



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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ARE WE READY FOR THE PANIC BUTTON YET?

By: Lon Woodbury

As I write this (mid-October), virtually all the media is talking about is the economy. Our attention is riveted on the wild ride of the Stock Market, the freeze in credit and a crisis in the housing market, along with government and private efforts to solve our problems. Even coverage of the Presidential and Congressional campaigns emphasizes what the candidates are proposing to "fix" the problems in our economy.

This concern over the economic crisis and how it will impact the network of private residential parent-choice schools and programs for struggling teens has been a major topic of conversation among professionals in this field all year. Some have expressed the fear that the network is dying, while others point to declining enrollments, partly due to parents feeling the economic pinch. These fears have been fed and magnified by notices of several well known and respected programs closing, with many fearing there are many more closures coming.

The positive side is that, despite all this, there have been some new startups this year. Incredibly, despite all the economic doom and gloom talk starting in January, a few visionaries are confident they can be successful in establishing a program that works with struggling teens in this economy. To get a quick feel for what the true picture is regarding closures and startups, I asked our Market Analyst, Candace Bynum, to research a list of each with the hope that some specifics will provide a clearer picture of what is really happening in this network. Both of the following lists are limited to residential programs for struggling teens that are private and open to working directly with parents in making a placement decision (parent-choice). Every effort was made to ensure accuracy, but please let me know if there are any errors or overlooked programs.

Twelve programs closed in 2008.

NAME	STATE	LOCATION	CORPORATE AFFILIATION	YEAR OPENED	MONTH CLOSED
Achievement Valley Ranch		Tennessee	—	2000	January
Mountain Brook		Georgia	Hidden Lake	2007	February
Manuia Plantation		Samoa	—	2007	April
Transitions of Galveston Isl.		Texas	Solacium	2005	July
Choteau Youth Ranch		Montana	—	2002	July
Mission Mountain		Montana	—	1989	August
Betton House		Pennsylvania	Family Foundation	2005	August
Willow Creek		Utah	Second Nature	2005	September
New Dominion		Maryland	Three Springs	1981	September
Duck River		Tennessee	Three Springs	1990	October
Excel Academy		Texas	CRC	1997	October
New Horizons		Maine	—	2001	October

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[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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