

# WHISPERS IN THE WIND

November & December 2007

volume 2 number 11 & 12

## Responsibility

November's virtue at Turning Winds Academic Institute is responsibility. Turning Winds' definition of responsibility is: acquiring, then using, knowledge to make the best decisions possible and living with the outcome. Students are given many opportunities throughout the day and their stay to gain responsibility. They learn it through school, therapy, work projects, and chores.

Also, for this month's newsletter a few students were able to write a little note describing their favorite memory or event during the month of November 2007.

Happy holidays,

Turning Winds Students



(From left to Right: Gabbi, Rachel, Kelly, Makayla, Kim, Abby, Angie, Kurtis, Cameron)

## Thoughts about November

The best part of November was getting to talk to my parents twice in one month. Next was Thanksgiving with all the good food, especially ham, gravy, yams and the brownies were so delicious. The last dessert was the best two pieces of pie and two scoops of ice cream while we watched the movie "Second Hand Lions."  
-Vince

My first official month was my highlight. I had many struggles, but many good times. I really enjoyed Thanksgiving probably because I talked to my mom and dad. We also did a lot of fun things. I love the snow!  
-Gabbi

November was a pretty good month. My highlight of November was without a doubt, Thanksgiving. We played football, chess and ate a massive amount of food. It was a good day.

-Kurtis

Thanksgiving was the most exciting part of November. We all just got to relax and eat. The phone call home is what made the day so special. I cannot even begin to tell you how much my family means to me. Hearing from you guys is what keeps me afloat during the holidays!

-Makayla



(From left to right: Makayla, Kelsey, Keirstin, Gabbi)

## November Events

- Thanksgiving
  - Turkey bowl
  - First snow fall—over a foot of snow!
  - Two new students—Gabbi and Amanda
  - TREC training begins
  - Physical Conditioning 5k running days
  - Two graduates, Cody and Sam left
- Tim, Anthony, Lloyd and Cameron

## November Academic Achievements

- Abby: earned a perfect score—800 on her Reading GED test
- Makayla: scored a perfect score—800 on her Math GED test
- Austin: graduated with his GED
- Andrew: graduated with his GED
- Keirstin: scored a 99% on the Algebra 2 final and was named student of the month
- Kelsey: scored a 95% on her History Final

- Jake: finished Algebra 1 and 2 with an A in both
- James-got a 656 on a practice GED science post test

-Jake, David, Christian, Nick, and Jake



(From left to right: Regan, Keristin, Kelsey, Makayla, Rachel, Brittany)

### Our Virtue

Our virtue of the month is responsibility  
 As an example we have accountability  
 We clean the house, we do our chores  
 And in school we get high scores.  
 From something as simple as getting stuff done,  
 we work hard and still have some fun.  
 We've all learned to be responsible  
 and along the way we've become dependable  
 -Kimberly Mae, Angela, Abby and Amanda

### No one could have ever seen

No one could have ever seen  
 The true potential inside of me  
 The potential to dream  
 The potential to grow  
 The ability to shine  
 And let responsibility show  
 My qualities were endless  
 I just didn't have a clue  
 That if I had responsibility  
 My world could turn anew  
 Now that my character has prevailed  
 And no distractions are in the way  
 Thanks to Turning Winds  
 I show responsibility every day  
 -Angie, Makayla, Brittany, Amanda

### To Turning Winds we've arrived

To Turning Winds we've arrived  
 Each and every day we continue to strive  
 Each day we wake up  
 And obey not to wear make up  
 We wake up on time  
 And all stay in a line

We've learned responsibility  
 And it makes us feel tranquility  
 -Kelly, Gabbi, Keirstin

### Thoughts about December

My highlight of December was writing my dad the most beautiful letter! I wrote that letter out of love and care and he really loved it. I love seeing and making my Dad proud, he is the best Dad!  
 -Angie

The month of December was very special for us here at Turning Winds. Kim, Rachel and I went on home visits for the first time. It was wonderful to spend Christmas with my family as I am sure it was for the other graduates on home and local visits. Family connection was a very big aspect of my Christmas season. I love ya fam!  
 -Nick

### December Events

- Christmas and Christmas eve celebrations
- New Years
- Gabbi received her laces
- Eight students graduated (Abby, Andrew, Cameron, Cristian, David, Lloyd, Regan and Tim)
- Andrew returned home after eight months
- Abby took her ACT
- A girls group went on TREC (Abby, Angie, Brittany, Kelly, Kim, Rachel, and Regan)
- James' Mom came to visit as well as his little brother after being here for seven months.
- A Christmas play was put on with the Yaak school students for the Yaak community.



James

### December Academic Achievements

- Brittany, Regan, and Abby have all completed and passed their GED
- Gabbi received a 100% on her U.S. History mid-term test

- Kelsey received an 80% on her Algebra 2 final
- Kurtis and Joe have started their college Psychology course
- Colin and David have finished their Psychology courses
- Christian received a 760 on a science GED post test
- Cameron finished College Humanities 101
- Jake finished both Sociology mid-terms

## Graduation essays on Responsibility

I have gained responsibility by getting my shoe-laces and gaining the trust of staff. I have had to be more of a leader. I have been given responsibilities and have proven that I can handle them. I am now a graduate and have more responsibilities, not only to myself, but to my peers, and to my family. When I go home I will be ready to take on any responsibilities that my family, work or school puts on me. I am now responsible for my actions.

-Christian

Responsibility means more than just doing the minimum to get by, it means trying my hardest to succeed and help. When I first got to Turning Winds I didn't even do the bare minimum, but working to become a graduate has taught me many more responsibilities. Becoming a graduate and getting new responsibilities has helped me and those around me.

- Cameron



(From left to right: Lloyd, David, Nick)

My life has changed because of the virtue—responsibility. Before I came to Turning Winds I did not take anything seriously enough. Since being at Turning Winds I have learned to be more focused on what I need to do and to get it done. Because of this I have learned to have more responsibly over myself and my life.

This last month I have had the opportunity to become a graduate. I was excited when my parents walked in. I ran to them and gave my parents a hug. It was amazing seeing my peers at Turning Winds experience the same feelings. The tears that were shed were of joy. After all the parents arrived we participated in the graduation ceremony. Many of the parents cried as they spoke, completely overcome by their love for their children, whom they had sent here over six months ago. They each told us of their sacrifices and how they decided to send their children to Turning Winds. Once the graduation ceremony was over, the only thing that the students and families could think about was spending time with each other.

-Lloyd



(From left to right: Anothony, Cameron, Kurtis, Kyle, David, Nick)

This past Christmas I graduated after eight months and was reunited with my family for the holiday season. It was truly wonderful. I could not have been able to do so without maintaining a positive level of responsibility. Responsibility is constantly a part of my progress at Turning Winds. I am so grateful I have had the chance to develop positive characteristics like responsibility and grow into the person I am now.

My graduation was by far one of the greatest days of my life, if not the greatest. Being able to finally deserve something that I earned was truly wonderful. Being able to put my arms around my sisters was overwhelming and being able to jump into my mom and dad's arms was the best feeling ever. I shed tears of joy that day. It is one day I will never forget. I love you Brenna, I love you Calli, I love you Jordan. I love you Mom and Dad! You all mean the world to me.

-Abby

I was sent to Turning Winds not knowing what to expect. Having so many responsibilities was not an everyday thing for me at home. Coming into this new environment taught me a lot about the

role I needed to take on and how I needed to better my life as well as my future. Responsibility is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Being a graduate has many more responsibilities than the others. This should help me prepare for my future. Reuniting with my family was by far one of the most memorable days of my life. Seeing them happy and content was something I was waiting to happen for a long time. Being able to spend peaceful time with them, have long conversations, and just enjoy each other's company was AWESOME! I love my mom and my family so much. They all hold a very special place in my heart.  
-Regan

## 1984

For thirty minutes every day we read classical literature. Our classics consist of the writings of the 1700's to the 1940's. I would have to say that classical literature is the second best in the academic school day, break being of course number one.

1984 by George Orwell is the book I choose to read. A "negative utopia" based on George Orwell's assumptions of what our nation was

realistic book that captures your attention, and draws your thoughts to the present and future. I would give this a 3 ½ star rating, out of 5, and is one of the better books I have read.

-James

## The Alchemist

For my classical literature book I chose, "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. It is a book about achieving your dreams. This book was one of the first books I read during my stay. It changed my outlook on the program. It is about a shepherd boy named Santiago who goes looking for his "Personal Legend." A personal legend is basically described as your meaning in life. Santiago goes across the desert with a caravan of people during his search. He is in love with a girl named Fatima. The best part of the book, in my opinion, was when he realized he must follow his dreams rather than stay with the one who he was in love with. The Alchemist is filled with life lessons and things to set morals and principles on. The main purpose of books to me is to learn something from them.

-Kelsey



becoming. Winston breaks a party rule by writing in a diary, a "thought crime" punished by death. He meets secretly with another party member named Julia. As they seek to join the underground group called "brotherhood," and desire to overthrow the corrupt party. They learn dark secrets not only about the party, but about human nature. They meet an inner party member and are betrayed. It is an eerily