



Continuing the success
and expanding the vision
of Colorado Boys Ranch.

Why the new logo?

Each element of the colorful new logo at the top of this newsletter contributes to the YouthConnect identity. The oak tree, grown from a small acorn, symbolizes strength, growth and stability. The root system connects our youth to positive values, relationships and understandings of people, animals and nature. All of these elements, plus the logo's earth colors, reflect the organization's agricultural heritage. As we hope each youth in our care will do, those depicted in the logo look ahead with anticipation to their futures.

Business as Usual.

CBRYouthConnect is simply a new DBA (doing business as) identity for Colorado Boys Ranch. This means that contracts and any legal documents with referral sources, donors and other partners of the organization will not be affected.

As always, we love hearing from you. We appreciate your opinions, thoughts and comments. Please contact Martin Masar, CBRYouthConnect Director of the Office of Clinical Affairs and Admissions, at cbrclinical@ria.net or 1-800-790-4993.

News From The Office of Admissions

Spring 2005

Creating Connections That Inspire Change For Youth & Family

800-790-4993

www.cbryouthconnect.org

CBRYouthConnect — Connecting Our Past to Our Present

As the icy north wind brings a distinct chill in the air, I am reminded of the harsh reality of a Colorado winter, knowing that the warmth of spring is still weeks away. While a part of me is ready for the seasons to change, I also realize that each one brings an essential element to life. In a similar way, organizations undergo seasonal transformations in their own growth and development. Each stage brings its own share of milestones that ultimately have a positive influence.

At CBR, the staff has been working diligently to continue building a place where each boy and family receives the kind of top notch, highly customized care and support they need and deserve. *We've never stopped in our pursuit of excellence!* That commitment has led us to constantly challenge and improve every area of CBR, from individual treatment and family therapy to education and the overall therapeutic environment.

In 2003, the CBR Board of Directors looked enthusiastically to the future of the Ranch. Given CBR's commitment to excellence, the board, along with CBR Foundation President Chuck Thompson, felt confident that CBR was evolving into an organization that could extend its therapeutic connection and serve more communities across the nation. Out of this emerged an expanded vision and a new name that would encompass our national and international mission and scope.

CBRYouthConnect is now the name of Colorado Boys Ranch. We are keeping the initials CBR. YouthConnect International is now the name our umbrella organization and the foundation that generates resources to help support CBR as it continues serving the nation as a premier psychiatric residential treatment and learning center. CBRYouthConnect remains the flagship program of our organization.

Colorado Boys Ranch was not sold or acquired or merged—we are simply advancing and growing into the future. The new name more precisely reflects the vision of CBR: helping youth and their families form healthy connections that inspire change. These connections are formed through cutting-edge research, innovative and specialized treatment, customized education and vital relationships.

We are building upon our strong heritage to continue our mission of achieving excellence in providing troubled youth with the means to become hopeful and productive citizens, on an even larger scale. With such a critical mission, YouthConnect International is beginning to expand its reach beyond the United States, exporting our expertise for troubled youth across international borders. We are traveling to countries across our world, providing the latest in research, treatment and education to effectively help troubled boys and their families everywhere.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone reading this newsletter for your continued support of the mission of CBRYouthConnect. I'd like to especially thank those professionals dedicated to advancing treatment and education for troubled youth and their families across the world. Together we are helping transform the seasons of their lives, enabling each one to connect with a brighter future.

— Martin Masar, CBRYouthConnect Director of the Office of Clinical Affairs and Admissions

CBRYouthConnect Office of Admissions P.O. Box 681, 28071 Hwy. 109, La Junta, CO 81050

(719) 384-5981 1-800-790-4993 fax (719) 384-0470

www.cbryouthconnect.org



Known historically as Colorado Boys Ranch, CBRYouthConnect is a fully accredited, nationally acclaimed residential psychiatric treatment and education facility providing troubled youth with the means to become hopeful and productive citizens. Located in Southeast Colorado, near the town of La Junta, CBRYouthConnect resides on 340 acres of land that thousands of boys have visited since 1959.

Each year, more than 120 youth, ages 10-21, from all ethnic, cultural, geographic and socio-economic backgrounds, are admitted to CBRYouthConnect. Most CBR youth have failed to succeed in other placements—for many, CBR is the place of last resort for psychiatric treatment and specialized educational services.

Blending a successful mix of innovative and highly individualized programs and services, intensive family therapy, cutting edge research, and an experienced and devoted professional staff, CBRYouthConnect is one of the best residential treatment and education facilities in the nation, according to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

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About CBRYouthConnect

CBRYouthConnect Treatment Approaches

■ **Family Therapy.** Preserving and reestablishing healthy family connections and relationships is a primary goal of CBRYouthConnect. As a result, CBR emphasizes and encourages individualized family involvement and participation in each boy's treatment. As appropriate and coordinated by CBR specialists, family visitation is offered at any time—including evenings and weekends. Many families also receive weekly phone sessions addressing topics ranging from discipline practices to conflict resolution.

■ **Intensive Psychotherapies.** Treatment at CBRYouthConnect is highly customized, focusing on each boy's level of readiness emotionally, socially and behaviorally, allowing him to progress at his own pace. The various components of treatment are implemented by a multi-disciplinary team based on team diagnosis, problem solving and support. Team members often include a psychiatrist, physician, Ph.D. psychologist, program director, social worker, teacher, recreational therapist, nurse and mental health counselor.

■ **Neuroscience.** Researchers at CBRYouthConnect are discovering that the brainwaves in youth with psychiatric disorders function abnormally. As a result, CBR specialists are working on new therapy techniques that help re-train a boy's brainwaves, allowing him to respond to situations with better emotional and behavioral control. As with the other components of his therapy, the neuroscience aspect is implemented within the context of the overall treatment plan, helping the boy receive a well-rounded and balanced therapy experience.

■ **Education. Applied Learning.** At CBRYouthConnect, academic learning occurs inside and outside the classroom, and in a variety of traditional and enriched applied learning environments. CBR concentrates on the principal that exposure to real-life experiences is essential for effective learning.

■ **Innovative Care.** CBRYouthConnect treatment programs and services are continually assessed and refined to ensure that they reflect the latest innovations based upon mental health research and findings.

CBRYouthConnect's Specialized Care Yields Results.

Follow-up research on CBR youth has found that*:

■ **The number of youth experiencing success in achieving individual goals during their treatment at CBR has risen from 86% to 97% over the past three years.**

■ **The number of families involved in active family therapy rose from 93% in 2003 to 97% in 2004. This resulted in 93% of CBRYouthConnect youth successfully reunited with their families upon completion of treatment.**

■ **The number of youth successfully discharged from treatment at CBRYouthConnect rose to 97%.**

■ **CBRYouthConnect's independent satisfaction rating (as determined by surveys of referral sources, parents and youth) rose to 94%**

***Data as of December 31, 2004**

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