



Creating Connections
That Inspire Change

News From The Office of Admissions

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800-790-4993

www.cbryouthconnect.org

Witnessing the Healing Cycle of the Human-Animal Connection

I am constantly amazed at the life-altering connections we make every day here at CBR YouthConnect – with our programs, our youth, and the greater communities we serve. This was driven home yet again at our first Colorado Handicapped Children’s Program, sponsored by the local Otero County Health Department and hosted by CBR this spring. Accompanied by a local news reporter, I walked into the Oak Lodge building on campus, which we volunteered to the cause. I watched as the program’s physicians, therapists, receptionists and a host of others greeted and worked with the steady flow of grateful families who traveled to the clinic from the nine rural counties served by the health department.

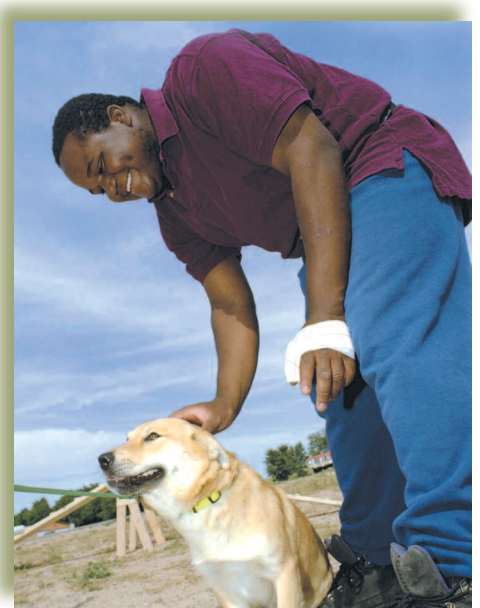
I was drawn to one little boy who was extremely affected by cerebral palsy. He sat in his wheel chair with an attentive, obedient dog beside him. The mix-breed dog wore a bright orange vest inscribed with the words “Companion Dog – I am working – PLEASE DO NOT PET.” This dog was proud, on task, and knew exactly what he was doing. I complimented the boy’s father on how the dog was so stern and well-trained. He chuckled and said that when he takes off the vest the dog is a “nut. He loves to play and run.” However, the minute the vest is strapped on, the dog becomes focused, controlled and obedient. His one and only job is the safety and well-being of the child. The father told me that the boy and dog eat, sleep and do everything together. If the child has a seizure, the dog immediately alerts the parents. If the boy falls or needs help, the dog rushes to retrieve the parents.

I was about to say what an exceptional dog this was, when the father emotionally confided, “You know. This is one of yours—from your New Leash on Life Program. Other than what he received here, he has never had any additional training. This dog saves my son’s life.”

I was speechless. We know that the more than 200 dogs from local and regional animal shelters brought into our New Leash on Life program the past 12 years have made a big difference in the lives of our boys on campus. Caring for and training the dogs over a 10-week period help our youth become more responsible, compassionate individuals. What I saw before me was proof that once unwanted dogs that are lovingly trained by often hurt and neglected young men can make a huge, huge difference in the lives of those who adopt them. Not all that long ago, this very dog sat in an animal shelter waiting for another chance at life. He was given that by a young man who also needed another chance at life. Guided by the gentle care of our staff and program, that youth was able to train this dog to become the companion, friend and lifesaver he is today to another child in need.

The reporter next to me exhaled and said, “Now, *that’s* a story.” And, indeed, it is — the kind of story that occurs time after time thanks to the magic of CBR and the power created in the healing relationship between a troubled young man and his dog.

— Martin Masar, Executive Director, CBR YouthConnect



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.”

We look forward to hearing from you. Send your opinions, thoughts and comments to CBR YouthConnect Executive Director Martin Masar at 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

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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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