used. Ron Schwenkler, Clinical Director of Greenbrier Academy explained the process on the show. 304-445-7790

**Hazelden Holds Clinical Connections:** Clinical Connections is a monthly professional networking event sponsored by Hazelden and designed to bring professionals in the Madison/Milwaukee area together for learning and sharing best practices. In June the focus was "A Look into the Life of a Family with an Addicted Child". 920-988-0955

**Rosecrance Therapist Named Illinois Social Worker of the Year:** Rosecrance clinician Lynn Cadmus has been named Social Worker

## SEEN N HEARD

of the Year by the Illinois chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Cadmus is an expert in gender-based trauma. She also is trained in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and the treatment of personality disorders. Cadmus' state-level nomination qualifies her as a finalist for national recognition. An award ceremony will be held this fall to honor the statewide award winners. 815-387-5605

**CALO Leadership Spends Time at Mexican Orphanage:** South of Phoenix and across the Mexican/US border is orphanage named Esperanza Para Los Ninos. The CALO Leadership Team learned of the orphanage two years ago and decided to help as it is sorely underfunded. For the past two years, CALO staff have spent a week donating supplies and playing with the neglected children. For information on how to help raise money for the children of Esperanza, call CALO. 866-459-1364

**Eating Disorder Hope Launches New Website:** Millions of individuals with eating disorders and related issues often have a difficult time finding credible information and resources online. Eating Disorder Hope, online since 2005, recently redesigned their website to offer even more information and resources for those struggling with these disorders. 817-231-5184

**Trails Academy Opens:** JD Daubs and Graham Shannonhouse announced the opening of Trails Academy. Trails Academy is a transitional therapeutic boarding environment for boys, grades 9-12. 828-989-7570

**Parent Choices Hosts Hirshberg of Germaine Lawrence:** "The Subtle Trap of Eating Disorders" was the topic of conversation June 11 on Parent Choices For Struggling Teens. With first clarifying what an eating disorder is and how they develop, David believes there are so many causes as to why an eating disorder starts. 781-648-6200 ext. 1111

**Ponca Pines Academy Closes:** Betsy Warren announced Ponca Pines Academy closed at the end of June 2012 as it's campus became unavailable for occupancy. 402-658-7113

**Expedition Therapy Launches Take Flight Expeditions:** Expedition Therapy has added the Take Flight expedition to its curriculum. The Take Flight expedition has been designed to assist young adults in launching into life, using principles of aviation and the experience of flight as a powerful metaphor. "We have developed Take Flight to show young adults that launching into life is an ongoing process," said Beth Fogel, Expedition Therapy CEO. "Students first construct a radio-controlled model aircraft, then learn how to take off, fly straight and level, navigate to a destination, and land smoothly." 435-899-9115

**FFS Mourns The Passing of Robin Ducey:** Robin D. Ducey, retired principal of the The Family Foundation School, died June 16, 2012. She was 66. Ducey, who joined the school in 1987, was instrumental in obtaining the school's initial charter from the New York State Board of Education, completing the accreditation process and developing the challenging academic curriculum for which the school is widely known. Robin and her husband of 47 years, Michael K. Ducey, served as Family Leaders until their retirement in 2010, guiding and mentoring hundreds of Family School students over the years. Robin was also a celebrated regional artist, known for her watercolors of the Delaware River Valley. In addition to her husband, she is survived by four children and six grandchildren. 845-887-5213, ext 465

**Cooley Retires... Catherine Freer Closes:** After nearly 25 years in the field, Rob Cooley has decided to close Catherine Freer as he retires. "It has been a wonderful 25 years and a privilege and an honor to have helped so many teenagers and their families. I have

also been blessed to have worked with so many dedicated and creative individuals over the years. The decision to close the company when I retired was a difficult one, but fiscally it was the right one," explained Cooley. The closure will not effect Santiam Crossing. 800-390-3983

**The Arch Bridge School Receives High Honor:** The Arch Bridge School at Wellspring, a leader in therapeutic education, has been honored as a 2012-2013 National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET) School of Excellence. Bestowed upon only a few select qualified licensed schools in the state of Connecticut, the School of Excellence award is NASSET's highest level of recognition and is presented to schools that meet rigorous professional criteria and have demonstrated exceptional dedication, commitment and achievement in the field of special education. 203-266-8027

**Extended School Year at Lakeview School:** The Lakeview School is committed to serving youth and adolescents in the least restrictive environment with a focus on best diagnostic, educational and therapeutic practices enhanced by positive behavioral supports. The Summer Interim Alternative Placement Program at Lakeview provides an alternative to traditional summer programming. The Lakeview School serves students who can benefit from an out of school placement in a non-public special educational school; or an efficient and effective model to develop a comprehensive educational plan for implementation in the referring school district. 603-539-7451

**Personnel Changes At Vive:** Please join Vive in wishing Hannah Mariotti well as she embarks on a new journey. With Hannah's departure imminent, Cat Howland will be joining Vive this month, doing Clinical Outreach - National. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a former Vive Therapeutic Mentor. 303-517-0038

**Linden Hill School Closes:** After 51 years of serving young men with learning and attention issues, Linden Hill School announced that it closed its doors in June 2012. 413-498-2907

**Lindner Center of Hope Announces Director of Sibcy House:** The Frances and Craig Lindner Center of HOPE is pleased to announce the hiring of Rogher Hargus as Program Director. as Program Director of the Center's Sibcy House Unit, which offers a nationally recognized comprehensive diagnostic assessment and short term-residential treatment on a private-pay basis. As program director, Hargus is responsible for programming, administrative duties and clinical staff who provide care to Sibcy House residents. Hargus has more than 25 years in healthcare administration, most of which was spent in behavioral health. 513-536-0316

**Cedar Ridge To Enhance Communication:** News of Wes Nielson leaving Cedar Ridge has raised some concerns about what changes might occur as Rob takes over his responsibilities. Cedar Ridge firmly believes that better they can define the population of students they work best with and get that message out to the consultants, the better things will go. Their goal is to communicate through a series of short emails to facilitate an orientation of their course and answer any questions as they arise. 435-353-4498

**Grand River Academy Headmaster Retires:** The face of GRA is changing. After almost four decades on campus, Headmaster Randy Blum retired at the end of June. His accomplishments are legendary; five new campus buildings, a strong and stable teaching and administration staff, and an enhanced reputation that has GRA in the national and international spotlight. Mr. Tim Viands will become the new Headmaster at GRA starting this summer. Mr. Viands comes to us from St. Thomas More school in Connecticut. 440-275-2811



## CONFERENCE CALENDAR ~ AUGUST 2012

**August 2-5:** 120th Annual American Psychological Association Convention, Orlando, FL, [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

**August 10-11:** Fourth Annual Eating Disorder Conference presented by Eating Recovery Center, Denver, CO, [www.EatingRecoveryCenter.com](http://www.EatingRecoveryCenter.com)

**August 11:** Pre-Conference Meetings for the National Conference on Addiction Disorders, Indianapolis, IN, [www.naadac.org](http://www.naadac.org)

**August 12-15:** National Conference on Addiction Disorders, Indianapolis, IN, [www.naadac.org](http://www.naadac.org)

**Inspiring Students in Early Sobriety Through Academics:** Professor Joe Lapin, MFA, on-site creative writing professor at Sober College, talks about his unique and award winning approach to educating. Prior to joining Sober College, in late 2011, Joe Lapin received the prestigious Silver Palm award from Florida International University for his exceptional work in building communities inside and outside the classroom. Now, for the past nine months, Joe has been teaching at Sober College, and in that short window of time, he has lived up to this award and has succeeded in touching the lives of both residents and staff. 818-274-0304 ext. 107

**Alpine Academy Receives 4th Consecutive Best of State Award:** Each year a selection committee meets to review nominees of the prestigious Best of State award in a number of divisions and categories. For the last four years, Alpine Academy has been the recipient of this award. 800-244-1113

Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

~ James Matthew Barrie

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## PLACES FOR STRUGGLING TEENS™

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