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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Connecting With The Future

By: Lon Woodbury



One of the most common questions I receive from professionals in the network of private parent-choice residential schools and programs for struggling teens is what the future holds for our work. My initial answer is usually rather flippant, mumbling something about the crystal ball being rather fuzzy. However, it is a serious question and deserves a serious answer.

I had the opportunity last week to help develop a serious answer through participating in a panel that addressed that very issue of social trends at the Annual Northwest Get-Together help in Naples Idaho, which is a very small town between Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Idaho. Participating in that panel were myself, Kimball DeLemare from Interchange, and Brandi Elliott from Northwest Academy, calling the subject "Connecting with the Future."

I started off with a review of seven trends I see in society that will likely have some kind of impact on our network in the next few years for better or worse. Each is of course debatable but for sure something is changing in each of these.

1. Parent Empowerment. The whole growth of our network is based on the willingness and ability of more and more parents with struggling teens to take matters into their own hands to find and enroll their child in a school or program that they think can help their child with behavioral and/or emotional problems. This parallels a similar trend for an increasing number of people taking more responsibility for their own health in insisting they make the final decision for health treatment instead of the traditional meekly accepting "doctor's orders," and as part of that by the increasing decision to diet and take diet supplements.
2. Regulations. Everything seems to be coming under government attention, and regulations on both the state and federal level are constantly increasing. Many fear that if someone is working with a child without some regulatory agency looking over their shoulder that is a formula for abuse. In addition, more and more disapproved behaviors are being criminalized, requiring additional areas of regulation.
3. Parenting Changes. Parents have increasingly acted to change and expand their understanding of the "protect and provide" role to include protecting their children from consequences from their own decisions. Risk aversion is increasingly the norm in custom and official policy with parents increasingly making decisions for their children from "play dates" to college and career decisions. In addition our children seem to be learning from their parents that the goal is to win at any cost.
4. Therapeutic Nation. Psychological knowledge is rapidly increasing which can make professionals working with children with problems more effective. At the same time this knowledge is used by more people to justify claiming victim-hood status (Through no fault of my own) and using medication as quick-fix solutions for all kinds of problems.
5. The Hurried Child. There is a push for increased adult rights and privileges for children at younger and younger ages. This includes things like beauty pageants for 5-year-olds, sleep-overs by members of the opposite sex, and children in effect running the family.

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Seen N Heard...

FFS Show Choir Wins First: The Family Foundation School (Hancock, NY), performing for the 18th consecutive year at the North American Music Festival in Hershey, PA, brought home the usual armload of trophies, including a First Place award for the Show Choir. Choral director Paul Geer and choreographer Tom Kovaleski directed the award-winning song and dance troupe. The school's Women's Chorus and Mixed Chorus received Second Place awards, and the Men's Chorus received an Excellent. Senior student, Samuel M., received an Outstanding Soloist Award. 845-887-5213

Ridge Creek Student Receives Scholarship Award: The faculty and staff at Ridge Creek School would like ot take a moment to congratulate Senior Clay H. for earning a $40,000 scholarship from Millsaps College. 800-394-0640

Stone Mountain School Welcomes New Executive Director: Jake Weld, M.Ed. has been promoted to the position of executive director of Stone Mountain School. 949-589-1765

Four Circles Introduces Garden Project: At a time when young people are far from home battling their addictions, they can still get a taste of home-grown. At Four Circles Recovery Center, a state-of-the-art North Carolina substance abuse treatment program, a new project introduces young adults to the therapeutic benefits of gardening. 949-589-1765

Deepest Sympathies to the Stednitz Family: Terry Stednitz's life ended after a nearly five year struggle with breast cancer. 208-267-5550

Adderall Adds Nothing: The pressure to achieve has created unparalleled stress in today's college students across America. It has also created bad habits, including cheating, plagiarizing and copying from the Internet just to make the grade. Now comes the latest response to this pressure: Adderall. According to Malcolm Gauld of Hyde Schools, students are pushed to succeed in a grade-based system that starts naming winners at an early age. A 'win at any cost' philosophy takes over. Kids are gripped by these powerful influences that can and do manifest themselves in potentially harmful ways, including the current abuse of Adderall. 207-837-9441

Knight Named VIP Of The Year In Education: Fieldstone Academy and Cambridge Who's Who of Business Executives are proud to announce that Thomas G. Knight, Director of International Recruiting for Fieldstone Academy, was named the VIP of the Year in Education. 801-419-6266

Explorations Adventure Course for Students in Transition: Explorations is pleased to offer the Summer Leadership Adventure Course. This unique program will incorporate high adventure activities and certification, service learning, leadership opportunities and vocational instruction with continued emotional growth and high school credit. Students and families will also participate in the signature Explorations Parent Float Trip. 406-827-3863

Looking Back At The Redcliff Reunion: Graduates had been pleading with the RedCliff team for years to host an event where they could reunite with peers, therapists and staff. This year administrators decided to give it a try - not certain whether they could meet the day to day demands of running a therapeutic wilderness program and plan and execute a two-day event. The reunion turned out to be a great success! 801-682-2315

Former Three Springs Duck River Campus To Sell At Auction: A 352-acre retreat along the Duck River that was once home to a program for troubled teens will sell at auction Saturday, June 25. 500-551-3588

Guidelines for General Practitioners: The Academy for Eating Disorders (AED) is pleased to announce a new informational resource on Eating Disorders, , "Eating Disorders: Critical Points for Early Recognition and Medical Risk Management in the Care of Individuals with Eating Disorders," which is now freely accessible on their website. Check the end of this report for a link to download this publication. 847-498-4274

Turning Winds Announces NIPSA Accreditation: Turning Winds Academic Institute is pleased to announce its accreditation and membership with the National Independent Private Schools Association (NIPSA). 800-845-1380

6th Annual Northwest Get-Together A Success: The Woodbury Reports Northwest Get-Together was Another Success. The function was attended not only by program people from around north Idaho, but also included attendees from several other western states including Utah and New Mexico. 208-267-5550

Dr. Bingham joins Pacific Quest: Dr. Bingham graduated from Skidmore College and went on to earn a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from The California Institute of Integral Studies. He continued at CIIS and received a PhD in Psychology. Dr. Bingham is a Rosen Method practitioner and Biodynamic cranio-sacral therapist. Dr. Bingham will be available to work with PQ students in June. 808-936-6363

Student Art On Display: Art created by students at Penrith Farms was publically displayed during a local 'Creatives Art Walk' in Everett, WA. 509-447-0665

Bipolar Disorder Misdiagnosed And Unrecognized: Bipolar disorder, also known as manic depressive disorder or manic depression, is a psychiatric disorder that causes extreme shifts in mood, energy, activity levels, and the ability to carry out everyday tasks. It is a serious mental illness requiring specialized treatment, but the problem, according to Kimberly Dennis, M.D., medical director at Timberline Knolls Residential Treatment Center, is that bipolar disorder often gets misdiagnosed by professionals and is unrecognized by loved ones. 877-257-9612

Center For Change Announces Tricare Certification: Center for Change, a nationally known and respected eating disorder treatment program, is now a certified TRICARE provider. Center for Change has become a certified provider for the residential (RTC) level of care and will treat active duty military, their family members, as well as eligible dependents of retirees. 801-224-8255 x 267

Continued: **Seen N Heard/** 14

Lynn University - 20th Anniversary: For the past 20 years, Lynn University has been offering services to assist students with learning differences. In 2002, Lynn's Institute for Achievement and Learning was founded to offer those students opportunities for greater accomplishments in higher education and career realization by providing them with a tutoring center, testing center, and assistive technology services. 561-237-7967

San Cristobal Hires New Directors: Weeks after hiring a new clinical staff, Dave Johnson, CEO and Owner of San Cristobal, has also decided to hire Devon Nanton, LSAC and Andy Coffin, CADC to take charge of San Cristobal's residential treatment offerings. 866-918-8383

Congratulations Kristie Campbell: Woodbury Report's Assistant Director, Kristie Campbell, BS, who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Idaho. 208-267-5550

Jason Gorham To Oversee Adolescent Residential Services: Jason Gorham has been promoted to the position of Administrator of Residential Services at the Rosecrance Griffin Williamson Adolescent Campus. 815-387-5605

King George School Closes: In a letter from Gerart Jones, Head of School at King George, it was announced that the King George School closed at the end of the current semester and graduation in early June 2011. 800-218-5122 ext. 101

Redcliff Ascent Opens Discovery Connections: RedCliff Ascent family of therapeutic programs is growing and we are happy to announce the opening of Discovery Connections in Orem, UT. Discovery Connections is a12-bed program designed for boys ages 13-17 who may have poor impulse control or be pre-conduct disordered. This small, focused milieu specializes in treating boys who, in larger programs, may have been disruptive or even acted out. 801-491-2270

Oldest Wilderness Therapy Program Celebrates 30 Years: SUWS Wilderness Programs, which has been in continuous operation longer than any other therapeutic teen wilderness program in the United States, is celebrating 30 years of life-changing service to teens in crisis and their families. 208-735-4458

SUWS Programs Welcomes Sarah Casson Rush: SUWS Programs of Shoshone, ID, one of the nation's oldest and best-known wilderness therapy programs, is pleased to announce the newest member of its admissions team, Sarah Casson Rush. 949-589-1764

Outward Bound Announced Study Outcomes: Outward Bound, the world's foremost experiential learning program, recently announced results from a one-year study on student outcomes related to Outward Bound's educational framework. The unprecedented results show an impressive degree of growth in student leadership, confidence, and commitment to service post-course. Results illustrate that Outward Bound's outdoor programs deliver on their mission to empower students to be a positive force for change in their world. 866-846-7745

Benchmark Announces Gender Specific Housing: Benchmark is pleased to announce New Gender-Specific housing for our young adult students. Benchmark will be vacating the current 18-unit apartment complex, which is outdated and in need of extensive updates and repairs, and will relocate students into two separate apartment complexes within the community of Redlands. Both apartment complexes will be fully staffed with Residential Life Coaches on a 24 hour, 7 days per week, awake basis. 800-474-4848

Auldern Students - Run for Our Heroes: Auldern Academy Run Club participated in their first 5k run: Run for Our Heroes, which was formed to help police departments nationwide host events to raise funds for families of officers slain in the line of duty. 919-837-2336

Boulder Family Therapy Offers Desert Trips: Stuart Marshall, founder of Boulder Family Therapy offers young adults ages 17-21 in need of guidance of discovering who they are and who they truly want to become, a six day desert wilderness adventure. 303-475-4625

Web Service Increases Communication: Connect 4 Healthcare, LLC will officially launch their newest service, Connect for Healthcare for Behavioral Health TM, at the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP), 2011 Conference. 614-256-4454

Insight Intensive at Gold Lake Launches Residential Program: Recovery and behavioral-health expert Joseph DeNucci proudly introduces Insight Intensive at Gold Lake, an innovative, therapeutic residential program for young men who are unprepared to meet the demands of adulthood. 512-516-7257

Journeymen For Young Men To Open In July: Journeymen is a month long program for young men ages 16 and up. The program combines a wilderness experience with an apprenticeship in the craft of timber framing (timber framing is a traditional form of house building that was common before the widespread use of metal in construction). 208-610-5566

Remuda Ranch Celebrates International No Diet Day: Millions of Americans have tried dieting and have ultimately failed. Diets do not work because they are unsustainable and bring about feelings of guilt. Remuda Ranch, the nation's leading eating disorders treatment center, celebrated International No Diet Day 2011, in order to increase awareness of the pitfalls of dieting. 602-332-9026

Cornell Biologist Conducts Lab at FFS: Biology students at The Family Foundation School, Hancock, NY, participated in a gel electrophoresis lab conducted by guest lecturer Mike Yerky, Ph.D, a Professor of Biology at Cornell University and outreach coordinator for the Cornell Institute of Biology Teachers. FFS biology teacher Ed Leung, Ph.D. coordinated the event. Professor Yerky visits more than 80 high schools annually and has performed the lab for the past several semesters at FFS. 845-887-5213