Places for Struggling Teens™

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

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2007 IN REVIEW

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The year 2007 might wind up being a pivotal year for the network of private residential parent-choice schools and programs for struggling teens. We might have just gone through a paradigm shift in the environment we work in several areas. It is unclear at the present whether the changes might be good or bad for the needs of the children.

The main change is the visibility of the network. For years we operated "under the radar," partly due to the inability of the media and state regulatory agencies to fit the wide variety of approaches in our network into neat simple categories, and partly because of the relatively small size of this network. (Estimates are our private pay residential network brings in about $2 billion nationally, which as a comparison is not much more than the total public school spending in Idaho alone). We have gradually become more visible in recent years, but with the October 10, 2007, hearings by Congressman George Miller, we became a national story and are an object for possible federal national policy. The media and public scrutiny will only be increasing.

There are several distinguishing characteristics of the schools and programs in this network that in the past have made it different from traditional residential mental health, substance abuse, hospitals, Social Service and Law Enforcement programs. Those elements include private parent-choice, small student bodies, relatively easy entry for new programs, use of alternative education concepts, use of wilderness, personal relationships between staff and students and a strong influence from therapeutic community concepts (structure). It is these elements that make this network of schools, programs and consultants different from traditional programs for troubled teens.

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OnPoint celebrates first anniversary...
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The Family Times wins gold...
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Full **SEEN N' HEARD/** ***Pg 28***

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