Places for Struggling Teens™

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

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REACTIONS

By: Lon Woodbury



The Congressional Hearings by Congressman Miller's Committee on Education and Labor held on the 10th of October sent shock waves through the network of private parent-choice residential schools and programs for teens. There were two initial reactions. One was a kind of "grin and bear it," not get defensive, see the hearings as just politics and work to get on the record the facts of positive accomplishments schools and programs have made in helping children's lives. The other reaction was anger at the misrepresentations made and unfairness at the mischaracterization of private programs.

As some time has passed, this thinking has started to evolve in a direction of taking this as a challenge. The creativity that was the basis of the founding of the private parent-choice industry is again rising to meet this challenge in a way that could make the schools and programs more effective. This is a healthy development that could motivate schools and programs to take an honest look at what they are doing to improve their programs and staffing. A good example of suggestions along these lines is found in the next essay, by Dr. Bill Valentine and Dr. Jim Powell called "*Opportunity Knocking*."

Only time will tell whether the resulting changes from this call for program introspection will mean more effective services for the children of parents choosing residential resources or whether they will just provide better cover to satisfy regulators. In the meantime, it will be wise to keep in mind the realities of politics in Washington D.C. Congress is not necessarily a temple of wisdom. Power is the name of the game and decisions are not made so much on the basis of "seeing the light" as they are based on "feeling the heat!"

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SEEN 'N HEARD...

Alldredge Changes Name...

Mount Carmel Adds Program...

New Online Community for NATSAP...

Midnight Mountain Closed...

Oliverian Center Completed...

Discovery School Of Virginia Opens Girls School...

Third Annual Northwest Get Together Dates Set...

Freer Donations Help Flood Victims...

DHHS Finds YBGR In Good Standing...

Family Foundation Graduates 31...

Kindlin Joins The Bodin Group...

Shortridge Nears Accreditation...

Rectory School To Host SBSA Conference...

Full **SEEN N' HEARD/** ***Pg 28***

[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.]

physical activities vary seasonally from water rafting, horseback riding, trail hiking and snow skiing/snowboarding.

[The information for Harbor Oaks School came directly from their brochure and website.]

SCAR/JASPER MOUNTAIN

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SCAR/Jasper Mountain is celebrating its 25th year of operation this year. The agency was originally started to test whether some of the most challenging young children could be helped with some of the most effective treatment and educational methods available. The results over the years have been very promising.

The agency is physically located in the beautiful Cascade foothills of western Oregon not far from Eugene on two rural ranches. With over 100 acres of Oregon forest, wetlands and nature trails, the setting is often described by visitors as a healing place. The agency works with boys and girls under the age of 13 and provides a continuum of programs to help at every level of need including an intensive residential treatment program with a therapeutic school, a short-term residential assessment center and a treatment foster care program, among other services. SCAR/Jasper Mountain is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation and has been found to meet or exceed over 1,000 standards of excellence in its treatment and educational services. It is also a state certified mental health and educational program. The residential program has shown success working with children with behavior problems, learning problems and problems attaching and bonding to families. It has experience with adopted children including foreign adoptions and subsequent challenges for parents.

The program has extensive outcome research and formally tracks children from intake to graduation and for five years after leaving the program. Recent data indicates the children are doing much better at graduation compared to intake, and significantly better 1, 3, and 5 years later than they were doing at graduation. SCAR/Jasper Mountain currently works with children from around the United States and is now available for private placements.

(This review was provided by SCAR/Jasper Mountain)



