

# WHISPERS IN THE WIND

March 2009

Editors: Mikel & Alexis

It's now the beginning of March but our spirits are still lifted from February 13<sup>th</sup> when four students graduated from the program and 11 students got their diplomas.

## G.E.D./Highschool Graduation

By:Genny

Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Turning Winds Academic Institute had a G.E.D./High School Graduation ceremony. It was a big day for many different families. The feeling of Pride, Success, and Achievement were in the air and there were lots of smiles. Eleven of our own students here at Turning Winds Academic Institute have completed their first few steps to success and are now recognized as G.E.D. and High School Graduates! After the ceremony the Graduation class and their families went and enjoyed a variety of snacks and refreshments provided upstairs. It was definitely a day to remember!



## An Undergrads Perspective on Graduation

By:Chloe

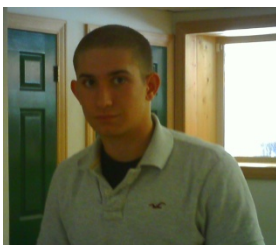
Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, was a completely normal day here at Turning Winds Academic Institute until four students' parents walked in. Everyone watched as those students got up and ran to their families with smiles on their faces- reunited for the first time in about 6 months. Their time had finally come after working so hard! Watching these kids see their families again really inspired me to work ever harder than I am working right now. When I first got to Turning Winds Academic Institute, I had a lot of things that I needed to change, such as renewing my relationship with my family, stop running away, and stop running to boys and drugs to solve my problems. I needed a reminder of what is really important in my life. I thought it would be hard being here for such a long period of time, but in the end, after seeing their students graduate on Friday, it inspires me to do everything I can to change myself for the better, so I too can be reunited with my family one day. I'm Chloe, I'm 15 years old, I've been here for four months, and Friday's graduation has motivated me to completely change my ways while I have the chance that Turning Winds Academic Institute has provided for me.



Turning Winds Academic Institute has a set of 10 virtues that we like to teach our students: Respect, Responsibility, Altruism, Environmental Awareness, Family Connection, Humility, Integrity, Direction, Industriousness, and Verbal Assertiveness. This month we had one of our students explain what Humility means to them.

**Humility**  
**By Tyler**

The Turning Winds Academic Institute definition of "humility" is *the ability to remain teachable*. To grow as an individual, one has to look at their mistakes, as well as others, and learn from them. If a person remains stubborn, and resists advice and reflection, it will be harder for this person to grow as an individual. By practicing humility at Turning Winds, I now have a stronger work ethic and also a stronger relationship with my parents. I accomplished this by taking advice from staff and from other students that have been at Turning Winds longer than I have. When an individual practices humility, something new is learned every day.



Every month Turning Winds Academic Institute picks a Student of the Month. To be chosen as Student of the Month the student must have a good attitude about his/her schoolwork, the student must be getting a lot of work done as well as receiving good grades. Motivation towards schoolwork is something we try to teach all our students here at Turning Winds Academic Institute. For the month of February Jordan was chosen to be Student of the Month. Congratulations Jordan!



There's an old wise tale that says "March Winds are a broom that sweeps clean," in some ways Turning Winds Academic Institute is similar to March Winds by transforming the lives of others, sweeping out the bad habits so that the new may grow. In conclusion, we see many lives change and look forward to see the new growth that the coming months bring!