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.]

SEEN N' HEARD

WEISKOPF VISITS WOODBURY REPORTS



(July 8, 2008) Marti Weiskopf of St. Paul's Academy, Phoenix, AZ, 602-956-9090, visited the Woodbury Reports office on her way through Bonners Ferry.

JOHNSON VISITS



(July 25, 2008) Jeff Johnson Executive Director of the Association of Mediation And Transport Services 435-491-0398, stopped by the Woodbury office while visiting programs in north Idaho, eastern Washington, and Montana. Recently, Jeff accepted a position as Director of Admissions for Sunhawk Academy in St. George, UT.



HESS INTRODUCES WINGATE

(July 25, 2008) Scott Hess, Clinical Director of WinGate Wilderness Therapy in Kanab, UT, 800-560-1599, stopped by the Woodbury Reports office to discuss the opening of WinGate and explain the uniqueness of the program.



LIFE DESIGNS STOPS BY

(July 25, 2008) Anngela Ritter and Kim Mlinarik LHMC, CDP, of Life Designs in Cusick, WA, 509-671-2487, stopped by for a visit this summer.

MCKENNA VISITS WOODBURY



(July 30, 2008) Patrick McKenna, founder of Monarch School in Heron, MT, stopped by our office to explain the new and exciting things happening at Monarch.

THEM COMES FOR A VISIT

(July 25, 2008) Dori Them, Executive Director of Passages To Recovery in Loa, UT, 866-625-8809, stopped by the Woodbury Reports office for a visit on her way through Bonners Ferry.



NEW HAVEN IN HERITAGE SCHOOL'S RIDE FOR TEENS

(August 2008) New Haven students participated in Heritage School's Ride for Teens, an event designed to bring positive attention to the great work teens in treatment are doing. The girls started at Heritage School in Provo, UT, riding a few miles up Provo Canyon to Bridal Veil Falls and back. New Haven's students sang songs and were laughing most of the bike ride. One student said she liked being with the group and biking together. Most of them said the ride up was most difficult, but coming back down the canyon was free and easy! Staff commented that it was awesome hearing the girls like to do hard things. The girls also said they enjoyed looking at the information booths on display about mental illness, such as celebrities with various disabilities.

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