doing all their own cooking, cleaning and assignments on their own. Students begin with limited supplies and earn luxuries as they grow therapeutically. Roundy camp also hosts a low ropes course for the students to work through obstacles. This becomes one of the places kids love to bring their parents during parent week. Upon completion of this phase of Turn About Ranch, students have accomplished one community service project to leave behind for future students to enjoy.

Turn About Ranch is licensed as both a wilderness program, and a therapeutic boarding school. The ranch is a true working ranch. Students don't just move cattle to move them, there is purpose and true grit behind every aspect of the ranch. For example, in the summer, students move cattle to the summer feeding grounds. Then in the winter, they "drive" them to the winter grounds. They participate in medical checks on the animals, and witness and help with births and butchering. They also work with the numerous horses on the ranch, both therapeutically and for work. Turn About Ranch also has an extensive Vocational Program, which offers an alternative way for students to prepare themselves for the job market and furthering their education. Some of these classes include culinary arts, mechanics, construction or building trades and auto mechanics.

I was impressed with the school component at Turn About Ranch as well. Students come to the ranch and through Roundy at different points in their educational process. Often students are behind in school and need help catching up. Other times they are beyond grade level. The Academic Director at Turn About Ranch works directly with the student's sending school in order to obtain information for each student. All students do core curriculum, but it is tailored to their needs.

We briefly had a chance to see the over 18 building where several students were working on lariat skills, then we headed over for quick exercise in horse therapy before lunch.

At lunch, we met with the other groups on the tour and several students. Many of the students had helped prepare a wonderful lunch, part of their culinary vocational program. Lunch was amazing and the conversations we had with the students were equally impressive. After lunch it was time for us to head out. We thanked the students for their hospitality and wished them good luck, then loaded up and hit the trail.

Being this was my first group visit, it was a good experience. As we traveled back to the airport, we were all able to compare notes and shared our perspectives of the program. Not surprisingly, though there were a dozen of us, we all had a similar experience of the visit. It had been a good visit and we each felt reassured that the staff care about the kids and work together to make each students experience personal.

We wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!
~The Staff at
Woodbury Reports

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.]

Compass Rose Academy

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Compass Rose Academy, a Christian therapeutic boarding school is a subsidiary of White's Residential and Family Services, a private nonprofit child welfare agency in Indiana. This 9-12 month, co-ed program is for teens who struggle with depression, identity and body image issues, who clash with their peers or authority figures, problems in school, abuse recovery and social isolation or rejection.

Originally founded in the 1850's, Whites Residential and Family Services have a long list of accreditations and affiliations including: The Council on Accreditation, the Alliance for Children and Families, CWLA, IARCCA, IHSAA, the Indiana Department of Education, NACCFA and the NFPA. CEO of Compass Rose Academy is A. Dee Gibson, MA, LSW who has served with White's for 35 years, with 15 years as CEO. Brad Wright is the campus Chaplain and has worked for White's since the mid 1990's, Mike Haarer is the Director of Compass Rose and Troy Friedersdorf is the Principal of the on-site Junior and Senior High Schools.

Students participate in Christ centered individual counseling in addition to several group experiences all designed to learn healthy conflict resolution and increase team building skills. Each student lives in a cottage with house parents and up to eleven other students. Meals, chores and cottage activities help the students learn responsibility and working together as a family. Activities include daily exercise, church services on Sunday at the on campus Church, and a multitude of fun experiences on the 800 acres including bike riding and hiking or use of the gym, swimming pool, weight room and ponds and woods.

[This information came from the Compass Rose Academy and White's Residential and Family Services websites.]