criticism. When a child needs help, the parents must accept the reality they are the real experts on their own children and take action to help their children rather than allowing the state or other professional to step in and take over.

As it turned out, his youngest daughter began making poor decisions and Lon himself turned to professional help to pull her back from a self-destructive path. From working for a program, to working for parents, to being a parent of a child needing a program, he has experienced all aspects of the journey through the network of emotional growth/therapeutic schools and programs. For almost 30 years Lon has connected with so many families on so many levels with the main underlying theme being "some children just need to be heard, not cured."

Today, Lon provides a nationwide referral service for parents of adolescents with behavioral and emotional problems. He publishes a Directory, the *Parent Empowerment Handbook*, based on research into quality schools and programs and to continue his work empowering parents in their efforts of finding the best placement for the child who is making poor decisions. He also publishes an online educational newsletter *Places for Struggling Teens* for parents, professionals and schools and programs to provide current information on what is happening not only in the network but in the public school system. Lon hosts an Internet Radio talk show on LATalkRadio.com at 12:00pm, Pacific Time on Channel One, titled *Parent Choices for Struggling Teens*, where he interviews professionals about family dynamics and possible solutions for families. Finally he oversees the publishing of a resource, *Strugglingteens.com*, a website over 100,000 pages strong of press coverage, articles, visit reports, etc. on the private parent choice, emotional growth/therapeutic schools and programs.

Prior to becoming an educational consultant, Lon taught in the public school system and worked with the U.S. Senate and the Executive Office of the President on public policy. He earned his BS and MA degrees from the University of Idaho and is a long-time member of the Independent Educational Consultant Association (IECA). In addition, Lon is a Certified Educational Planner (CEP) and an Associate member of the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (NATSAP). He has made several presentations to professional conferences, was chairman of the Special Needs Committee for IECA, and served on several committees both with his professional associations and related groups.

About the Author: *Kristie Campbell is the youngest daughter of Lon and Denise Woodbury. She has worked for Woodbury Reports, Inc. as an intern and a consultant since 1999, working her way up to Assistant Director of the company. Kristie graduated from Explorations Wilderness in 1993 and Mission Mountain School in 1994. She has written articles for the* ***Woodbury Reports Newsletter*** *based on her experiences, has visited numerous schools and programs, attended and presented at IECA and NATSAP Conferences and is the editor of the* ***Parent Empowerment Handbook*** *and* ***Strugglingteens.com****. Kristie graduated with a BS in Psychology in 2011. Member: APA, IECA, Affiliate Member NATSAP. 208-267-5550, kristie@woodbury.com*

VISIT REPORTS...

SANTIAM CROSSING

Scio, OR
Julia Andrick, Admissions Director
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Visit by: Loi Eberle, MA, CPC on February 6, 2012

It was a lovely drive to Santiam Crossing through the lush Oregon countryside in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. From the interstate near Albany, OR, I turned onto a local highway, then to a winding county road, and finally down a dirt road that seemed somewhat questionable given the recent flooding in the area. Soon I saw my fears were unfounded; the winding road ended up in a clearing where an A-frame building housed the Santiam office. Nearby was a pond where a kayak was tied to the dock, waiting for warmer weather. They also have a floating gazebo where they hold meetings and have individual therapy sessions. Though it was a chilly February morning, inside the cozy A-frame office a woodstove created a warm environment for my meeting with Clinical Director, Jenevive Rollins, LCSW, CADC I and a group of her female clients who were soon to graduate.

Jenevive explained that Santiam Crossing is a four part program consisting of wilderness adventure, therapy, academics, and community work. The typical length of stay is between six and nine months, averaging about seven and a half. There is a six-month minimum stay. Their only criterion is that students must come directly from the wilderness program, with no interruption between graduation from the wilderness and enrollment at Santiam Crossing. They will accept students from all wilderness programs, including Catherine Freer Therapeutic Wilderness Program with which they are affiliated.

During my conversation with the girls it was particularly interesting to hear them discuss their past and how strongly it contrasted to their currently lives. They described how they had distanced themselves from negative behaviors, and were glad that their relationships with their family had deepened and that communication had greatly improved during their stay at Santiam. They were obviously encouraged that the individualized online instruction and the teacher-lead classes had helped them catch up on lost credits. Once a student arrives at Santiam, he or she is assigned an academic advisor who outlines coursework and encourages them to develop an active interest in school subjects and in working toward on-time graduation.

Santiam is accredited by The Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC). It is a good environment for students to do credit recovery, as there are teacher-lead classes and self-paced curriculum with some media packets. Due to small class size, Santiam teachers demonstrate the enthusiasm and expertise necessary to get students excited about learning, are certified and

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