

Places for Struggling Teens

Published by
Woodbury Reports, Inc.™

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

January 2010 - Issue #185

JEFFREY M. GEORGI, CAFETY AND THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN

By Lon Woodbury

The highlight of the recent Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA) conference in Charlotte, NC, was a three hour presentation on Saturday morning November 14, 2009, by Jeffrey M. Georgi on the Adolescent Brain. Georgi is the Clinical Director of the Duke University Addictions Program, an author and a popular speaker.

The ballroom was full, which is remarkable considering it was on a Saturday morning after a long and exhausting conference. The wide attendance was a powerful testimony to his expertise and knowledge of the subject. The attendees were not disappointed, and many remarked to me how much they had learned from the presentation.

A major emphasis, since he was speaking to a group of professional educators, was outlining the development of the brains of adolescents. A major point was that a person's brain was not fully developed until a person is into his/her twenties. This conclusion from exhaustive research tells us that many of the impulsive, silly and self-destructive decisions adolescents make are because their brains are not yet fully developed. Their forebrain is not developed enough to put a check on impulsive behaviors. In a sense, when an adolescent does something dumb, it's because their brain has not developed enough to think through the consequences. "If it feels good, do it" seems to be the mantra for the adolescent brain. The ability to think through consequences and implications of a given action will come later when the brain is fully developed.

One of the most frequent comments I heard after Georgi's presentation was "I wish the CAFETY representatives had been there for the presentation." What they were referring to was the well-attended Point/Counterpoint presentation the previous afternoon where representatives of CAFETY and A-START debated representatives from the schools and consultants attending the conference on the topic "Federal Legislation and Therapeutic Schools and Programs."

CAFETY stands for Community Alliance for the Ethical Treatment of Youth. They have been very critical of some residential Therapeutic schools and programs and are strong proponents of youth rights.

What the attendees had in mind in their comments about Georgi's presentation was that during that Point/Counterpoint debate, one of the CAFETY representatives pointed to the State of Washington Age of Consent legislation as a model that should be widely adopted. Part of this legislation requires a child of 13 or older to give their consent before the child can be placed into a residential program. If the child does not want to go to a residential program, the state will enforce that child's right to refuse, even if it is the parents who are trying to make that placement or bring the child home and the child is involved in very dangerous activities. The only exception would be if a Judge orders the child into placement, which usually is only when an adolescent commits a crime and is sentenced into a Juvenile Justice facility.

All the consultants and school program people in the room picked up on the contradiction between the CAFETY youth rights ideal and Georgi's reality. They were very aware how dangerous it would be for a child with a still forming brain to have that right before the child's brain had developed the ability to foresee

CONTINUED: BRAIN/ 2

Inside...

Essays:

Student As Learner / 3

Visit Reports:

Living Well Transitions / 4 New Vision Wilderness / 6 **Extended Insights:**

Second Nature Blue Ridge / 9

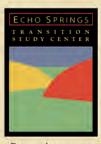
Seen N' Heard /11

We are a culture that portrays parents as baggage... impossible to ignore but generally a pain in the neck.

~ Mary Pipher

[Essays and articles appearing in this publication are the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of Woodbury Reports, Inc.,

or Struggling Teens.com.™ We urge our readers to conduct their own investigation of the products and services identified herein.]





- Do you know someone who is confused? Searching? Bright and capable? Lacks motivation? Stuck and unsure of the next step?
 Doubtful of their abilities? Ready to make a change?
- Echo Springs provides a small nurturing environment for young adults 18 to 24 years old in need of transitional living skills under the guidance of caring mentors.
- Offering college coursework and technical training programs through a local community college plus options for high school completion (if needed).
- Appropriate aftercare placement for students in recovery or those completing a more therapeutic program or school.
- A common sense approach that teaches and models effective boundary setting, practical life skills, real world work exposure, self defined goal setting, time management, a clean and sober social experience, fun, and a lot of dialogue about what to expect in the adult world.

Contact us at 888-688-ECHO or www.echosprings.net

The **Places for Struggling Teens**™ Newsletter is published monthly. One year subscriptions are \$35 USD.

Non-Continental US postal orders or International orders add \$5 USD.

Places for Struggling Teens™ is 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*.™

© Copyright 2010, by Woodbury Reports, Inc.™

All Rights Reserved. Use of materials is allowed without prior written approval if the proper author and publication attribution accompanies the copy. Duplication or republication must include the following information:

WOODBURY REPORTS, INC.™

7119 2nd Street • PO Box 1107 Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805 208-267-5550 (p) - 208-267-9127 (f) lon@woodbury.com www.strugglingteens.com

Content Editor:
Denise Woodbury
denise@woodbury.com

Layout Editor Kristie Campbel kristie@woodbury.con



ISSN: 1540-3718

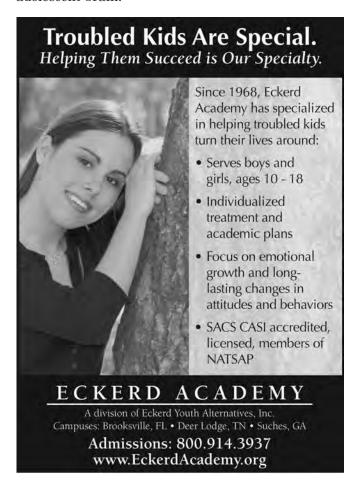
BRAIN

tragic consequences.

Indeed, there have been adolescent lives lost that can be traced back to this State of Washington legislation. One parent—whose 13-year-old daughter had been brutally murdered in Spokane, WA, while turning tricks to support her crack habit in the 1990s—had established the BECCA Foundation, named after his deceased daughter. His daughter, Becca, had started running away from home at age 13. The State law had prohibited her parents from bringing her back home because she did not consent to go back home. The State took her into custody. However, the State was unable to keep her in either a foster home or a youth program in Spokane and was reluctant to take action to ensure she would stay in a program, again likely due to the question of youth rights as defined by the legislation.

The BECCA Foundation lobbied to modify the law to better protect children and obtained legislative approval, but the Governor vetoed the modified legislation saying it was "too repressive."

It is our job as a society to protect our children! Giving them rights before they are able to responsibly handle them does no service to children, especially those who like to "live on the edge." We need to rethink the whole question of children's rights in light of research on the functioning of the adolescent brain.



STUDENT AS LEARNER

(How Wilderness Helped My Depression)

There have been so many different events in my life that have made me who I am today. My struggle began in my 9th grade year and took until my senior year in high school to figure out how to overcome my problem. The summer before my senior year I was sent to Minnesota to live in the woods, in solitude from the world around me. I spent thirty-two days hiking the Superior Hiking Trail, working on understanding myself and working on overcoming my challenges and problems.

While I was at wilderness, I discovered I was suffering from depression.

Depression is defined as "a condition of general emotional dejection and withdrawal; sadness greater and more prolonged than that warranted by any objective reason (Dictionary.com)." What I was experiencing was a constant state of sadness, my entire junior year of high school I had to live with it everyday. I didn't go to classes, interact with other people, I was always sleeping because I was so sad. I didn't know why, what it was from or how it started it just happened. Some days I felt fine but in general I was always sad. Other people who I have talked to and told my story to don't really understand how depression can impact someone mentally and physically. It feels like you're constantly drained of all feelings and emotions. You feel empty, alone and in my case I didn't tell anyone about my feelings because I

SSSHHHHHHH...LEARNING!

ACT and SAT scores above the National Average

27 out of 28 students who turned 18 years old while enrolled in the program last year, stayed enrolled...voluntarily.

DISCOVERY ACADEMY...
QUIETLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE. www.discoveryacademy.com

didn't realize it was a problem. I wasn't even aware I was depressed until I went to a wilderness program.

The wilderness program I was sent to was Soltreks. Unlike other wilderness programs that are based heavily on the physical part, Soltreks was different; the basis of the program was therapeutic. During those thirty-two days I went through probably the most painful part of my life. Everyday I suffered, I suffered because I was trying to understand who I was and I didn't want to face the truth. My entire life I have been running away from the truth—the truth about myself. I realized I didn't understand who I was, and I spent this time learning about who I truly was and how to overcome my problems.

After leaving Soltreks I was given a prescription for an anti-depressant. Taking this medicine as well as finally learning about me changed my life. With this new knowledge of myself and the help of the pills my life began to change. I was no longer sad; I no longer wanted to be alone. I finally began living my life without that constant state of sadness. This past summer was some of the best days of my life and it only continues to improve.

Sadly I can't tell you I am completely okay, because I am not. There are still days where my past comes back to haunt me and I feel sad. The point I am trying to make is that I was able to help myself just by taking some time to understand who I was, understand my feelings and emotions. Depression can be beat—it just takes time, the correct mental thinking and the will power to overcome it.

This essay was written by a former student of Soltreks as a College assignment. Permission to publish was granted by Lorri Hanna, Executive Director of Soltreks-MN, Two Harbors, MN. www.soltreks.com Phone: 218-834-4607

Information technology creates an economy close to the model capitalism — a model which assumes the world to be composed not of childish and incompetent masses, but of individuals who can be trusted to pursue their own interests competently — if they are first given access to accurate information and then left relatively free of interference to make something of it.

~ John Taylor Gatto

VISIT REPORTS... LIVING WELL TRANSITIONS

Boulder, Colorado
Brooks Witter, MA, Clinical Intake Director
303-245-1020
info@livingwelltransitions.com
www.livingwelltransitions.com

Visit by Loi Eberle, MA, March 31, 2009

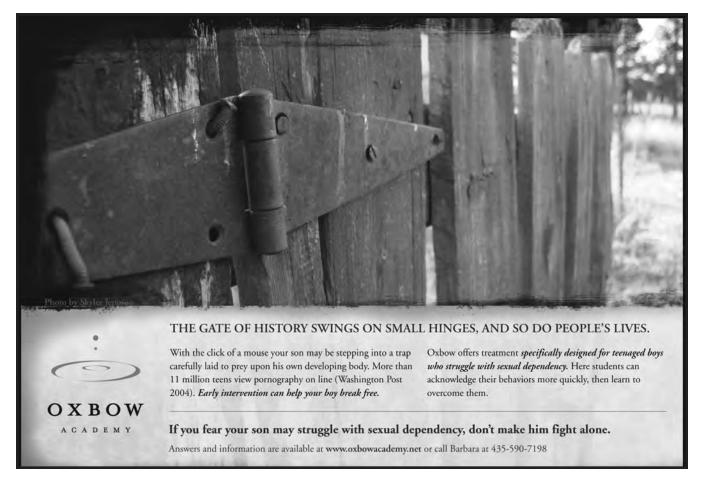
Living Well Transitions [LWT] in Boulder, CO, describes itself as an "assertive community treatment program customized to meet individual needs." Their goal is to support young adults transitioning out of destructive and/or disruptive behavior patterns by helping them "re-enter a more balanced life pattern". I remember when the late Bill Sell created this program in 2004 and have heard of its positive outcomes, yet this was my first visit.

I met with most of LWT's eleven program staff at their downtown office in Boulder and found their unified view of a sane society to be refreshing. I also spoke with a program resident and parents of former residents, noticing how LWT staff uses a variety of modalities, skills and techniques to constantly remind their clients/residents of the possibility of a sane, open and clear mind. The resident I interviewed described her previous inability to achieve sobriety for any length of time, despite her history of drug and alcohol

rehabilitation programs. She chose LWT as a last resort and was grateful that they taught her to advocate for her needs by emphasizing internal work rather than external benchmarks. They motivated her to create a resumé that led to a job she loved, enabling her to pay many living expenses. Her mother glowingly described this program's impact on her daughter, also discussing the challenges that led her to develop intrinsic motivation to follow her dream.

LWT residents live independently in single apartments and are responsible for manifesting what they say they want. LWT Life Skills Counselors contact residents daily, focusing on building relationships, speaking about sanity and encouraging personal accountability for making good choices. Through Motivational Interviewing, Life Skills Counselors encourage residents to define their core values and reflect upon whether each decision they make moves them toward, or away from, their "wholesome" vision of themselves.

This program differs from most others in that LWT directs clients to "focus on individual goals and not be distracted by the needs of a group dynamic." Though lacking a strong peer milieu, residents are taught to develop healthy friendships. On most days, groups are taught specific skills at the LWT office, with a skills counselor available for group study halls. Recently they began the 10 week Path of Freedom curriculum developed by Fleet Maull.



When parents and consultants express concern about negative behavioral influences in Boulder, LWT highlights its many opportunities for learning to choose between life-promoting and life-destroying activity. In addition to Boulder's outdoor recreation, sports, healthy living options and many academic institutions, LWT staff teaches self-regulation skills. They meditate for their own self-care, refraining from imposing their belief systems on others. A few are Buddhists and teach at the Naropa University; the others are not.

LWT understands its residents might experience set-backs and bad choices: evidence that they are not yet ready to live completely on their own. LWT assumes a harm reduction approach, also supporting residents' participation in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous by getting them to daily meetings to meet their "30 in 30" or "60 in 60" goals. All clients have random UAs. If there is use of pot, it will be repeatedly brought up to the resident, asking for reflection on the impact that substance is having, asking: "Is it helping or hindering your ability to move toward your goals?" Issues are handled on a case by case basis. Those with a history of devastating relapses are monitored very closely. Relapse is understood to be part of recovery; learning how to pick oneself back up and find the resources to carry on can become a life skill of lasting importance. In cases of experimentation, when staff is not seeing drastic

problems, the focus becomes helping the resident understand its impact and reflect on more effective ways of meeting those needs.

Obviously Living Well Transitions is positioned on the end of the spectrum that represents more freedoms. To determine suitability, Brooks Witter, Clinical Intake Director, carefully assesses applicants to determine whether they are ready to act responsibly and can take care of themselves. He conducts written and on-site interviews with the applicant, the parents and prior program clinicians to determine whether applicants have an adequate insight into their need for, and commitment to, positive change. Obvious rule outs are people still caught in addiction and those who are super avoidant of staff interaction.

Residents are expected to maintain an appropriate level of behavior, even on weekends, when there is less staff contact. While this creates the possibility of incidents, it also forces the residents to begin advocating for themselves, asking for help when they feel the need. There are no curfews at Living Well. Staff sees their role as supporting residents in making lifestyle choices that are seen as intrinsically sustaining to them in the long run. When poor choices occur, staff reflects back to residents that they are not "showing up with integrity."

Residents must learn to handle this level of freedom effectively. This involves skills in many areas,

CONTINUED: LIVING WELL/ 6



LIVING WELL

including: recognizing and overcoming triggers, learning to self-soothe and self-regulate, obtaining employment or attending classes, managing finances, relationships and discovering areas of interest. LWT uses a "robust" team approach in supporting residents' acquisition of these skills. When there are concerns, the Program Manager alerts the Life Skills counselor internally. They have on-call staff available 24 hrs a day. If a resident can't maintain appropriate behavior over a period of time, it becomes necessary to discuss with the resident the need to arrange for a higher level of support than LWT can offer.

Living Well Transitions emphasizes the importance of good admission decisions, recognizing that while some young adults need a lot of structure to contain them, others no longer learn within that level of structure. Indeed, not every young adult who has struggled is ready for the level of freedom that LWT represents. For appropriate candidates, Living Well Transitions offers tremendous opportunities to develop insight and acquire the skills needed to guide their path.

Kites rise highest against the wind — not with it.

~ Winston Churchill

NEW VISION WILDERNESS

Milwaukee, Wisconsin Drew Hornbeck, Executive Director 414-526-5747

<u>dhornbeck@newvisionwilderness.com</u> <u>www.newvisionwilderness.com</u>

Visit by Judith E. Bessette, EdD, October 22 -23, 2009

Inspiring change...by nature is both the motto and the philosophy of New Vision Wilderness, a Wisconsin-based program I recently visited. Drew Hornbeck and Steve Sawyer, experienced outdoor and mental health professionals with a passion for teens, took their first group out into the Chequamegon National Forest in the north central part of the state in 2007. While having served students from all over the country, most students are from the Midwest – many from Wisconsin.

Drew spent several years as field staff in programs out west, including serving as program director in a wilderness setting prior to his work as the lead experiential therapist at Rogers Memorial's Child Adolescent Center. Steve, an LCSW and CSAC, serves as Clinical Director. He left a similar position in a large, urban out-patient clinic to join Drew in the woods. Steve is also an expert in survival skills and wild edibles and has worked in other adventure-based programs.

The boys' group we visited was trekking in the southern part of the Chequamegon, four hours by car from Milwaukee. The boys were just about at the end of their 21-day trip. When we arrived, Drew and I had



For many young men and women, leaving home and transitioning to college or the work world is a daunting and overwhelming challenge. Thrust into the real world alone, with few advocates, they often are overwhelmed by isolation and lack of structure and support. Robert Fischer, M.D., psychiatrist, cofounded **Optimum Performance Institute** in 2004 to meet the needs of these young adults, ages 17-25.











OPI Offers:

- Extensive therapy, counseling and emotional support
- Motivational stimulation utilizing mentors and unique opportunities for personal growth
- · Boutique educational packages
- · Weekend seminars, lectures, and outings
- A multifaceted chemical dependency program
- · Special groups for those needing help with social skills



OPI is located in Woodland Hills, California near Los Angeles For Admissions call (888) 558-0617. www.opiliving.com supper with Steve, Laurie (a master's level therapist) and Adam, who serves as the Field Director and Education Coordinator. Laurie is a "local girl" as they say in Medford, WI; and her outdoor acumen, coupled with her genial relationships with folks in town (which helped pave the way for the program's neighbors to become both good friends and advocates) underscored by her clinical expertise, makes her valuable on many levels. Adam has a teaching background in addition to experience in leading extreme winter trips in the Minnesota Boundary Waters. Solo, he has hiked the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin in its entirety.

At dinner, we talked about their philosophy. Focused on creating positive change in teen boys and girls in gender-specific groups, staff members work to develop strong relationships with each student. The goal is to expand each teen's comfort zone in a systematic way making sure each youngster understands they are safe, that their needs are going to be met and that they have the tools they need to make change possible.

The next morning, I spent time with Steve, learning about the clinical approach. There is both group and individual therapy several times each week that involves a mix of cognitive behavioral therapy, traumatic memory reprocessing, emotional literacy training and substance abuse intervention.

A unique aspect of therapy at New Vision is the use of HeartMath. Every staff member is trained in using HeartMath techniques – activities designed to enhance cohesion between the body and the brain in order to reduce and manage stress. Program participants are all pre- and post-tested and often say learning these

techniques were among the best parts of the program. Steve is on the faculty of the HeartMath Institute and presents frequently, including at the Naropa Wilderness Symposium and NATWC, the National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camps

Steve emphasized the importance of establishing relationship – that, in fact, without relationship there can be no therapy – and thus no change. He talked about how important it is for students to genuinely believe they are safe in order to grow.

Next I visited with the boys at their campsite. Six young men were camped at a glorious setting on a ridge above a pristine lake surrounded by golden tamaracks. Even the gentle rain did not diminish the beauty of the setting. I met half of the group in a wall tent with a wood-burning stove keeping them warm. I met the others in a tepee with a fire-pit the boys were just starting. Both groups were working on "hard skills" like making bowls and spoons or on fire techniques. The boys ranged from a 12-year-old "wanna be" Latino gang member to a 16-year-old dealing with significant substance abuse issues. Several of the boys were private pay while others were there through the support of the counties in which they live.

Two young men walked me to the cook tent and the area where their individual sleeping tents were set up. As they explained the division of labor, we walked to a stream where I saw a wooden bridge a group had built last summer. The boys explained that groups get involved in service projects both in town and with the Forest Service.

CONTINUED: NEW VISION/ 8



ADOLESCENT TRANSPORT

Certified in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.

Safely transport adolescents to their designated program with care and dignity.

Our staff will coordinate all necessary ground and air travel arrangements.

Agents located throughout the U.S.

RUNAWAY LOCATION

Through our separate Investigative company, West Shield uses the latest technology and the most sophisticated methods for finding runaways.

> Worldwide Affiliates * 24-Hour Service \$2 Million Liability Insurance Protection

Call 800-899-8585

Allen Cardoza, President Transporting Teens & Locating Runaways Since 1981!



High Frontier

High Frontier is a non-profit Residential Treatment Center for emotionally disturbed adolescents, ages 12 to 18, with a documented history of severe behavioral and/or emotional problems who cannot be served in a less restrictive environment.

GOALS ARE TO:

- Build a positive value system
- Assess resident's level of functioning developmentally, emotionally and academically
- Develop & implement services to help the resident meet goals.
- Provide each resident with living skills
- · Assist residents to work with their families
- Develop a discharge/aftercare plan

PO Box 1325 Fort Davis, Texas 432-364-2241 Fax: 432-364-2261

high.frontier@sleschools.org



For 75 years Grove School has been recognized as the leader in providing clinical expertise & college preparatory education for adolescents, with average to gifted intelligence, who face social, emotional & academic issues.

Grove School offers:

- A year round, CT approved academic program for grades 6-12 plus post-graduate
- 90 member professional staff for 105 students
- 4 Psychiatrists, 2 PhD Psychologists, 6 LCSW/LMFTs, and 30 certified teachers
- Individual therapy twice weekly, group therapy weekly, family & milieu therapy
- · Diverse cultural, athletic & experiential activities

To learn more, please call 203.245.2778 or visit our website www.groveschool.org

COURAGE • INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • ACCOUNTABILITY CONSIDERATION • LEARNING • OPEN MINDEDNESS





Youth Care Residential Treatment Center for Troubled Teens

Youth Care is an adolescent, residential treatment center set in a home-like environment for youth ages 11 to 18 who are experiencing academic, emotional or behavioral problems including substance abuse.

Our intensive, therapeutic residential treatment for troubled teens is licensed to treat youth and adolescents with such issues as:

- Depression
- * ADHD
- * Social Withdrawal
- Self-Destructive Behavior
- · Physical/ Sexual Abuse
- · Thought Disorder
- . Learning Disabilities
- * Substance Abuse
- * Poor Self-Esteem
- · Family Maladjustment
- Pregnant Teens
 acceptable

Students live in a home-like setting, which includes living rooms, bedrooms and a large family kitchen. In this residential setting, students learn the value of chores, positive interactions with others, and developing family relationships.



For further details contact:
Youth Care, Inc.
PO Box 909, Draper, UT 84020
800-786-4924 or 801-572-6989
www.youthcare.com

New Vision

I asked each boy if he could tell me something he had learned about himself. Their answers included new feelings of appreciation for their parents, a desire to do better in school and an over-all better feeling about themselves. When I asked if they had any advice for a new student, one boy said "keep in mind you get back in relation to what you put in."

New Vision uses a level system. A special part of my visit involved hearing a young man present his case for moving from Level 2 (Hawk) to Level 3 (Falcon). He described how his hard skills had improved, commented on what he had learned about himself and told how he intended to use his new insight at home. He answered questions about things he still needed to work on — things he planned to think about on the over-night solo starting later that day. (Students start as Robins and can progress to Owl but this level is usually only achieved by students who choose to come back to New Vision.)

At the camp site, I also had the opportunity to meet Keith and Brian. Keith recently moved back to Wisconsin after working in a residential outdoor therapeutic program in the east. A certified teacher, he helps students with school assignments from home. Brian, who has worked with teens in school and community settings for more than 30 years, is an avid survivalist.

When Drew and I headed home, we continued talking about the program. Because they are small, they have the ability to individualize their program offerings. For instance, while three of the boys I met would be graduating and going home in a few days, the other three were all staying another week because they had each really just begun to engage in the work at hand.

Most New Vision clients return home but do so with aftercare from New Vision. With many of the kids close at hand, aftercare can happen right in the student's home, but it could happen via phone as well. Sometimes, within several months, a student may return – either to re-visit what they had learned or, in some cases, to go further in the therapeutic process.

New Vision offers four-day retreats, family programs and one-on-one experiences in addition to their standard 21-day program. The program can be extended on an individual basis if the need for increased therapeutic impact is evident. Drew and Steve have also been successful in providing day-long leadership development programs in area public schools that work toward team building, truancy abatement and diminishing school violence.

Drew and Steve are hands-on owners and plan to stay that way! The experience, education and maturity of the team they have assembled in the past two years is impressive. They have had several referrals from educational consultants and would be happy for more.

Clinical services are licensed through the Wisconsin Department of Family and Human Services. In addition to the necessary insurance coverage, the program is authorized to operate by the US Forestry Service. Their per diem rate is highly competitive.

EXTENDED INSIGHTS... SECOND NATURE BLUE RIDGE

Clayton, Georgia
Tere Snodgrass, Admissions Counselor
866 205-2500 x 5
tere@snwp.com - www.snwp.com

Visit by Stephen Migden, PhD, October 14, 2009

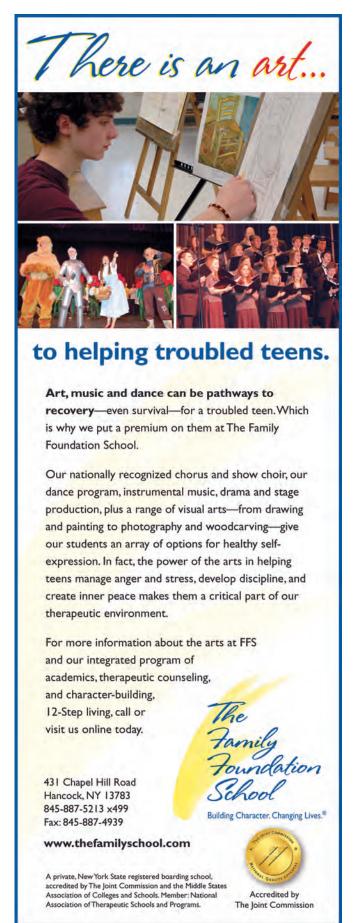
Second Nature Blue Ridge is a therapeutic wilderness program located in northeast Georgia, near the South Carolina border. A part of the Second Nature Family of Wilderness Programs (along with Second Nature Cascades in Oregon and the two Utah programs, Second Nature Uinta and, for young adults, Second Nature Entrada), Second Nature Blue Ridge is designed to provide a clinically sophisticated, therapist-driven wilderness program for boys and girls who experience a variety of behavioral, emotional, substance abuse and school or community adjustment problems.

I visited the staff of Second Nature Blue Ridge on a wet and chilly day in the early fall. The administrative offices are located at the end of a winding, hilly road in the small town of Clayton. There, I had the opportunity to meet with Dan McDougal, the Program Director since the Blue Ridge program's founding seven years ago, and Jeff Scott, the Clinical Co-Director, who has also been with the program since its founding in 2002. I spent about two hours with Dan and Jeff, asking them a variety of questions about their program, its structure, components, and their staff. Equally important, I attempted to gain some insights into their professional backgrounds and their commitment to serving struggling youth.

Both Dan and Jeff explained that they had come to Second Nature Blue Ridge following experiences at other programs in the private parent choice network. They also noted, with evident pride, the high level of experience and the stability of their field and clinical staff. For example, Dan spoke about the field staff who had gone on to get graduate mental health degrees after working at Second Nature Blue Ridge, and he even pointed out a wall filled with the photographs of these former employees. Jeff pointed with pride to the experience and cohesiveness of the Blue Ridge therapists which include clinicians representing a variety of therapeutic perspectives, from cognitive behavioral to psychodynamic.

Second Nature Blue Ridge usually has between five and seven groups of young people in the field at any one time. There are generally about two or three groups of teenage boys, one to two groups of teenage girls, and one co-ed group of pre-teens (the Footsteps Program). The kids hike the forest and mountains of Chattahoochee National Forest, traveling in groups of ten or less, and with a staff to student ratio of about one to two. Therapists are in the field with their groups two days per week. In addition, they serve as consultants to the field staff in regular staff meetings, as well as in many informal, day-to-day contacts.

CONTINUED: SECOND NATURE/ 10



SECOND NATURE

A variety of therapeutic techniques are employed. Since Second Nature uses a therapist-driven model of wilderness treatment, these techniques may differ from therapist to therapist, and therapists may specialize in certain kinds of problem areas. However, Jeff, the Clinical Co-Director, was careful to stress that, regardless of the technique, all Second Nature Blue Ridge therapists focus on the youth-therapist relationship as the central element in the treatment of kids with problems. Jeff and Dan made sure to also stress that, parallel to the youth-therapist relationship, the youth-field staff relationship is also an extremely important component of the program with both of these relationships unfolding in the special, centering setting of the wilderness.

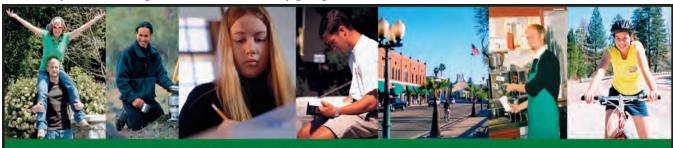
Parents participate in their children's treatment at Second Nature Blue Ridge in a variety of ways. They have weekly phone sessions with their child's therapist and twice-weekly live webinars (open to all Second Nature parents, not just those using the Blue Ridge setting). There are on-site parent workshops every five to six weeks or so; and there is an alumni parent program in which new parents are paired with alumni parents who can serve as support figures. In total, parents are provided with about four hours of support each week.

Whenever I visit a therapeutic wilderness program, I pay particularly close attention to its safety protocols, because keeping children safe in the wilderness is of primary importance. At Second Nature Blue Ridge, I was told by Dan, the Program Director, that every group

in the field has at least one certified Wilderness First Responder (WFR) on staff. In addition, about ten percent of the field staff are EMT's. Groups are equipped with cell phones, two-way radios and satellite phones. Each group must call in its positions, usually via satellite phone, at least twice each day, at 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Newly admitted kids are outfitted with clothing and gear by Second Nature, and each new participant must pass a physical exam given by the program's own physician before entering the field. In addition, I was told that the doctor who is on call visits each group in the field every 21 days. These important safety standards were at least as stringent as those I have found at other high quality therapeutic wilderness programs.

Second Nature Blue Ridge is a member of the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (NATSAP). It is accredited by the Association of Experiential Education, and the educational program is accredited by the Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools. Second Nature Blue Ridge holds a license as an Outdoor Therapeutic Camp from the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Every man measures another's words by the yardstick of his own. ~ L Ron Hubbard



Benchmark Young Adult School

The Solution for Troubled Teens & Young Adults

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

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



For information and admissions call Richard Brimhall

1-800-474-4848

admissions@benchmarkyas.com

Visit our web site at www.BenchmarkYoungAdultSchool.com

SEEN N' HEARD

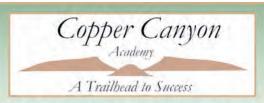
Ten Myths About Autism (2009) Nurse Practitioner Schools reports: With Autism affecting around 3.4 out of every 1,000 children between the ages of 3 and 10 every year, the controversies surrounding autism usually involve the mysteries behind the staggering rise of diagnoses over the past five years. A proper understanding of how to work with and against autism and autism spectrum disorders allows patients to seek the necessary treatment and move on to live happy, productive and stable existences.

Family Dinner Linked to Better Grades for Teens (September 13, 2005) ABCNews.com reports that many families find evening meals almost impossible to schedule. However, studies show a regular family dinner, according to a survey by Columbia University, is more likely to help teens make better grades in school and much less likely to have substance abuse problems.

CALDWELL COLLEGE LAUNCHES PHD IN AUTISM TREATMENT (November 17, 2009) The Star Ledger: New Jersey's autism rate is higher than the national average with one out of every 94 children diagnosed with autism according to the Center for Disease Control. Since many parents cannot find adequate treatment for their children, especially ABA trained professionals, Caldwell College will offer the first PhD program of its kind in New Jersey.

AUTISM TEST IN CHILDREN MAY TURN TO EYES (November 19, 2009) Stltoday.com: University of Missouri at Columbia researchers conducted a study using changes of light to diagnose children with autism. The test shows 92.5 percent accuracy in predicting the children that had autism.

Francis Releases Three Publications (November 22, 2009) Dore Francis, MA, Horizon Family Solutions, Bend, OR, 541-312-4420, has recently released three new publications: A newly updated Low Cost Treatment Programs Reference List, a new Home Values & Home Contract Booklet and the new 2009 - 2010 Advocacy Journal for Placements and Services of Adolescents and Young Adults at Risk.



Nestled in a scenic Central Arizona valley, Copper Canyon Academy offers a boarding school for girls ages 13-17 with behavioral, emotional or learning problems. We believe that by combining a warm, caring, structured environment, students will develop self-esteem, self-awareness, self-reliance, self-confidence, and self-management.

Our program offers:

- Comprehensive, therapeutic program including individual therapy, group therapy and family therapy
- · Equine therapy and canine therapy
- Essential and extensive family involvement
- Intensive physical fitness as part of daily life
- · Accredited college prep academic program

Contact Paul Ravenscraft for more information

877-617-1222

Email: admissions@coppercanyonacademy.com www.coppercanyonacademy.com

An Aspen Education Group Program. Help for Today. Hope for Tomorrow.

PSYCHIATRIC SOLUTIONS LAUNCHES PSI PATRIOT SUPPORT (November 23, 2009) Andrew R. Laning, II, CMSgt, USAF (Retired) Executive Director of Military Affairs, 719-213-3628 or 800-888-1088, announced Psychiatric Solutions, Inc. has launched an expanded program: PSI Patriot Support to provide behavioral health services to military members and their families at PSI facilities around the country. Joey Jacobs, Chairman, President and CEO of Psychiatric Solutions, Inc. stated "We are proud that PSI Patriot Support will be able to help with a number of stress related issues that are increasingly common. We are amazed at the strength and resiliency of our military and all of us owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifices."

Dog Training in Australia for Troubled Teens (November 24, 2009) ABC Rural reports a project based in Australia is helping male teens train farm working dogs to jump, with one of the dogs holding the Australian dog jumping record of about three meters. Coordinator of Paws Up says the program takes boys off the streets and gets them out of town where a lot of trouble occurs late at night or on the weekends, creating positive opportunities for them.

LETTER FROM ASPEN PRESIDENT (November 24, 2009) Phil Herschman, President, Aspen Education Group, Cerritos, CA, has issued a letter to the referring professional community about the recent closure of Mount Bachelor Academy in Prineville, OR. To view this in its entirety, please visit the struggling teens' website. For additional information contact Patty Evans, Sr. Vice President of Business Development for Aspen Education Group at 760-918-8703.

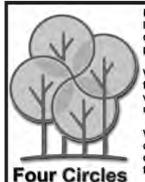
SUMMIT PREP STUDENTS SHARE STORIES (November 25, 2009) Two recently graduated students of Summit Preparatory School, Kalispell, MT, were guest speakers in the 7th and 8th grade classrooms at West Valley Elementary School in Kalispell as part of Red Ribbon Week, sharing with the students the work they had to do to get their lives back on track. Both students graduated Summit Prep on November 23 and plan to attend college. For more information on Summit Prep, contact Barbara Cunningham, EdD, Admissions and Guidance at 406-758-8139.

EAGALA'S 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED (November 26, 2009) Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA), Santaquin, UT, 877-858-4600, will be hosting their 11th Annual Conference in Layton, UT, on March 3-6, 2010. The full details on the conference and online registration are now available online.

BOULDER CREEK TEACHER HONORED (November 26, 2009) Claude Bisson, Humanities and Social Science teacher at Boulder Creek Academy, Bonners Ferry, ID, recently received the Idaho Teacher of the Year Award from the Idaho Human Rights Education Center for "promoting and fostering an environment of tolerance and equality through an emphasis on global and local awareness."

NAPSEC'S ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN JANUARY (November 30, 2009) Sherry L. Kolbe, Executive Director/CEO of

CONTINUED: SNH/ 12



Recovery Center

877-893-2221

Four Circles Recovery Center is a licensed substance abuse and co-occurring disorders treatment program for young adults 18-28.

We integrate the best of traditional treatment modalities with wilderness therapy to produce a unique clinical environment.

We utilize a 12 step philosophy in conjunction with sophisticated clinical practice to provide a foundation for sustained recovery.

www.fourcirclesrecovery.com

SNH

the National Association of Private Special Education Centers, Washington, DC, 202-408-3338, shared that NAPSEC will hold their Annual Leadership Conference on Captiva Island in Florida, January 17-20, 2010, at the South Seas Island Resort. NAPSEC represents private special education programs across the country and the membership consists of early intervention services, schools, residential therapeutic centers and adult living and college experience programs.

Brewer Earns CEP (November 30, 2009) The Rome News Tribune reports Ivy Brewer, Associate Dean of College Guidance at Darlington, has earned the designation of Certified Educational Planner. Ivy has a Master of Education degree from Florida Gulf Coast University and has been with Darlington since 2007. Prior to Darlington, Ivy worked at Seacrest Country Day School and St. Catherine's School.

School Connection Workshop in San Diego (November 30, 2009) School Connections, will be offering a therapeutic schools and educational consultants workshop in San Diego, CA, February 15-17, 2010. The School Connections Workshops offers individual meetings between educational consultants and admission representatives from schools across the United States. In addition, there will be a follow up workshop in Baltimore, MD, on June 3-4, 2010. Registrations are available online or contact Patrick Finn at 443-564-1809.

Degnens New Owners of Center for Safe Youth, LLC (November 30, 2009) Center for Safe Youth is excited to announce a transition in ownership. Tim and Sally Degnen have taken over as owners of CSY.CSY founder John Villines, his wife Cathy and Tim Degnen have been the ownership group for the past five years and John and Cathy have been reducing their roles at CSY over the past couple of years as John's security consulting business has grown and as Cathy has prepared to embark on a new venture. Center for Safe Youth, LLC, has a new mailing address and fax number: Center for Safe Youth, LLC, PO Box 81786, Athens, GA 30608; phone: 888-677-7233/706-613-9007 and fax 706-243-6403.

WILDERNESS QUEST SUSPENDS OPERATIONS UNTIL SPRING (November 30, 2009) Jennifer Whipple, Wilderness Quest, Monticello, UT, 435-587-2801, announced the program will suspend operations until after the New Year. Wilderness Quest will then resume operations on February 10, 2010. An admissions director will be available continuously through this period of time to answer questions and help parents. Wilderness Quest would

like to thank you all for your support and we look forward to providing exceptional services to you and your families for years to come.

SIMPSON AND BRINKMAN VISIT WOODBURY REPORTS (December 2009) Rich Simpson, Owner of Argentina Pathways, located in Bariloche, Argentina, and David Brinkman, Owner of Brinkman House in Bonners Ferry, stopped by Woodbury Reports to share news with Lon Woodbury about their new collaboration: Pathways Home and Abroad.

New Summit Academy Family Workshop Weekend (December 1, 2009) Heather Tracy, Executive Director at New Summit Academy Costa Rica, Atenas, Costa Rica, 414-921-1388, shared that they welcomed 10 families to campus for a 4 day workshop during Thanksgiving. The theme was conflict resolution in preparation for many students' first home visits over the holidays. In addition, each family prepared a special family recipe for the group's Thanksgiving dinner.

Former V3 Tucson Residents Graduate Business School (December 2, 2009) Shannon Standen, V3 Tucson, Tucson, AZ, 520-299-4787, announced four graduates from V3 Tucson were also graduates from the University of Arizona's Eller Business School, class of 2009.

College Internship Program Announces Summer Programs (December 2, 2009) The College Internship Program (CIP), Lee, MA, 877-566-9247, has announced their upcoming summer

program dates for 2010: These two week sessions will be offered at Indiana University at Bloomington and Florida Institute of Technology from June 18 to July 2, 2010; at UC, Berkeley, from July 2 to July 16, 2010, and at Westfield State College in MA, from July 18 to August 1, 2010. These summer programs are for teens ages 16-19 with learning differences, diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome, ADHD, nonverbal learning disorder, high functioning autism, dyslexia or other learning differences.

CIP IS ASPERGER'S GATEWAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION (December 2, 2009) The New England Psychologist website reports The College Internship Program (CIP), comprised of four campuses in Melbourne, FL, Bloomington, IN, Berkeley, CA, and Lee, MA, provides specialized academic, internship and independent living experiences for post-high school young adults with Asperger's, high-functioning autism and learning differences.

SEDF PRESENTS ASPERGER'S PRESENTATION (December 2, 2009) Jon Hed, Student Educational Development Fund (SEDF) Benefit Coordinator, Lee, MA, 413-243-0710 ext. 22, announced the SEDF, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial aid to LD students and training to LD educators, will be presenting the 2010 SEDF Benefit featuring Dr. Stephen Shore, author of "Autism for Dummies and Beyond the Wall" on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This presentation will be held at the Cranwell Resort in Lenox, MA. Call for more information.

DR. HANS RESIGNS AT KING GEORGE SCHOOL (December 2, 2009) Beth Rowley, Director of Client Relations at King George School, Sutton, VT, 800-218-5122, announced Dr. David Hans has stepped down as Head of School as of December 11, 2009. Dr. Hans guided the King George School for the last 18 months.

OPEN SKY'S DR. KETTLE ON THE RADIO (December 2, 2009) Danny Frazer, Business Development and Marketing Director for Open Sky Wilderness Therapy, Durango, CO, 970-382-8181, shared that Dr. Nicola Kettle, Wellness Director, was on Fort Lewis College public radio's show, Health Talk, on December 2, discussing the role of naturopathic medicine in the healing process at Open Sky. Dr. Kettle is a licensed naturopathic doctor with a BA in International Health from Brown University and a doctorate from the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine.

NAWA ACADEMY FEATURED (December 3, 2009) Jason Hull, Director of Development and Marketing for Nawa Academy, French Gulch, CA, 800-358-6292, announced Nawa Academy was recently featured on a website: anewscafe.com. Nawa Academy, is

a non-traditional, non-therapeutic boarding school that nurtures students in an environment that emphasizes teaching based on individual abilities and learning styles and provides students with learning differences such as dyslexia, ADHD and dysgraphia (the inability to write caused by cerebral lesion) with an environment where they can succeed.

TIMBER RIDGE CLOSED 2009 (December 4, 2009) Marcia Pearson, Executive Director at Timber Ridge Preparatory School for Girls in Clark Fork, ID, 208-777-1615, announced with sadness that Timber Ridge Preparatory School for Girls will be closing at the end

of the year. The closure is due to a sharp decline in enrollments in 2009 attributable to the poor economy. In addition she shared that Timber Ridge was a labor of love and she will miss serving the girls.

Pasadena Villa Opens Smoky Mountain Lodge (December 4, 2009) David Nissen, MBA, FACHE, VP and Managing Director at Pasadena Villa, 877-845-5235, announced Pasadena Villa has opened Smoky Mountain Lodge, Pasadena Villa's newest adult residential facility in eastern TN, featuring Pasadena Villa's Social Integration ModelSM in conjunction with traditional therapies to serve clients nationwide. Situated on ten acres, this recently renovated co-ed facility features 29 private bedrooms and baths, vast program activity space and state of the art dining facilities, all with views of Great Smoky Mountain National Park located minutes away.

BERTRAM CONSULTANTS ATTEND FUNDRAISER (December 4, 2009)

Jeremy McGeorge, Director of Special Needs Services at Bertram Educational Consultants, Shelburne Falls, MA, 413-207-1141, CT office: 203-255-2577, shared that he and Cammie Bertram (from Bertram Educational Consultants) attended a fundraiser in New York City at the Green Depot, for the Green Schools Alliance, a project of Global Environmental Options. The Green Schools Alliance is a non-profit group created by schools for schools, to work with pre-K through grade 12 in schools worldwide to meet their energy and sustainability goals, raise environmental awareness, and empower students, as well as faculty and staff.

ERDMANN JOINS FULSHEAR RANCH ACADEMY (December 4, 2009) Ashley Auchterlonie, Director of Marketing at Fulshear Ranch Academy, Needville, TX, 281-414-3026 (Mobile), announced Dale Erdmann, LCSW, DCSW, has joined the clinical team at Fulshear Ranch Academy. Dale has spent over 40 years working with adolescents with complex emotional and behavioral issues. Most recently, Dale was a primary therapist at Island View Residential Treatment Center and Aspen Institute. Dale is well known and respected in our industry, most notably for his work with adopted students and their families.

SUNRISE CLINICAL TEAM TRAINED IN DBT (December 4, 2009) Ashley Auchterlonie, Director of Marketing at Sunrise RTC in Hurricane, UT, announced the full clinical team at Sunrise recently completed foundational training in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) by Behavioral Tech. This advanced level of training provides each therapist with an array of skills necessary to effectively treat girls with mood disorders and Borderline Personality Disorder.

RUNAWAY TEENS RETURN HOME (December 5, 2009) The Science Daily reports that a new study done by UCLA has found stereotypes of homeless youth inaccurate--two/thirds of the youth return home shortly if they keep peer and parent contact.

MEMORIAL HERMANN INVOLVED IN RESEARCH (December 7, 2009) Memorial Hermann, Houston, TX, 713-222-2273, the UT Medical CONTINUED: SNH/ 14

Personalized Help For Parents In Crisis

Woodbury Reports Educational Consultations help parents think through the out-of-control behaviors their child is exhibiting and suggest appropriate placement options. All of our consultants have raised teenagers and helped hundreds of parents professionally. We believe parents should be in charge of decisions regarding their children so we research options to make educated suggestions rather than telling our clients what to do.









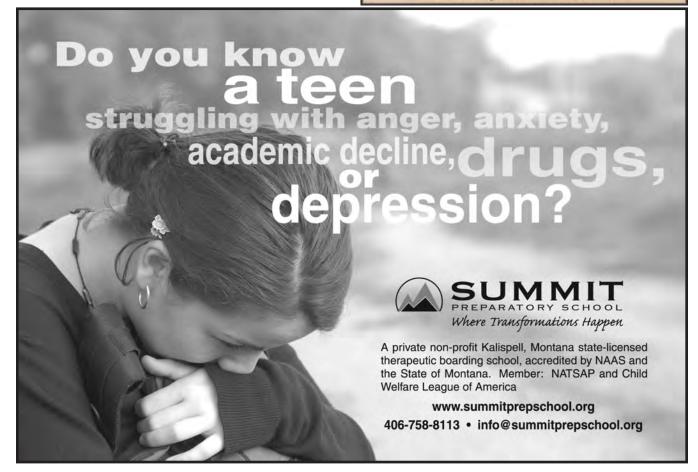


Pioneering the Referral Service for Schools & Programs

Call Today 208-267-5550

208-267-9127 fax PO Box 1107 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

"Some Children just need to be heard, not cured."



SNH:

- School at Houston and the Houston Rockets are teaming up to proactively treat what has become, in recent years, the number one killer among our youth athletes sudden cardiac arrest. HEARTS TM, which stands for Houston Early Age Risk Testing and Screening, is a study and program designed to detect any abnormal heart conditions that can cause the heart to arrest.
- LEADING AUTISM ORGS USE NEW TECHNOLOGY (December 7, 2009)
 Jamie Pagliaro, Executive Vice President at Rethink Autism, New
 York, NY, 646-257-2919 ext.205, announced their partnership
 with Autism Speaks to deliver two free, live webinars entitled
 "What You Need to Know, an orientation for parents and family
 members of children recently diagnosed with an autism spectrum
 disorder." This is the first collaboration between Autism Speaks,
 an autism advocacy group, and Rethink Autism, an innovative
 online autism treatment platform, to help Families Bridge the
 critical time gap from the point of diagnosis to the beginning of
 treatment.
- Valley View Hires World Class Chef (December 7, 2009) Rick Bulger, Associate Director at Valley View School, North Brookfield, MA, 508-867-6505, is thrilled to report that Valley View School has recently acquired, by a quirk of luck, a brand new and very creative head chef, Jean-Louis Marty, who took over as the head of kitchen position upon the moving on of their former head. Having served for many years as Executive Chef at a number of Hilton Hotels, Jean-Louis worked in a very prestigious French Restaurant and Country Club, lived in France for a number of years and studied at the Culinary Institute de Peu-France.
- GET KIDS BACK IN TOUCH WITH NATURE (December 8, 2009) The University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, UK, Professor Jules Pretty and a team of experts have created a 10 point plan to put children back in touch with nature, tackle the growing problem of obesity and save society millions of pounds. This 10 point plan includes encouraging more outdoor play for young children, planners to incorporate green space as a fundamental right for all people and a better evaluation and assessment of the benefits of outdoor play to people and the economy.
- AUTISM SEEN AS ASSET IN SOME JOBS (December 8, 2009) According to MSNBC.com, the non-profit Chicago company, Aspiritech, recently launched a pilot program to train high-functioning autistics as testers for software development companies. "The stuff we do is boring (for others), like going through a program looking at every detail, testing the same function over and over again in different situations, but it doesn't disturb those of us with autism as that's our strength," says Thomas Jacobsen, an autistic employee at Specialisterne.
- RANCH LIFE HEALING SOULS OF TROUBLED TEENS (December 9, 2009) Articles Factory.com reports on Sorenson's Ranch School in Koosharem, UT. They have over 30 years in business helping troubled teens. They claim they offer an effective healing program where youngsters living in a picture sque spot at a teen ranch are involved in farming, learning to care for animals, planting crops, camping, hiking and fishing.
- Rush Joins New Leaf Academy (December 9, 2009) New Leaf Academy in Bend, OR, 877-820-5050, a therapeutic boarding school for girls ages 10 to 14, recently appointed Sarah Casson Rush as its new Admissions Director.
- PTSD SHOW LESS ACTIVITY IN THE HIPPOCAMPUS (December 9, 2009) Ivanhoe Newswire: A new study lead by Dr. Carrion is the first to give direct evidence that children with symptoms of post-traumatic stress suffer poor function of the hippocampus, the part of the brain responsible for storing and retrieving memories.
- Scientists Challenge Darwin's Theory (December 9, 2009) The Science Daily reports that researchers from the UC, Berkeley, are concluding that humans are wired to emphasize compassion and collaboration more than selfishness.
- St. Paul's Academy Closes (December 9, 2009) Rob Button, Headmaster at St. Paul's Academy, Phoenix, AZ, announced on their website, with deep regret, that the Board of Trustees of St. Paul's Preparatory Academy has voted to close the school's program at the conclusion of the third block. School will remain in

- session until December 24, 2009. This decision was a result of the school's weak financial condition.
- CAN GAMING CHANGE EDUCATION? (December 9, 2009) eSchool News: With the popularity of video games continuing to permeate our culture, schools and students are increasingly interested in using video games for learning. New research on gaming design and brain plasticity offers more perspectives on educational gaming.
- JONES NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL AT KING GEORGE (December 10, 2009) King George School in Sutton, VT, is pleased to announce Gerard Jones has accepted the position of Head of School. Gerard has been affiliated with the school for the past 4 years as a member of the executive management team. You may reach him at 800-218-5122 or by email.
- CooperRiis Opens New Urban Center January 2010 (December 10, 2009) Virgil Stucker, Executive Director at CooperRiis, Mill Spring, NC, 828-899-4673, is excited to announce that they are opening their new Urban Center, completing a year's renovation, after raising about five million dollars for this new campus. It is located next to the UNC in Asheville and will be ideally suited for adults who are recovering from serious mental illness.
- Dr. Hans Executive Director for Bromley Brook (December 10, 2009) Karen E. Fitzhugh, PhD, Senior Vice President Northeast Division Aspen Education Group, 802-592-3344, announced Dr. David Hans will be joining Bromley Brook as the new Executive Director on December 14, 2009. Dr. Hans was most recently the Head of School at the King George School in northern VT. Prior to that, he was at Albuquerque Academy in NM, a traditional private preparatory school where he served in a senior position in their clinical department.
- DECK HOUSE CONGRATULATES DR. BROWNE (December 11, 2009)
 Tom Blackford, Headmaster at the Deck House, Edgecomb, ME, 207-882-7055, is pleased to congratulate Assistant Headmaster Melinda Browne on the successful defense of her doctoral thesis at the University of Exeter in Devon, England. Dr. Browne has been with The Deck House School for 10 years.
- CEDAR RIDGE RESPONDS TO STAFF ABUSE CHARGES (December 11, 2009) Woodbury Reports, Bonners Ferry, ID, 208-267-5550, received a letter from Sean Haggerty, Admissions at Cedar Ridge Academy, Roosevelt, UT, 435-353-4498 ext. 117, informing us that a former employee of Cedar Ridge has been charged with sexual abuse of two students enrolled and allegations he provided medications to students illegally.
- Kuhn VP of Adult Services at Rosecrance (December 11, 2009)
 Rosecrance Health Network, Rockford, IL, 888-928-5278,
 announced the appointment of Keith Kuhn as Vice President of
 Adult Services. For the last four years, Mr. Kuhn has served as the
 community/ executive director of Gateway Foundation in
 Springfield, IL. His extensive work history includes being director
 of outpatient programs, vice president of operations and
 behavioral health director. He is the recent past president of the
 Central Illinois Recovery Coalition and has more than 18 years in
 the field of addictions treatment.
- PARENT COMMENTS TO BOOK REVIEW- AN UNCHANGED MIND (December 12, 2009) Woodbury Reports, Bonners Ferry, ID, 208-267-5550, recently received a letter from a parent with a 17 year old son who is attending a therapeutic boarding school and had some positive comments on the book review of "An Unchanged Mind," which was recently in the Woodbury Reports.
- Vardell and Bulloch to Lead Aspen Institute (December 14, 2009) Mark Dorenfeld, Senior VP, Western Division, Aspen Education Group, 626-358-6584, announced that effective January 1, 2010, Don Vardell, MS, will become Executive Director at Aspen Institute for Behavioral Assessment in Syracuse, UT. Vardell is the current Executive Director of neighboring Island View Residential Treatment Center and will maintain those duties along with his new position. In addition, Mike Bulloch, LCSW, current Clinical Director for the Institute, has been promoted to Associate Executive Director. Current Executive Director and founder, Dr. Jared Balmer who also founded Aspen Education Group's Island View RTC and the Oakley School will

be leaving the facility to pursue other interests.

Delgado on Internet Radio December 14, 2009) Certified Addictions Professional and street certified professional Luis A. Delgado (Dope Doctor), from Orlando, FL, hosts a weekly radio program called The Coach Live radio and TV program. This program focuses on all issues related to addiction and recovery and airs noon to 1PM Eastern Standard Time. Call-ins are welcome.

New Roads Treatment Center Hosts Open House (December 14, 2009) Staci Bradley, Director of Admissions at New Roads Treatment Center, Provo, UT, 801-910-9329—cell, shared with us that New Roads Treatment Center held a holiday open house at their young adult treatment center on December 18, 2009.

ECKERD AT DEER LODGE HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM (December 15, 2009) Micha M. Mathis, Admissions/Client Relations Coordinator for Eckerd at Deer Lodge, Deer Lodge, TN, 706-747-1082 ext 228 or 678-617-0702-cell, announced Eckerd at Deer Lodge has teamed up with Cedar Creek Cattle Company to offer a 12-week horsemanship class working with domesticated horses and wild Mustangs. The challenge is to teach the horses to follow basic commands and complete such tasks as loading on and off a trailer and backing into a stall.

WILDERNESS STUDENTS APPRECIATE MEANING OF HOLIDAYS (December 16, 2009) Aspen Achievement Academy, Loa, UT, 800-283-8334, reports that the most meaningful and memorable holiday of a young person's life can be spent at wilderness camp. Gil Hallows, MS, Executive Director, states "It is so impactful to be away from home, especially during a major holiday like Christmas or Hanukkah. Our students gain a real appreciation for the things they've always taken for granted - their traditions, their loved ones and the comforts of home."

Johnson to Serve on Child Welfare League Advisory Committee (December 16, 2009) Barbara Cunningham, EdD, Admissions and Guidance for Summit Preparatory School, Kalispell, MT, 406-758-8139, shared Summit Prep is proud to be a member of the Child Welfare League of America, whose mission is to build public will to ensure safety and well-being for children, youth and their families. Executive Director, Rick Johnson, MSW, has been asked to serve on the National Residential Advisory Committee and will attend their next meeting in January 2010, in Washington, D.C.

LEARNING STYLES DEBUNKED (December 16, 2009) Kevin Sisson, Association for Psychological Science, 202-293-9300 ext. 117, reports according to a new report published this month in "Psychological Science in the Public Interest" (a journal of the Association for Psychological Science) there is no scientific research that really supports the existence of different learning styles or the hypothesis that people learn better when taught in a way that matches their own unique style. To read this article in full, please visit the struggling teens' website.

BCA STUDENTS EXTEND THEIR HANDS TO THE COMMUNITY (December 17, 2009) Shawnale Wilson, Director of Admissions at Boulder Creek Academy, Bonners Ferry, ID, 877-348-0848, shared with us some of the many ways the students at BCA are reaching out to the community with service projects and community service. These include: volunteering at the community kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, providing firewood to the elderly, helping with refereeing for local sports teams and working at the local animal shelter. In addition, one student earned his Eagle Scout rank by building and stocking honey bee hives.

Intrepid CCBS Families Thrive in Hurricane Ida's Rains (December 2009) Beth Venable, Cherokee Creek Boys School, Westminster, SC, 864-647-1885, shared that recently during a Family Trek (in which families and their boys spend four days and nights participating in an outdoor adventure) twelve families braved the rains of Hurricane Ida and "persevered and prevailed" the unplanned challenge, switching gears to enjoy whitewater rafting since "they were getting wet anyway."

DECK HOUSE ACCEPTED INTO NAIS (December 17, 2009) Tom Blackford, Headmaster at the Deck House School, Edgecomb, ME, 207-882-7055 or 207-441-7415-cell, announced The Deck House School has just received notice of full membership in NAIS: National Association of Independent Schools.

RYAN JOINS VIVE AS NEW VP of SALES (December 17, 2009) Vive, Inc, Boulder, CO, announced Kelly Ryan, LMFT, has recently joined Vive as the new Vice President of Sales. Kelly had previously held the position of National Liaison for Aspen Education Group for the past 11 years, involved in program development, quality assurance, integration of systems and customer service, as well as program start-ups and acquisitions.

STICC Merges with Alldredge Family Foundation (December 17, 2009) John Reuben, President and Founder of Saving Teens in Crisis Collaborative, Sudbury, MA, 877-249-1336, announced Saving Teens in Crisis Collaborative is expanding in order to serve even more families and has recently merged with the Alldredge Family Foundation (AFF), a charitable organization also dedicated to supporting struggling teens and their families. AFF and its program have now merged with and will operate under the name of Saving Teens® In Crisis Collaborative (STICC). To learn more contact John Reuben.

HAYES SIX-MONTH-OLD TWINS (December 18, 2009) Kristen Hayes,



Communications Director for Aspen Education Group, recently shared some pictures of her six month old twin baby girls: Haylee Grace on the left and Taylor Nicole on the right. Thank you Kristen, they are adorable!

Audio Training Helps Dyslexics (May 1, 2008) Science Daily reports children with dyslexia are unable to process fast changing sounds. Audio training teaches children how to process these sounds and improves their ability to "manipulate words and their phonic components." This translates into better reading.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST TO HEAD FFS COUNSELING (December 21, 2009) Emmanuel Argiros, President of The Family Foundation School, Hancock, NY, 845-887-5213, has named Mark P. Vogel, PhD, Director of Counseling for the school. Vogel has more than 30 years' experience as a private clinical psychologist and is a skilled child, adolescent and family therapist. His specialties include parent/teenage relations, teen alcohol and drug issues, learning disabilities, diagnostic testing and psychological and vocational assessments. He is a frequent consultant to attorneys, courts and schools on psycho educational issues and has been a consulting psychologist at FFS since 2007.

Family Foundation School Graduates 20 (December 21, 2009) Ann Janauer, Principal at The Family Foundation School, Hancock, NY, announced that twenty seniors received New York State Regents diplomas at midyear graduation ceremonies on December 12. An additional five FFS students completed the school's character education program and returned home to complete high school. According to Janauer, 19 of the graduates have been admitted to 2 or 4-year colleges beginning in January or next fall, while one remains undecided.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL HOSTS FAMILY FOUNDATION STUDENTS (December 21, 2009) Jeff Brain, VP for External Affairs at The Family Foundation School, 845-887-5213, announced that 16 Family Foundation School students attended a holiday celebration as guests of the Youngsville School in Sullivan County (NY) in December. The Family School students shared music, activities and their stories of recovery with the alternative school students during the holiday party. Youngsville previously hosted FFS during Drug Awareness Week in October.

Have You Reached The Breaking Point?



Don't Know Where to Turn?

The Parent Empowerment Handbook™ Can Help.

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

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

Get Help Today!

To order or get more information.

Call
Woodbury Reports, Inc
208-267-5550
or visit
www.strugglingteens.com/store

