



# News From The Office of Admissions

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800-790-4993

[www.cbryouthconnect.org](http://www.cbryouthconnect.org)

Creating Connections  
That Inspire Change

## A Broken Drum Pounds Out a Message of Hope

*"Come they told me, a new born King to see, our finest gifts we bring, to lay before the King. So to honor Him, when we come."\**

**A**s the lights faded, three young men dressed as toy soldiers emerged on stage. Slowly at first and then gradually building, the rhythmic beat of the drums echoed throughout the auditorium. Their faces were etched with determination and pride. They had worked very hard for that moment. Now, they were stage center with all eyes focused on them.

*"Little baby, I am a poor boy too, I have no gift to bring, that's fit to give the King."*

The music program at CBR YouthConnect is popular with our young men. Adolescent boys from all over the country are placed here to begin their journey of healing. There is, of course, the physical healing that takes place when they receive healthy meals, a warm bed and, often, much needed medical attention. Yet as important, this journey of healing often occurs deep within the young men's souls as they struggle with and begin to resolve the emotional scars of abuse, trauma and pain.

*"Shall I play for you, on my drum?"*



This journey within requires a lot of patience, support, and kindness on the part of the caregivers. Jason Espinoza, the music instructor at CBR YouthConnect, began preparing for this holiday event months in advance. He is a talented musician whose passion for music is fulfilled by helping the boys who come to our facility.

If creativity, imagination and ingenuity are the center stones of opportunity, then Jason is the master mason. His music budget did not allow for fancy marching drums and snares, so with a little patience, screws, duck tape, broken leather belts, and paint, Jason made the old drums new again. Without prior knowledge, no one would have known that the drums on stage that night weren't grand instruments from the finest of marching bands. In their way, the rag-tag collection of drums is not that different from the boys who play them. Like the drums, the boys are rather rough and tarnished around the edges when they arrive, but with a little care, nurturing and love, they transform themselves into very special persons.

*"Mary nodded, the ox and lamb kept time. I played my drum for Him; I played my best for Him."*

With Jason's gentle guidance, and in the mix of music, lyrics, drums, and guitars,

the young men can for awhile escape the realities of the world. They can enter a domain where they are in control—where they are at peace, successful, safe, and comforted. They find within their music those things that can help them survive life's struggles and bring them a sense of hope for the future.

On stage, the three drummers' eyes were wide with both excitement and fear. They had practiced for many hours for this moment, yet they were still understandably nervous. The intensity of their drumming increased, exploding throughout the room as they made their way to the front of the stage. Standing there, drumsticks pounding their makeshift instruments, the young men faced and overcame their fears. Each experienced something much greater in life—incredible recognition, support, and personal achievement. The problems that plagued them faded away with the dimming house lights. As the drums beat rhythmically in time, an incredible new journey began.

*"Then He smiled at me...me and my drum."* *Little Drummer Boy (1958)*, Katherine K.Davis, Henry Onorati, and Harry Simeone

—Martin Masar,  
CBR YouthConnect Executive  
Director of Campus Operations

**Happy  
Holidays!**



The staff and youth of CBR YouthConnect wish you a meaningful holiday season and a New Year filled with hope and promise. Please enjoy the enclosed 2010 CBR YouthConnect calendar as a heartfelt thank you for your wonderful support. We look forward to hearing from you in 2010. Send your opinions, thoughts, and comments to CBR YouthConnect Executive Director Martin Masar at [mmasar@cbryouthconnect.org](mailto:mmasar@cbryouthconnect.org) or call 1-800-790-4993.

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### Accomplishments and Accreditation

*“One of the best in the nation.”*

That is what a surveyor from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) had to say about CBR YouthConnect after an intensive three-day review. A team of educational reviewers from the North Central Association reached the same conclusion.

A recent study of former CBR youth reported a 92.5 percent treatment success rate. Success was based on eight different criteria, including whether the youth was reunited with his family or guardians or was able to live independently. Another recent survey found that more than 90 percent of former CBR residents interviewed were satisfied by the treatment they received.

CBR is licensed and certified by the State of Colorado as a psychiatric residential treatment facility and mental health provider and is accredited by or a member of:

- JCAHO
- North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement
- TRICARE/TriWest, which provides healthcare services to U.S. military families
- National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health
- American Association of Children’s Residential Centers
- Colorado Association of Family and Children’s Associations

**CBR YouthConnect is the flagship program of Colorado Boys Ranch Foundation, a non-sectarian 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is “to achieve excellence in providing troubled youth with the means to become hopeful and productive citizens.”**

# “Connecting parents and their children through improved relationships, new skills and hope.”

CBR YouthConnect (CBR) is a fully accredited national psychiatric residential treatment center for severely troubled youth. CBR has been providing these youth with refuge and hope since it was founded in 1959 as Colorado Boys Ranch. Conceived by a group of caring Colorado judges as a safe, nurturing environment that would provide at-risk youth with the means to become hopeful, productive citizens, CBR is located on 320 acres of land in southeastern Colorado.

Each year, more than 130 youth ages 10-21 from throughout the nation and from all ethnic, cultural, geographic and socio-economic backgrounds are admitted to CBR. Most have failed to succeed in other placements, and for many CBR is the place of last resort for psychiatric treatment and specialized educational services.

## Integration of Treatments that Work

Contributing to CBR’s success is its nationally recognized treatment model—*The Integration of Treatments that Work™*. The approach is based on extensive evidence that psychotherapy, neuroscience and an enriched learning environment can help improve a youth’s ability to regulate emotions, thinking and behavior.

CBR’s treatment results are supported by one of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive outcomes databases for behavioral and medical analysis of adolescent mental health.

Integrated treatment elements are:

**Psychotherapy**—Credentialed therapists apply a wide range of research-based and professionally approved therapies to address illnesses that significantly impair how a youth thinks, manages his emotions, and relates to others. Preserving and reestablishing healthy family connections and relationships is a primary goal of CBR, which emphasizes and encourages family involvement and participation in each boy’s treatment through family therapy.

**Neuroscience**—Applied as part of a youth’s treatment plan, this discipline illuminates how development, genetics, biochemistry, physiology and pharmacology can affect behavior and learning.

Neuroscience is implemented within the context of the overall treatment plan, helping each youth receive a well-rounded and balanced therapy experience.

**Enriched Learning Environment**—CBR provides settings in which optimum staff-to-youth ratios, combined with ample program choices, create the best conditions for youth to discover their full potential, develop social and emotional skills, and gain self confidence. Opportunities include working with animals, the arts, music, gardening and pre-vocational programs. In addition, educational services are provided on campus through an affiliation with the local county school district.

CBR now offers a shorter-term, medical-based treatment program in addition to its 14- to 18-month program so that children can be admitted from all referral sources, including third-party payers.

### Reaching Out to Military Families

CBR is among a small handful of centers certified by TRICARE/TriWest, a U.S. Department of Defense medical partner, to provide psychiatric residential services to the children of military families.

**For additional information, visit [www.cbryouthconnect.org](http://www.cbryouthconnect.org) or call 1-800-790-4993.**

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