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HORIZON ACADEMY

Amargosa Valley, Nevada
Jake Peart, School Admissions Liaison
435-701-0003
jake@2helpteens.com
www.horizonacademy.net

Visit By:

Stephen Bozak, CEP, IECA, January 27, 2007

Written By:

Jake Peart, with approval from Stephen Bozak

Horizon Academy is a co-ed school that serves students grades 8 to 12. It provides an environment to help the students reach beyond their limits and excel academically and behaviorally. Horizon Academy is a boarding high school to help families and teens who are making poor choices. There are three main categories from which the problems range. These are home problems, academic failure and poor choice of friends. The school is 136 miles from Las Vegas and the students soon pick up the positive attitude found at the school on any given day.

Riley, one of the directors at Horizon Academy, led Steve Bozak and me through the Zen garden, football and soccer field, basketball court, fire pit, pond, walkways and into the dorm rooms. The goal is to be a beautiful oasis in the desert that bequeaths to families and students a refuge, an opportunity and hope to these previously troubled teens.

Along the way we met a mom visiting her son at the school. This young man is now past the age of eighteen, meaning that he is here on a voluntary basis. Riley asked the mom to share with us her experience of Horizon Academy. Delighted, she began to share with us how Horizon Academy has saved not only her son's life but also hers. She told us that along their journey they have learned to communicate, hold one another accountable, have expectations for one another that will help them reach their potential and to cherish one another. Her son looked at us and back at his mom with a contagious smile that told us how well they were doing. We could see the normalized love and respect he now had for his mom and himself.

Steve Bozak said: "The highlight of my visit at Horizon was the mother who was coming in to take her son out for a weekend visit. The interaction between this mother and son was very refreshing. Any family would hope for such a positive relation with their child. This family is a good reference for the positive effect of this school."

Horizon Academy uses a number of different models and techniques to overcome these problems and

create lasting results. Some of the models and techniques used are group therapy for the students and parents, and a positive peer culture environment. The merit system and level system are paramount in helping these students learn there are consequences for their actions. This school offers a self-paced academic curriculum. Teachers look out for the well-being of the students and families, a health and nutritional plan is in place to ensure the physical well-being of each student and traditional one-on-one counseling is available as needed.

Men, it has been said, think in herds;
it will be seen that they go mad in
herds, while they only recover their
senses slowly, and one by one.

~ Charles Mackay

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY: CLEARVIEW STYLE

Clearview Horizons
Heron, Montana
By: Ali Schmidt

An annual winter trip to Spokane is a tradition at Clearview Horizons. It offers the girls a weekend of fun, relaxation and bonding away from the lodge in Heron. Life at the house can be busy, with lots of hard work, but this weekend was set aside just to have a good time.

On Saturday, we packed up our sleeping bags and weekend supplies, stuffed ourselves into the bus and headed to Spokane. Almost there, we stopped at the Hot Rod Café in Post Falls, ID to grab a bite to eat. A large cheeseburger, a milkshake and quite a few laughs later, we were back on the road headed toward Polka Dot Pottery in Spokane. There we all selected pottery to paint to give as presents over the holidays. We lovingly painted our pottery, our recipients in mind.

Next we began our Christmas shopping. With forty dollars in hand, we hit several stores: Target, Value Village and Fred Meyer. With our shopping buddy, we scoured the shelves for affordable presents we could buy for our families.

After our extensive shopping, our stomachs were rumbling and with an overwhelming vote for Crunch-wrap Supremes we headed to Taco Bell. We all sat

Continued: **Christmas/** pg 24

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CHRISTMAS: Continued from 23

together, savoring our food and basking in the positive, jubilant energy surrounding us.

Exhausted by our day we headed back to our director, Mary's house in Spokane where we bunked down for the night. In our sleeping bags on the floor, all huddled together, it felt like a humongous sleep-over, complete with abundant good-will and feelings of sisterhood.

In the morning, a few girls went with the house mom to Albertson's where they picked up donuts and Starbucks for our breakfast before we headed to church. After we got dressed in our Sunday finest, we headed to a large church in Spokane, Life Center, where we heard a wonderful sermon about giving. The message resonated with me personally, as it is the holiday season and giving is synonymous with the holidays.

After church, we grabbed a quick bite to eat at Carl Jr.'s and headed to the Spokane Civic Theater to watch The Christmas Schooner. The play, telling the story of the Christmas tree in Midwest America, was touching and helped to get us all in the Christmas Spirit.

After the play, we all voted to go to Sonic, our favorite eating destination on trips to Spokane. There we huddled together, warmed by our piles of blankets and pleasure of an exciting weekend well spent,

enjoying our slushies and tater tots, together as a family. Then once again, with a renewed bond and cheered dispositions, we climbed back on the bus to head back to Heron.

These weekends are more than just an opportunity for us Clearview girls to eat the food we miss and shop at the stores we once frequented. They allow us to bond as sisters without the expectations of the house. And they show us the huge amount of fun that is waiting for us, clean fun with no regrets, only great memories.

About the Author:

Ali Schmidt is a student at Clearview Horizons.

About Clearview:

Clearview is a Christian residential program for troubled adolescent girls located in Heron, MT. Mary Thielbahr is the Director of Clearview. For more information, you can reach Mary at 208-263-5894, www.clearviewhorizon.com.

History has taught us that freedom cannot long survive unless it is based on moral foundations.

~ Margaret Thatcher

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TODAY'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THERAPEUTIC WILDERNESS CAMPING (NATWC)

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By: Rick McClintock - Executive Director, NATWC

The scene is post World War II, a different world than today in many ways, but the same world none the less. The place was East Texas. The man, a professional with several degrees in higher education, yet an outdoorsman with the patience of Job, and a knowledge and deep respect for all living things, especially the boys that were campers at Camp Woodland Springs.

Campbell Loughmiller was hired by the Dallas Salesmanship Club to run a camp for underprivileged children in the Dallas area during the summer and on weekends. The magic that occurred by accident, as well as by Campbell's purposeful design, soon led to the first long term Therapeutic Wilderness Camp.

If time is the ultimate test, some 60 years later, through trial and tribulation, Therapeutic Wilderness Camping still exists and is utilized by a variety of organizations and agencies throughout the United States and internationally, to serve special needs groups and their families. Indeed, some programming evolution has transpired since Campbell Loughmiller first authored "*Wilderness Road*" and the subsequent "*Kids in Trouble*," two priceless gems that address the rationale, mission and story of Therapeutic Wilderness Camping.

In the 1980's, the nation was swirling with need for therapeutic programs and schools to effectively serve the burgeoning swell of youngsters getting caught up in a society's push to have them "grow up" before their time. Many new programs evolved from that original, successful first camp in Texas.

Outdoor programming milieu developed regionally to suit the local environment, whether woodlands or high desert. Philosophies varied, based on personal experiences of the staff empowered to develop those programs; adventure based programs like Outward Bound, as well as short and long term base camps were created and modeled after the original Camp Woodland

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