advisors' wishes, he steadfastly refused to capitalize on photo and other publicity opportunities with the children in his outdoor therapeutic programs during the campaigns, insisting the children's needs and privacy always came first.

Ironically, Jack's losses in elective politics were directly related to his tremendous successes in public service. Jack eventually did become actively involved in politics and service in both state and national government, receiving three appointments by Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Under President Ford, he served as director of the U.S. General Services Administration. And in Florida, he led two successful campaigns against casino gambling and chaired a government efficiency committee that saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Extending EYA's Reach to Help More Kids

At the same time, in true Eckerd fashion, Jack transformed EYA into one of the nation's leading youth services organizations.

The Eckerd model for residential treatment gained the attention of government agencies and leaders throughout the southeastern and northeastern United States. And Jack was approached to partner with several states in serving youth in state care, extending the program's reach beyond families and professionals to meet the broader needs of youth served by public agencies.

In 1982 Jack was asked to pioneer the privatization of Florida's juvenile justice programs by taking his nurturing approach and applying it successfully to youth the state considered high risk. That program, the Eckerd Youth Development Center, still ranks in the top one percent in the country by the American Correctional Association.

But that was not enough. In 1993 – at age 80 – he saw a need to keep young at-risk children from becoming troubled teens and launched private early intervention programs in elementary schools throughout Florida. Today, EYA offers 40 programs for at-risk and troubled youth in eight states.

EYA's largest program area continues to be helping troubled teens through outdoor therapeutic programs. And since 2000, EYA has further developed its core mission of helping troubled teens and their families. Two outdoor therapeutic programs, Eckerd Youth Alternatives' E-How-Kee in Brooksville, FL, and

Continued: **Jack Eckerd/** pg 24

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