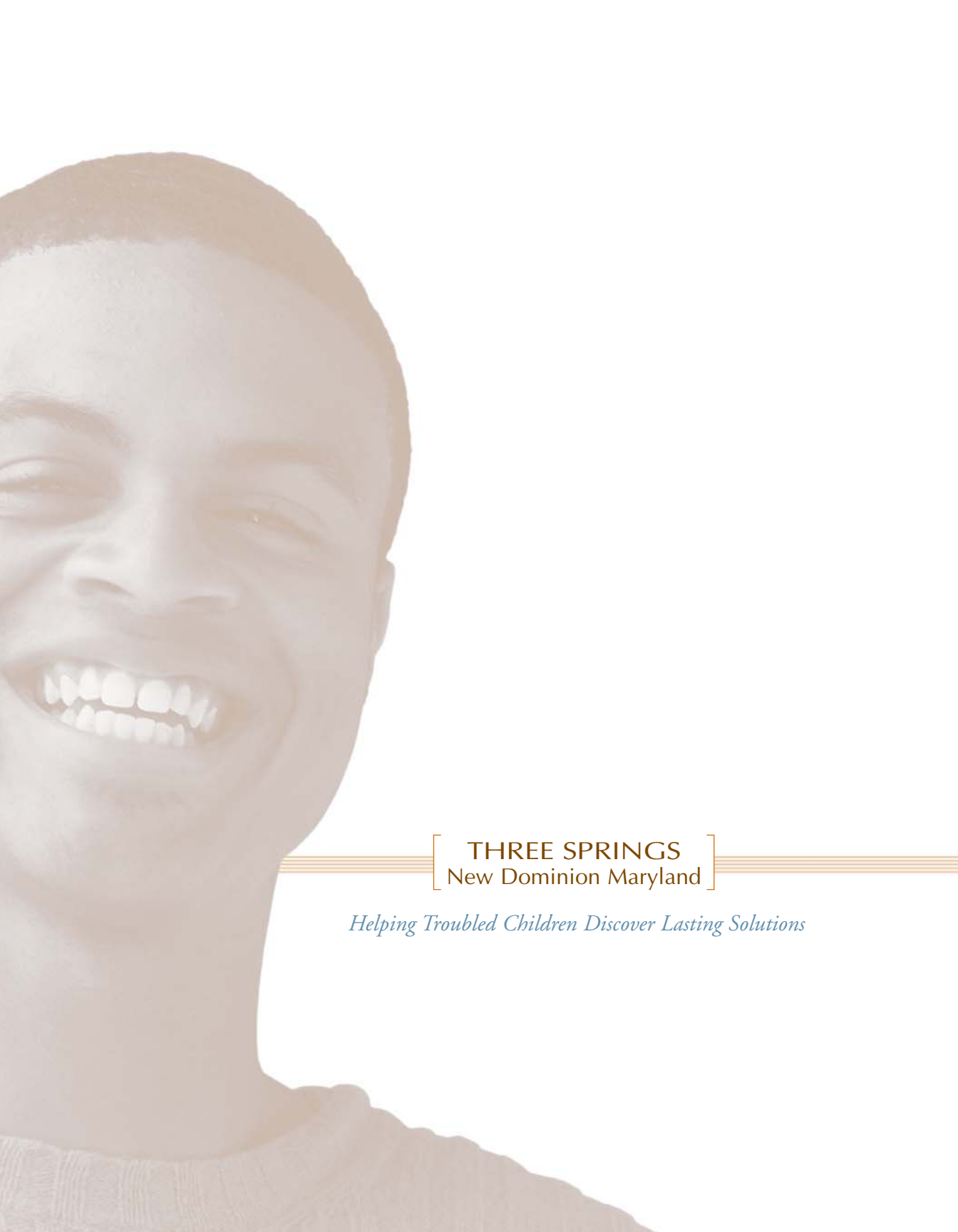




THREE SPRINGS
New Dominion Maryland

Helping Troubled Children Discover Lasting Solutions

*honor
respect*



General Information

Located in the mountains of western Maryland, New Dominion School Maryland provides residential treatment care for boys 11-17 years of age. Established in 1980, New Dominion School assists teenagers in taking positive control of their lives, realizing their self-worth, developing self-confidence and motivating them to succeed both socially and academically.

Operating on a year round basis, the program is structured around a natural environment that is well-disciplined, nurturing, optimistic, and conducive to bringing out the fullest potential of each youth. Treatment and education are interrelated as a student builds self-confidence and problem solving skills, he learns to take responsibility for himself and his education.

Within the framework of New Dominion School's outdoor treatment program, intervention is based on a group process problem-solving model. Students' difficulties in relating with others are not treated in isolation from their daily actions. Instead, problems are dealt with on the spot as they occur. Group meetings are held at any time during the day when a problem arises. In addition, there are regular evening group sessions. During group meetings, students receive the help and support of their group to learn more acceptable behavior, to express emotions appropriately and to resolve problems productively. Motivation on the part of the student is high because he is meeting primary needs and is experiencing both the positive and negative results of his behavior immediately or soon after his actions.

While the use of the group process is seen as the primary therapeutic intervention necessary for lasting change, New Dominion School recognizes the need for additional therapeutic efforts and utilizes them as part of their comprehensive services. Individual counseling, family counseling, substance abuse education and sexual abuse counseling are examples of services available to students. When necessary, a licensed psychologist is also available for consultation.



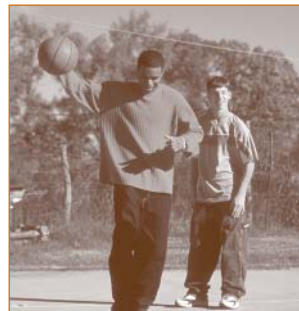


There are six group living sites at the program. Each is located within less than one mile of the central administrative area and is composed of three sleeping structures, cooking and eating structures, a library and craft structure and a hygiene structure. The central campus is comprised of the Lodge (cafeteria), school buildings, administrative building, health station, and the shower/laundry facilities.

A typical resident of New Dominion School is a young man who is experiencing emotional, behavioral and learning problems. He may have a history of difficulty in dealing with structure and/or authority, low self-esteem and substance abuse or experimentation. He may have experienced failures in school but must at least be of average intelligence. He usually has developed unhealthy relationships with his peers and shows a lack of responsibility and consideration to his family, education and society.

While these exhibiting behaviors may jeopardize an adolescents' safety and well being, we recognize that they are typically a cry for help. At New Dominion School, we are committed to returning the student to his family and community a happier, motivated and responsible contributing member of society.

The staff at New Dominion School are chosen for their dedication, integrity, experience and professionalism. The direct care staff and the family workers must hold a bachelor's degree and participate in a mandatory counselor-training program prior to assuming responsibility in the program. Also, to ensure continuous growth, counselors are required to attend weekly training programs.



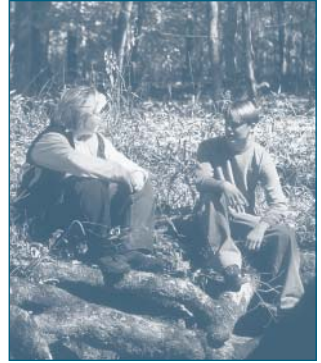
*treatment
family*



Family Services

Family involvement is an integral part of the healing process at New Dominion School. As such it is extremely important that parents commit themselves to involvement in the treatment process. Family conferences are held on-site or via telephone on an average of every other month. Families are also encouraged to communicate regularly with the student's Family Service Worker. The Family Service Worker serves as a liaison between the family and the program and is responsible for the following:

- Coordinating the development of the individualized treatment plan and monitoring its implementation
- Informing the family of the student's progress during his enrollment through phone conversations and regular written progress reports
- Providing group and individual counseling for the student and the entire family
- Scheduling family visits and conferences
- Facilitating family support aftercare groups
- Coordinating student health care visits





Education



New Dominion School provides middle through high school level courses and is licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The school's curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the individual student. Adolescents enrolled at the school typically have a history of rejecting traditional educational approaches. Because it is often futile to continue to deal with these problems in ways that have been unsuccessful in the past, an innovative approach to education is provided. Upon admission each student participates in an academic assessment from which an educational plan is developed. All students begin with the basic experiential curriculum and earn the privilege of entering the formal academic program. Individual instruction allows each student to work at his own level and pace.

The experiential courses are incorporated in a number of group activities and outdoor programming. Academic skills are progressively applied in meaningful ways as the group engages in making plans and carrying out projects and activities. As treatment progresses, a student earns the privilege of applying to enter the formal academic classroom. Students begin with one class per day and earn additional classes by maintaining acceptable behavior and academic progress. This approach has been very successful in motivating and empowering students to take responsibility for themselves and their education.

Graduation requirements at New Dominion School include 4 credits of English, 3 credits of social studies, 3 credits of math, 3 credits of science, and 8 elective credits. Electives include physics, psychology, geography, economics, trigonometry, calculus, foreign language and independent study. Students may also take the course work necessary to return to public or private school. In addition, students for whom it is appropriate can prepare for the General Educational Development (GED) examination.

The Library/Media Center is designed to support and complement the entire instructional program. It is equipped with a wide variety of multi-media, reference and research data, as well as required and pleasure reading materials.



future



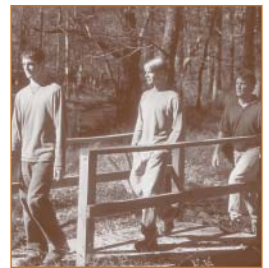
self-esteem teamwork

A pre-vocational program functions in conjunction with the academic program. Career and technology courses are offered in building and construction trades and small engine maintenance and repair on an optional non-credit basis.

The school provides counseling and guidance for post-program schooling and vocational placement. Younger students generally continue their education at a public or private school and older students either seek college placement or employment. Students who plan to attend college are helped to prepare for the SAT and conduct searches for the most appropriate post secondary school.

New Dominion School also provides a number of adventure based activities. These activities enhance education and provide significant experiences that build self-confidence, self-esteem, deeper relationships and trust. Adventure-based activities include participation on our state of the art high and low ROPES course as well as undertaking adventure trips.

Students complete the comprehensive planning necessary to take a major trip. The plan is then submitted to the Program Director for approval. When the plan gains approval, the group begins training by undertaking a series of skill development activities and exercises. When skill proficiency has been demonstrated the group will be allowed to put their plan into action. Extensive adventure trips may include: backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, canoeing the Suwannee River in Florida or the Current River in Missouri, biking the C&O Canal Tow Path between Cumberland, MD and Washington DC, kayaking and day sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Adventure trips are a significant component of the overall program as they provide highly beneficial treatment and academic experiences.



Admissions

Professionals and/or parents may make referrals to New Dominion by contacting the program directly or through our toll-free referral line (888-758-4356). Once the initial discussion of the presenting problems and previous treatment history has occurred, arrangements for obtaining records and/or visiting the program will be made. The following documents should be provided to assess the child for a program:

- New Dominion Application
- Resident/Family Social History
- Resident Health History
- Recent Diagnostic Evaluation/Testing (psychiatric/psychological)
- Educational Records including disciplinary reports
- Previous treatment reports



Once these documents are submitted to the admissions staff, a screening committee will promptly determine if the resident can benefit from this intervention. The screening committee may either accept the child based on the information submitted or if appropriate, a pre-admission assessment and campus visit may be scheduled. Admissions take place year round.



success



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P.O. Box 8
Oldtown, MD 21555

(301) 478-5721
www.threesprings.com