Places for Struggling Teens™

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

Published by - Woodbury Reports, Inc.™



October 2007 - Issue #158

2ND ANNUAL NORTHWEST GET-TOGETHER

By RJ Cohn & Lon Woodbury



For old friends and new acquaintances in what is often called the "struggling teens industry," the Second Annual Northwest Get-Together was both a reunion and an orientation of sorts for those involved with private parent-choice residential schools and programs. Over 60 people attended, representing quite a variety of therapeutic boarding schools, wildness programs, residential treatment facilities, parent coaches, counselors and independent educational consultants. Woodbury Reports hosted the gathering, which was held at the Sandpoint Community Center in Sandpoint, ID, September 14, 2007. Although the parking was an issue, those who attended enjoyed a day of informative and interesting presentations revolving around business and industry trends, with plenty of time for individual networking.

The day began with a light breakfast and greeting, then jumped into a first-hand report on how the Internet influences parents — both positively and negatively — regarding residential treatment programs and facilities. The proliferation and ease of creating websites on the Internet has both helped and hindered the struggling teen industry. Parents have trouble knowing who to believe.

Several websites, such as StrugglingTeens.com, provide objective information about various programs and residential treatment facilities as honestly and professionally as possible. They are open about whom they are and emphasize their professional credentials and experience. These sites empower parents by providing them with more information than was ever possible in the past.

Other sites (most being anonymous with no indication of who is behind the site or their experience or credentials) use slick marketing techniques to gain parents trust and then sell them on specific schools that will be advantageous to the site's

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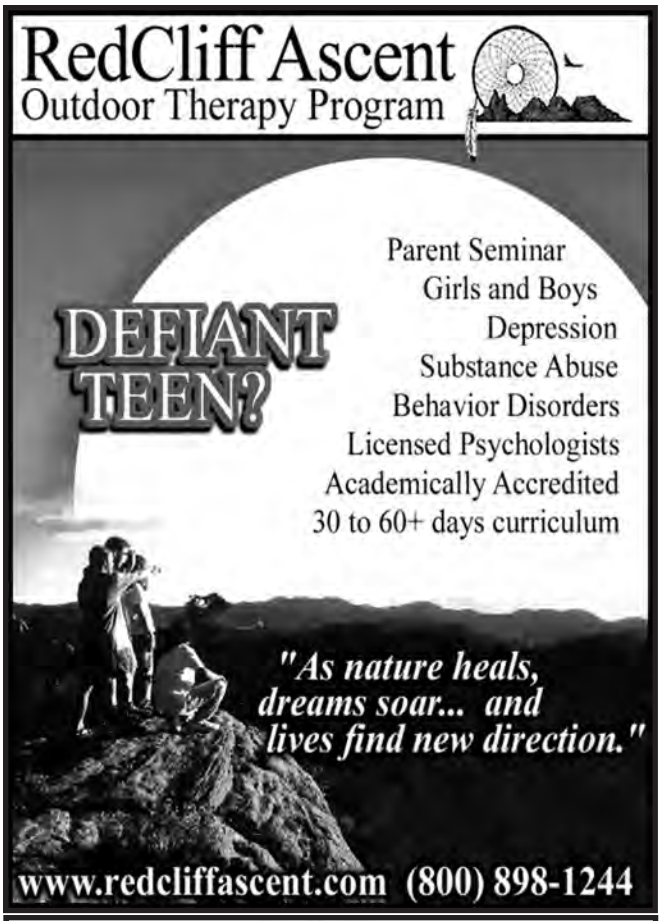
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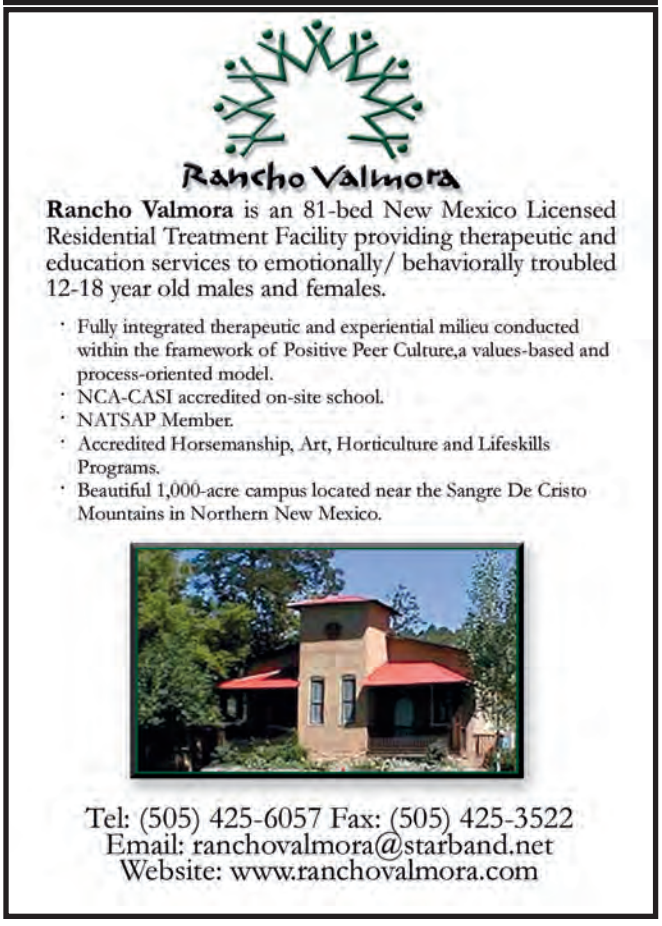
SEEN 'N HEARD...

Family Foundation School Expansion
Greenbrier Academy Opens
Manuia Plantation Opens In Samoa
Selent Expands Advantage AAIS
Hitchcock Leaves Wilderness Quest
Sainer Retires from Aspen
Benchmark Consultant Tour
Betton House Marks 2nd Anniv.
Vive Opens in Chicago
Parker to Leave Soar
Substance Curriculum at Timber Ridge
Core Solutions Operates Forum
Ashby Academy Closes
Bynum Joins Woodbury Reports
Semester Program at Summit Achievement

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





METROPOLITAN SERENITY HOUSE

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Metropolitan Serenity House, founded in 1989 by Anne Bush Ambrose to treat young men between the ages of 15 – 28 with drug and alcohol issues, came about after she lived through the successes and failures her own three sons experienced in their addiction treatment in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Using a 12-step approach, this primary treatment program is based on three additional pillars for success – teaching abstinence in a real life setting, encouraging clients to make specific plans for their futures, including education, and providing options for continued care following graduation including supervised transitional living group therapy and individual counseling.

Serenity House is located in the rolling hills outside of Atlanta on the shores of a small lake. The residential program can serve up to 16 young men at any given time. Most clients spend about four months in treatment. The option for younger clients to complete high school is available through the Avner Bush Academy. Upon completion of the residential program, clients can move into a more independent living situation for up to another 18 months. During this time clients are pursuing more education, working or both. The team members who work with these young men include a psychiatrist, a psychiatric nurse, family and recreation therapists, educators and experienced addiction technicians.

Serenity House demonstrates its commitment to those who they have served by encouraging young men who are living a clean life to come back as mentors and chaperones to the program's recreational activities. Former clients who are trying to maintain their sobriety but having difficulties can re-enroll for up to 30 days at no cost.

Serenity House also maintains a separate residence for men up to 39 years of age who have been in treatment previously but have relapsed.

[This New Perspectives was written by our Research Affiliate/ Consultant Affiliate, Judith E. Bessette, EdD.]