

WHISPERS IN THE WIND

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Environmental Awareness

April's virtue is environmental awareness. Turning Winds' definition is: realizing that healthy environments promote individual wellness. At Turning Winds we strive to create an environment that fosters individual growth. One of our residents, Brittany, has stated "I like Turning Winds because it has given me a second chance. At home I messed up pretty bad and almost died. Now that I'm at Turning Winds I am around positive people, good staff, and consequences when I do something bad. I am thankful for coming here and for Turning Winds saving my life." This is just one of many residents that have become aware of their environment and have benefited from it.



Yaak Montana

*Yaak Montana
It is a place that is hard to find
But when you get here it opens your mind
It opens your mind to things that seem unreal
But sooner or later it's natural to feel
It is emotionally safe in many ways
Even through the toughest days
Counselors, mentors, and even peers
Helps comfort all of those tears
We are faced with challenges here and there
It is comforting to know that people care
The rules and boundaries we know
It gives us room and helps us grow*

*Turning Winds is a safe place
Even when you have problems you
have to face*

- Rachel, Brittany, Irene, Kaitlyn, and Emily

Things that Make Turning Winds Safe

1. staff
 2. positive peers
 3. structure
 4. my decisions
 5. planned days
 6. letters
 7. choices
 8. consequences
 9. honesty
 10. trust
- Brandy



Mind Pollution

Environmental awareness comes in many different forms. For example: air pollution, littering, and water pollution are all environmental hazards. However, one area that is often overlooked is the pollution of one's mind. The media contributes to the pollution of minds of all ages and it is crucial for it to be stopped.

The internet is becoming more influential than ever before. From chat rooms to websites there is no telling what one may come across. The internet not only influences the young, by its explicit content, but also adults. Even though the internet is simplifying our lives in many ways the harm that it brings into our minds outweighs the good. Will this problem ever be

solved? Or will this become just as problematic as television?

Television is the number one source for violence, drugs, and other negative behaviors. The television pollutes our minds in ways that is not healthy for anyone. Obesity, sexual activity, and dangerous behavior are the outcome of what the media feeds our minds. It shows us that it is okay and not wrong to go out and do these things. The messages that are being portrayed on TV contradict the morals and values that are being taught in the family. Not only is it in what we watch, but what we listen to as well.

Music is supposed to be a way we can express ourselves. However, the lyrics that are being listened to are mainly negative. Ultimately what we listen to effects the way we dress, talk, and behave. Instead of questioning what we hear, we mindlessly act upon what we are told. Music makes us stereotype not only ourselves, but those around us too. It creates false ideas about families, womanhood, and necessities that essentially are not good for us or our environment.

Whether you realize it or not the media affects us dramatically. The media has and will continue to pollute our minds if we do not put a stop to it. What we watch, learn and listen to are three vital parts of who we are and what we will become. We can prevent these things by simply questioning who we are and what we believe. These are our lives and our environment, why not stop the pollution now?

-Rhyannon, Mindy, Rachel, Brittany



I'm Grateful for

My loving Family

*The lungs I breathe with
The eyes I see with
The hands I have
The happiness in my life
My Heritage
My country
My hair
My voice
My personality
My past experiences*

-Kim

Seussical

On April 13, 2007 Turning Winds Academic Institute performed their first public play "Seussical" at the Yaak Community Center. The play is based on many of Dr. Seuss' books including: "Horton Hears a Who," "Oh the Places You Can Go!", and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."



The main moral was that it is alright to be free with your imagination and never give up on your dreams. Over one hundred people showed up. I did not watch the play from the audience, I watched the audience from the play. I really felt our two months of practice paid off. After the performance we welcomed our guests to refreshments and were able to mingle with them. I felt our play was a major success. In the future we would like to perform "The Wizard of Oz."
-Zach (Horton the Elephant)