



A National Program for Psychiatric
Treatment and Education of Adolescents

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News from the Office of Admissions

In Search of That Special Place

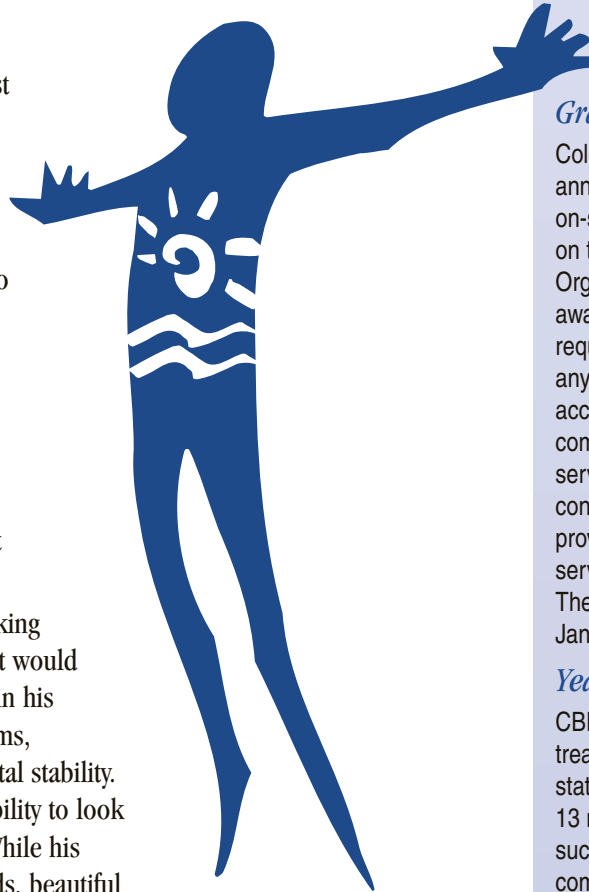
We all need a special place—somewhere to go when we feel blue, or stressed, or when we just want some time to ourselves. And since we simply cannot pack up and take off to this place, we rely on our imaginations to take us there—time and time again.

I remember one young man at the Colorado Boys Ranch (CBR) who would talk of his upcoming discharge—excited to return home to his family. He had been at CBR for more than a year and was now anxiously counting down the minutes to his departure. But before he left, he shared with me his thoughts. And he gave me a gift I will always remember.

He talked of the struggles he had faced making changes in his life. These were changes that would allow him to be successful and productive in his relationships, emotions, fears, hopes, dreams, academics, personal environment and mental stability. And during these struggles, he found the ability to look into his heart and find that special place. While his friends imagined places like far away islands, beautiful fields of green or sparkling blue waters, he imagined that special place. When I asked him what that special place was, he bowed his head and said, “That special place is right here and now. The here and now of this place where we are sitting at this exact moment.” He then lifted his gaze and said, “Although I am referring to the present moment in time, the place where I learned this is here at Colorado Boys Ranch. And if every human being could learn to appreciate the right here and now and take themselves to that special place, everything would be so much better.”

So simple yet so profound. While I thought I had sparked the wonderful changes, progressions and enhancements in this young man’s life, it was he who—in one brief moment—had taught me how to find the peace and happiness within.

May we all find that peace and happiness. May we all find that special place.



Grade A Accreditation

Colorado Boys Ranch is pleased to announce that the Ranch has “aced” its on-site survey by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). CBR was awarded accreditation “with no follow-up requirements,” which is high praise for any residential treatment center, according to the JCAHO surveyors who commended CBR for its high quality services and caring staff. “We congratulate you on your efforts to provide high quality care for those you serve,” the surveyor wrote in his report. The accreditation is effective through January 24, 2007.

Year-End Report

CBR had a banner year in 2003. We treated 120 troubled youth from 11 states. The average length of stay was 13 months, and 95 percent of the youth successfully returned to their families or communities following treatment at CBR.

As always, we love hearing from you! We appreciate your opinions, thoughts and comments.

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— Vaughn Zimmerman
CBR Regional Services Coordinator