



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>

[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.]

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TEN CADC CERTIFIED AT CATHERINE FREER

(August 21, 2008) Ten staff members at Catherine Freer Wilderness in Albany, OR, recently received their Certified Alcohol Drug Counselors (CADC) certification. To obtain a CADC certification one must have 150 hours of alcohol and drug education, take part in 1000 hours of supervised experience in addiction counselor competencies and pass an exam. All Catherine Freer field staff are required to work toward their CADC. For more information, contact Julia Andrick, Marketing Director, at 800-390-3983.

SANTIAM CROSSING PARENT COACHING

(August 21, 2008) Parents of adolescents at Santiam Crossing in Scio, OR, 800-390-3983, will participate in three parent-coaching sessions upon their child's enrollment. On these calls, parents will learn how to become fully engaged in their child's treatment and discover how to best support their child. The certified coaches will also help prepare parents for the first on campus visit with their child. Santiam Crossing is part-nering with Next Step for Success to provide the coaching.

STUDENTS SUCCESSFUL AT COUNTY FAIR

(August 21, 2008) Oregon Transition Homes (OTH), a program of Catherine Freer in Albany, OR, announced the girls enrolled in Oregon Transition Homes recently came away from the local County Fair with almost too many ribbons to count. Entries included junior gardening, best no bake cookies, water melon eating, the busiest baker and more. OTH is designed for adolescents ages 13 to 18 who have completed a wilderness therapy program. For more information, contact Darci Knight, MED, CADC-1, and Oregon Transitions Homes Director, at 541-517-8153.

CLARK BEHAVIORAL LOANS OFFERS FINANCING

(August 22, 2008) Despite hard economic times in the country, Clark Behavioral Health Financing continues to be able to provide financial loans to families in need. Schools and programs need not be connected with Clark in order for families to be approved. For more information, contact Chelsea Dickinson, Director of Marketing and Program Relation, 888-755-3079.

COPPER CANYON GOES TO THE DOGS

(August 24, 2008) A new program component at Copper Canyon Academy, Rimrock, AZ, 928-567-1322, features a canine therapy program, which partners students with dogs and is used as an alternative for students who feel more comfortable around dogs than they do with the horses in their existing equine therapy program. Susannah Fox is the lead therapist in this new program. For more information, contact Darren Prince at 928-567-1322.

APRIL HART NEW AT GREENBRIER

(August 25, 2008) Beth Ragland, Director of Marketing for Greenbrier Academy for Girls, Pence Springs, WV, 256-682-8690, announced the appointment of April Hart as the Equine Program Director at Greenbrier. April has worked with Dr. H.L.M. Van Schaik, an Olympic medalist and teacher of the classical dressage of the horse. April has operated riding and training schools for 22 years.

WTC—THANKS FOR 25 YEARS

(August 26, 2008) Wilderness Treatment Center, Marion, MT, 406-854-2832, is celebrating 25 years in the addiction treatment industry and would like to thank everyone for all the support throughout the years.

FAMILIES AT WELLSPRING WEIGHT LOSS

(August 26, 2008) Wellspring Camp, weight loss camp for young women in New York's Adirondack Mountains was featured in an article by the Associated Press, in which parents and siblings are invited to share the camp experience to help campers stay motivated when they return home. Parents attend classes on cooking, exercise and shopping for healthy food.

BECKET HOUSE AT WARREN OPENS

(August 27, 2008) Becket House at Warren officially opened its doors with, eight students moving in to their new home on 8/18/08. Under the direction of Mount Prospect Academy's Executive Director, Jeff Caron, the program "offers services to students trying to overcome co-occurring substance and behavioral issues." For more information, please contact Jeff Caron, MED, CAGS, Executive Director, Admissions at 603-359-5951.

CLEARVIEW'S SUNDAY SERVICE

(August 28, 2008) Tami Gebhardt, Assistant Director at Clearview Horizon, Heron, MT, 406-847-5850, announced the young women at Clearview Horizon helped in the "Serving Sandpoint Sunday" community service project, by cleaning graffiti off the Long Bridge, picking up garbage, planting flowers and other various tasks to help.

ASPIRO THANKS CONSULTANTS

(August 28, 2008) Dr. Day and everyone at Aspiro would like to express sincere thanks to all the students, families and referring professionals who have supported us over the past few months. "We look forward to the months and years to come as we assist the students and families we are blessed to serve!" In addition, Brian Church, and his band will play in Baltimore at the upcoming IECA Conference, November 7, 2008, at 9 pm. Call 801-979-6301 for more information.

BENEVENTO JOINS ST. PAUL'S

(August 29, 2008) Marti Weiskopf, Marketing Liaison at St. Paul's Academy, Phoenix, AZ, 602-956-9090,