

CHEROKEE CREEK

they and the kids participated. Their anecdotes demonstrated more about how they actualize their vision of the school.

Afterward we met some students, who excitedly showed us their classrooms and dorms. They were well mannered, interested, competent, and yes, charming, even though their histories would reveal attentional, behavioral, attachment and/or maturational issues. The campus was rustic and attractive, consisting of dormitories, and a school building in addition to the main lodge. The teachers showed us the small attractive classrooms while describing their curriculum. The students showed us the pet iguana, and caged rats the science teacher had convinced David that the students needed in class, based on research she showed him.

Lunch was an absolute delight. We discovered Cherokee Creek has definitely developed healthy eating into a culinary art! During lunch, each consultant sat with a different student so they could ask further questions. After lunch, cleanup went smooth and quick, and it was time for us to move along. After expressing fond farewells and

gratitude for a delightful visit, we began our short drive back to Asheville, NC.

On the ride back, I had the chance to ask Beth Venable about questions I heard raised last year regarding staff changes at Cherokee Creek. She explained that Cherokee chose to reduce their number of students. Because of the combination of a smaller capacity and the need for more specialized staff, they eliminated one position to hire additional teachers, and increase the number of therapists. The final result was a school less administratively top-heavy, with more clinicians, and more focus on academics, helping to manifest the school's goals and vision. Although the transition was not fully understood at first, Cherokee Creek maintains their vision of being a "small school with a big heart." The students I talked with were responding very well to this nurturing therapeutic support in a rural setting that combines fun times and family bonding at the river and in the woods, with academic challenge and support in the classroom.

NEW PERSPECTIVES...

[New Perspectives schools and programs are those new to Woodbury Reports, Inc., and are presented to expand your knowledge, with the disclaimer that we know little more about them at this time than what appears here. Inclusion in Places for Struggling Teens™, of course, does not imply any endorsement by Woodbury Reports, Inc.]

ANASAZI FOUNDATION

Mesa, AZ

Virginia Robinson, Admission Director
800-678-3445

info@anasazi.org | www.anasazi.org

The Anasazi Foundation is an outdoor behavioral healthcare program for youth ages 12 to 17. Youth in the program are generally struggling with issues of substance abuse, emotional or behavioral problems. The minimum stay is 42 days. The client must be able to handle an outdoor lifestyle and parents must commit to being a part of the process.

Anasazi is licensed by the state of Arizona and accredited by the Joint Commission and COA. Executive Director and Founder, Ezekiel Sanchez attended BYU University where he participated in wilderness survival courses and eventually became a member of the teaching staff for the BYU Department of Youth Leadership. He

helped establish Anasazi in 1988. Clinical Director, Jared Dinehart, PhD, has held this position since 2008 and was previously employed by the program as a family therapist. He received his doctorate in counseling psychology from BYU.

The Anasazi program is based on wilderness survival and education. Students spend their time hiking and camping in Arizona and use their time in the primitive landscape to focus on their issues in a holistic environment. Participants cook their own meals and learn to build shelters. Counselors accompany the youth and lead the therapeutic sessions. The counselors confer regularly with parents and staff psychologists and clinical director. The program also offers a high school program for students who respond well to the outdoor education.

Anasazi also offers in home transition services for youth who complete the program and need some extra guidance as they re-enter their normal lives. This service includes a transition specialist and lasts for 6 weeks.

[This information came from the Anasazi Foundation website.]

TRANSFORMATIONS TREATMENT CENTER

Delray Beach, FL

Matthew Hirsch, Admissions Director
866-238-2171

info@transformationstreatment.com
www.transformationstreatment.com

Transformations Treatment Center is a thirty to ninety day substance abuse rehabilitation program with three phases that offers both traditional and Christian based rehabilitation programs. The clients that they serve are ages 18 and over and suffer from many different types of addiction that may include heroin addiction, prescription drugs addiction, cocaine addiction, and alcohol addiction. The programs and services offered are specialized to meet the specific needs of each client individually. They offer a Three Phase Program that is designed to cater to every phase of addiction recovery.

The Treatment Center was started in 2009 and is licensed by The

Department of Children and Families. Dr. Aldo Morales, M.D. is the Medical Doctor with Board Certifications in Psychiatry, Addiction Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, he has been in practice in Palm Beach and Broward counties for over twenty years. Gloria Ahlman, CAC, is the Primary Therapist with over 30 years of experience in substance abuse. She has been the Supervisor of the Drug Intervention Substance Abuse Program at Palm Beach County Stockade and is associated with the Court Liaison for Civil Drug Court. Matthew Hirsch is the Admissions Director where he attended Taylor University receiving a Biblical Studies and Psychology degree.

They offer 12-step meetings, group/ family/ individual counseling, cognitive behavior therapies, life skills courses, spiritual guidance and unlimited support and encouragement for each client. In addition to one year of relapse prevention aftercare groups up to three times a week, any client who completes the 90 day three phase step down program but is struggling to stay clean and sober within the first of year after leaving treatment are welcomed back for 28 days of treatment at no additional cost.

[This information came from the Transformations Treatment Center website.]