



*Creating Connections
That Inspire Change*

News From The Office of Admissions

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800-790-4993

www.cbryouthconnect.org

A Pawsitive New Program

CBR YouthConnect (CBR) has teamed up with Freedom Service Dogs (FSD) to launch Pawsitive Connection, an animal-assisted training program that connects at-risk youth and unwanted dogs with disabled individuals. The 12-week-long program enrolled 60 girls and boys ages 11-17 referred by Metro Denver organizations that assist at-risk girls and boys. The first class graduated in May.

Pawsitive Connection is a natural extension of the successful animal therapy programs that are a hallmark of CBR. The program combines CBR's experience in helping youth gain social skills, self esteem and responsibility through our "New Leash on Life," a nationally recognized on-campus dog-training and adoption program, with FSD's 20-year expertise in training dogs for the disabled. FSD rescues dogs from area animal shelters and custom-trains them to provide physically and developmentally disabled individuals with a greater degree of independence and quality of life.

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."

Reaching Out to All in Need as "Neighbors"

Several years ago during a period of grave global conflict international peacekeeper and acclaimed poet Rabbi Harold Kushner penned the tribute to cultural tolerance and understanding that appears on this page. These words resonate with all of us at CBR YouthConnect. Healing through treatment, caring, togetherness, and commitment is an integral part of who we are and what we do. The final passage of the poem is especially meaningful—from the high bluffs of our Colorado campus one can, indeed, see "the mountains that teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven."

Although we all are different and some of us, including many of our youth, have experienced physical abuse, emotional neglect and ongoing hurt, we can benefit by reaching out and helping our neighbors.

Sometimes a "neighbor" is a person on the other side of the world with different cultural values and perspectives but with similar dreams, goals and feelings. Sometimes, a "neighbor" is a person or family in need within our own communities.

This year, CBR has embarked on an outreach program to deliver our special brand of therapy to at-risk youth and their families in communities beyond our High Plains ranch. One such program, Pawsitive Connection, in which troubled youth help train abandoned dogs for placement with disabled individuals, is described in this issue of the newsletter.

Pawsitive Connection is just the beginning in what we hope will be an ongoing effort to reach out to our "neighbors" in need—troubled youth, their families, guardians and caregivers— in communities throughout the nation.

— Vaughn Zimmerman, CBR YouthConnect
National Services Director

A Prayer for the World

*Let the rain come and wash away
The ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
Held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory
Of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and
Fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us
Wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that
We can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels,
Beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness
Of the sun melt our selfishness.
So that we can share the joys and
Feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun
Be so strong that we will see all
People as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain,
Bring forth flowers
To surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts
To reach upward to heaven.*

— Rabbi Harold S. Kushner



We look forward to hearing from you! Send your opinions, thoughts and comments to CBR YouthConnect Director of Clinical Affairs/Administrator Martin Masar at mसार@cbryouthconnect.org or 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

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“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 or call 1-800-790-4993.

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