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not exist. There would be no need for this network, and there would be no demand for it.

That this network does exist, and is rapidly growing, is a strong sign that our society is not successful at meeting the needs of many of our young people. We are the canary pointing to a society that seems to be failing at meeting the needs of many of our children.

Since this network of schools and programs was created by parents fleeing failing institutions of society, what might that tell us the parents are looking for? They are looking for:

- A place where the adults are in charge, rather than huge public institutions where the children live primarily in their own independent culture
- A place where the best aspects of character such as self-discipline, accountability and responsibility are taught, rather than stand by while their child learns some perverted and self-destructive idea that anything goes, or "if it feels good, do it"
- A place where their child can receive the individually tailored and caring help he/she needs, rather than institutions that see children as basically the same and interchangeable, or that treat a diagnosis rather than the child, or just punish behavior that is socially disapproved
- Adults that can be respected and trusted as positive role models
- A place that values mature adult virtues rather than enduring their child getting sucked into some self-indulgent adolescent pop culture

That thousands of parents make a considerable emotional and financial sacrifice for the chance of exposing their children to a positive environment is a very strong case that our society is failing too many children.

With all its strengths, weaknesses and human failings, this network of private parent-choice residential schools and programs is the canary telling us that something is wrong in our society, and that we need to do something different in how we as a society raise our children.

How many legs does a dog
have if you call the tail a leg?
Four.
Calling a tail a leg
doesn't make it a leg.
~ Abraham Lincoln

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PROGRAMS IN UTAH?!

By: Larry Stednitz

This question comes up in conversations with many of my families. Utah seems to be the Silicon Valley of the Parent Choice schools and programs, which is likely to continue into the foreseeable future. There are easy answers to the question and other explanations that are more subtle. Forty-five Utah programs are listed and described in the Woodbury Reports' Parent Empowerment Handbook. No other state comes close to that number of programs. This fact is even more remarkable given that the programs in this handbook are documented as being quality programs by independent educational consultants across the country who work in this network.

The first reason for the large number of programs in Utah begins with Provo Canyon School. Provo was founded in 1971 with its humble beginnings as a group home. Provo grew into one of the largest and best-known residential treatment programs in the country. Known for working with difficult teenagers, the refrain from parents and professionals across the country was "If you don't shape up, you are going to Provo Canyon!" Over the years, Provo Canyon has trained and influenced hundreds, if not thousands, of childcare staff, medical staff, teachers, clinicians and other support staff. Many moved on to begin their own versions of Provo. In doing so, they took knowledge and experience from Provo, adding their own bells and whistles to create their own programs.

One example will illustrate this: Jerry Spanos, CEO of the Heritage Center, worked at Provo, eventually leaving because he had the belief that the most important treatment entity was directly related to the quality of relationships with clients. He felt this approach would be a great improvement to the strict methods of control practiced at Provo in the 1980's. Jerry started Heritage Center in 1984. Today the two programs treat over 500 young people every day. Heritage is but one of many programs that "grew" out of Provo over the years.

The second major impact was the development of wilderness programs. Doug Nelson, Larry Olsen and Ezekiel Sanchez were early pioneers of wilderness programming. All three men were involved with Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. There they developed wilderness programming for BYU students who were not achieving at levels of which they were

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