



Places for Struggling Teens™

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

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO 'LATCHKEY KIDS'?

By: Lon Woodbury

A big issue in the 1980s and 1990s was the phenomena of what was called Latchkey Kids. Essentially, this was seen as a byproduct of the expansion of two-income families and single parents, that is, kids were on their own after school because there were no adults at home.

The concept of kids raising themselves and being on their own without adult supervision in the afternoon and early evening was considered dangerous and a serious problem. Since then, we have an increasing percentage of two-income families and more single parents, but the problem of latchkey kids seem to have gone away, at least so far as public discourse. If we are to believe the news media, the problem seems to have gone away and maybe even been solved.



What happened? Has the problem been solved and Latchkey Kids a problem only of the past? Have parents learned how to juggle their schedules so an adult is at home when the kids return from school? Have day care and after school activities expanded so there is a place for children to go so they no longer are without adult supervision?

I don't think so. The network of private parent-choice residential schools and programs are full of children that in the past would have been called Latchkey Kids. Many of the students in these schools and programs have been raised by their peers, learned to accommodate to and listen to negative peer pressure, and are used to ignoring adult influence.

Being motivated by a natural desire to control their own lives and be accepted as adults, but not yet allowed the rights and responsibilities of adulthood, they have looked to peers for guidance and to develop their life style in irresponsible activities of expanded childhood with few if any responsibilities. Those who succumb to this adult-free lifestyle often make self-destructive decisions and desperately need the intervention offered by Emotional Growth/Therapeutic schools and programs to help them out of peer driven life styles. These kids still need adult help in order to grow up!

The disappearance of the concept of Latchkey Kids as a problem might be an example of what sometimes is called "defining deviancy down." What used to be considered a serious problem is now considered a normal part of

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DIRECTORY OF TEXT MESSAGE SHORTHAND

(September 16, 2008) NetLingo.com is an Internet Dictionary of computer and internet text messaging commonly used wherever people get online including IM'ing, cell phones, Blackberries, in chat rooms and on blogs. These are abbreviations used by people to communicate with each other. <http://www.netlingo.com/emailsh.cfm>

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an "urban" 24-bed therapeutic community next door to the University of North Carolina in Asheville. The new program will supplement their existing rural 36-bed campus, bringing total residential capacity to 80.

WILLIAMS, HALE & LOWRIE JOIN GREAT LAKES EC

(September 9, 2008) Gwynne Hales at Great Lakes Educational Consulting, LLC, Northfield, IL, 847-441-8911, is pleased to announce the following additions to Great Lakes Educational Consulting: Jolene Williams, office manager; Dr. Heather Hale, PsyD, LCPC, CADC, Director of Special Needs Services and Kim Lowrie-Jenkins, MSW, CADC, educational consultant.

WHITE/ GAMBLE JOIN COLLABORATIVE COACHING

(September 10, 2008) Ben Wahl, Collaborative Coaching Program Coordinator, announced that Michele White and Donelyn Gamble will be co-facilitating the Fall Parent Growth Group. The group is for Seattle parents of current or recent program students.

EVANS JOINS DISCOVERY ACADEMY

(September 11, 2008) Steven Schultz at Discovery Academy, Provo, UT, 801-491-2270, announced Bradley Evans, CSW, has joined the therapeutic team at Discovery Academy. Bradley has a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work and was formerly employed at Silverado Boys Ranch.

UHLENKOTT JOINS STONE MOUNTAIN

(September 11, 2008) Susan Hardy, Executive Director at Stone Mountain School, Black Mountain, NC, 888-631-5994, announced Leigh Uhlenkott has joined Stone Mountain School as the new Clinical Director. Leigh holds a Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling and is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and is nationally certified. Leigh's previous employment includes working at SUWS of the Carolinas and counseling in the Broward School system and for Memorial Hospital.

WILLOW CREEK CLOSING

(September 11, 2008) Tori K. Ballard, Director of Marketing at Willow Creek School, Provo, UT, 801-377-2215, announced a decision was made September 10, 2008, after all other options had been exhausted, that the Willow Creek School will no longer be doing business. Based on the economy, in combination with other factors, circumstances prevented the school from continuing to remain open. Families and students will be transitioned to alternative placements by the end of September. For more information contact Tori Ballard.

THREE SPRINGS NEW DOMINION MARYLAND CLOSES

(September 11, 2008) The Cumberland Times News

reported Three Springs New Dominion Maryland, located in Old Time, which has been in operation for 27 years serving at risk young men ages 11-18, has closed its doors. Three Springs, which operates 24 programs in 22 locations across eight states, has said the decision to close was not a financial one. The remaining students were transferred to another facility.

AUSTIN SENDERO GRAND OPENING

(September 12, 2008) Austin Sendero, Granger, TX, 866-549-5031, announced a Grand Opening event was held September 17, 2008, in celebration of opening their doors to patients and their families earlier this year. Austin Sendero, a member of CRC Health Group, is a residential eating disorder facility for males and females, ages 17 and older.

WELLSPRING FOUNDER FROM CANADA

(September 12, 2008) An article in Globe and Mail, an online news source, featured an interview with Ryan Craig, a Canadian and Yale law graduate, founder of Wellspring Academy, who devoted himself to creating two boarding schools and 14 summer camps in the United States and another in Britain to help heavy children slim down, a need that needed to be addressed.

WEIGHT TRAINING AT WELLSPRING

(September 12, 2008) Wellspring Academy was featured in an online news source from Canada, explaining in depth a typical day in the life of its students and the strict requirements of the program and certified high school to help reprogram teens struggling with obesity, to relearn healthy, wiser choices in their calorie intake and incorporate exercise into their daily lives.

NATSAP MIDWEST CONFERENCE

(September 12, 2008) National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (NATSAP), Prescott, AZ, 928-443-9505, announced the 2008 Midwest Regional Conference will be held October 16 and 17, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Chicago/Oak Brook, IL. For more information, contact NATSAP.

"BE POSITIVE" FINISHING THE CHAD MARATHON

(September 12, 2008) Jay Marshall, Assistant Director of Mount Prospect Academy, and his 8 yr. old son, Cameron, recently ran in the CHaD Half Marathon, raising over \$2,770 for the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth. While Jay completed the full 13.1 mile loop through Hanover, Cameron ran "Cam's Course," a 1.5-mile loop especially designed for children and families in support of Cameron. Just over two months ago Cameron was diagnosed with T-cell leukemia.

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