

WHISPERS IN THE WIND

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Family Connection

August's virtue is Family Connection. Turning Winds' definition is: developing a greater appreciation for the strengths and resources that one can draw upon within his/her own family. As students progress through Turning Winds' program they learn how much their families care and love them.

Family

*Family is a gift from above,
They all show us unconditional love.
Even when we act our worst,
Our family still loves us, they put us first.
The best friends we will ever meet,
It is our families that raised us and make our lives complete.*

*There is a bond between siblings that is oh so strong,
If you cherish it, it will last very long.
It's not about the money or the fancy car,
It's about love and friendship from afar.*

*Our families help us stay on our feet,
In life it's like a game you cannot beat.
Without our families we do not know,
Where we would be? Where would we go?
Always together through thick and thin,
In the end family will always win.*

-Abby, Irene, Brandy, Kelly, Kendall, and Brittany



GED Graduation

The summer 2007 GED graduation took place on August 3rd in honor of Cody, Brad, Sam, and Thomas. These young men have received high school equivalencies and are continuing on to further their education through college or trade schools. Sam especially has excelled throughout his stay here at Turning Winds and has received the honors of Valedictorian. These graduates have discovered that they are the "decisive element" which has given them the power to reach their full potential. A quote by Goethe, the theme of this graduation, states "I have

come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess the tremendous power to make life miserable or joyous. I can be the tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal."

- Makayla & Regan

Work Projects

In the past two months we have done many work projects to build work ethic and make our home look delightful and tidy. One of the most strenuous, yet fun, of all our recent work projects was the laying of sod around the lodge, which took numerous days and evenings to complete. Another difficult task we worked on was removing an old moldy hay pile away from the TREC building; it was a major fire hazard. Also, we have done a lot of landscaping work to make our current home more attractive.

- Tim & Jeff



Expanding the Family

Since the beginning of June our family has grown rapidly. Not only with the increase of students, but with new staff. Kristy has been working at Turning Winds as direct care staff and camera security for two months. She does a good job keeping the students in check and following the rules. Abby has been with us for a little over a month. She is direct care staff and will be assisting with TREC. She is doing a great job and has earned the respect of all the residents here at Turning Winds. Randy is one of our new therapists and direct care staff. She is now working with our female residents. Randy has been very supportive, helping the girls along through the program. Joe is also a new therapist and direct care staff. He is from New Jersey; he will be working with some of our male residents. He has already jumped in and is supporting us all with our struggles. We are very supportive of our newly hired staff, and in return they have been very supportive as well. We appreciate them all and hope they enjoy becoming acquainted with the program.

-Kim, Rachel, Angela

“We’re Off to See the Wizard”

Turning Winds Academic Institute presented “The Wizard of Oz” to the Yaak community on August 3rd. The play was a success of its own, but not without the challenges that accompany a great production. Performed by the wonderful students and directed our very own staff member Johnnie. Each student practiced their part, and brought together each element of their character.



During the three month preparation each cast member studied their character through various elements such as: watching the 1930’s movie, and studying online about the characters. Every cast member worked their hardest to put forth their best. Some things did go wrong: forgetting lines, props breaking, high winds, faulty speakers, and last minute changes to actors.

One of the most memorable moments during the play was the woodland scene when Dorothy and the Scarecrow meet the Tin Man. The Tin Man (Nick), while singing his song, messed up and began to sing the previous song, sung by the Scarecrow (Brad). To cover up his mistake he began to dance after getting a number of laughs. Overall the play was a great success and the Yaak community greatly enjoyed it and asked when the next production will be.

-Nick, Kurtis, Colin, Lloyd

Seeing Mom

August 3rd 2007 9:00 sharp, the feeling of seeing my mom was a feeling unlike any other. Tears streaming down my cheeks I struggled with a feeling that can only be understood if you too, have experienced it yourself.

Waiting anxiously for this day to come, I was overjoyed that it was actually here. For the first time in five months, I was reunited with the one person who truly loves me unconditionally. Seeing her, feeling her warm embracing touch, and the sound of a familiar and reassuring voice is the best feeling in the world. Nothing says “happy” like the smile I had on my face.

Our talks were of understanding. We were both able to understand and agree with everything the other said. We had substantial heart-to-heart talks about my dad in his later months of being sick and then finally passing away. For the first time I was able to empathize with my mom on the difficulties she had to face. Not only that, but we had talks about my

future, friends, school, my sister Ashley, and much more. It was an amazing feeling for me to not only feel hope within me, but to see it in my mom’s eyes as well. From talking with her, I know that open communication is what will be the key to our relationship.

I know my mom loves me more than anything, as I feel the same towards her. August 3rd, the day I met my mom, will be a day embedded in my mind forever. I want every time that I see my mom to be just as special as the last time, and I am the one who has the power to make that happen. Now, I am looking forward to reuniting with my mother once again, not for two days and not in Yaak, Montana, but forever in a place we call home.

- Irene



Family

Seeing my family was a great experience for me. I hadn’t seen them for six months and it was driving me crazy. I was nervous about seeing them because I wasn’t sure what it would be like to see them.

Upon seeing them on my graduation I was ecstatic. Both my mom and dad came along with my sister, which was one of the greatest things that have happened in my life. There were a lot of tears of happiness as well as many hugs and kisses. What an amazing event it was.

Once on my visit I started bonding with my family immediately. We spoke of many things that we had done together, how we felt about things, and where things were going for us. All my nervousness went away after finding out where my parents were coming from on different topics and how much we shared in common.

I will be leaving to be reunited with my family for good soon. I have been waiting a long time for this to happen. I have so many great plans for myself and my family, I cannot wait. I am so glad at where I am in life with my family and I don’t see anything messing it up.

- Cody