



The TELOS Times

Telos is an accredited program of the California Association of Child and Family Services

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"DJ" (Yolo County) explores a cave on the way to a climb of the high peaks at Pinnacles National Park. (January 2003)

Telos Wins Appeal!!

In October 2001, a routine financial audit by the California Department of Social Services found that the editor's masters degree did not qualify towards the fees paid Telos for its services, and in a devastating move, the DSS lowered the rate Telos was paid. Telos appealed the finding at a two-day court trial in April 2002. Struggling to survive for months while awaiting the court's decision, Telos learned early in 2003 that it had won its appeal. Its former rate was restored. But unfortunately, time had taken its toll; many long term Telos staff had moved to greener pastures, and at one low point, Telos almost closed its doors. Telos has since been on the mend, and has found the axiom: "That which does not destroy us, makes us stronger!" is true. Our recruitments have produced strong and capable staff, our therapeutic wilderness program is accomplishing its goals more than ever, and our hearts and corporate mission remain undeterred. We especially thank the donors and supporters who stood by our side during those gloomy days!

Lost Coast Weather Challenges Trekkers

Used to through-hiking the 24 miles of the Lost Coast in past years, this year the Telos trekkers found themselves faced with a stationary front which poured rain day after day. Unfortunately, the weather slowed Telos' progress to the point that the trip turned into a "down and back" experience. But that wasn't so bad. This year, the hikers found time to explore a ship wreck



Lost Coast trekkers hike into the teeth of a "so' western," complete with strong winds and blowing rain. (April 2003)



Telos reaches the abandoned Pt. Gorda light house on the Lost Coast, where in 1906, 80 passengers lost their lives when their ship struck rocks late one stormy night. (April 2003)

(right) and tide pools replete with abalone and multitudes of interesting critters. They had the beaches to themselves, and on occasion the rain stopped and the sun came warmly out. All in all, though shortened and wet, it was not a bad trip!



William (Sacramento) examines the propeller of a trawler that, for unknown reason, washed ashore the Lost Coast. (April 2003)



Randal (Sacramento) takes in a fresh coast after the rain abated. Lost Coast. (April 2003)

Telos Challenges 'Old Man Winter'

Despite sparse snow, which prevented the traditional digging of snow caves and the building of igloos on Telos' winter camping trip, Telos residents still snowshoed into their camp at Loon Lake in March. Spoofed "The Year of the Rain" after the Chinese calendar, residents encountered—as with all trips this year—inclement weather.

In fact, they crawled into their cozy bags one night with a drizzling rain falling, and awoke under a fresh covering of wet snow! Despite the weather, all slept warm

and dry, learning that snow and bad weather don't have to make for a "cold, wet, and miserable" experience.



With Loon Lake in the background, two Telos campers snowshoe into Telos' snow camp in the high Sierras. (March 2003)



Telos canoes descend 23 miles to the mouth of the Mattole River in Northern California. (May 2003)

Telos Celebrates its 16th Birthday

Telos was founded in April 1986 and opened its first home in June 1987, sixteen years ago this month. Approximately 425 youths have experienced the Telos program, including its wilderness program. As of January 1, 2003, 239 wilderness activities had been conducted including whitewater rafting, rock climbing, canoeing, backpacking, mountaineering, fishing, and snorkeling. The venues traveled include ocean beaches, mountains, desert, rivers, and snow. So far, Telos residents have traveled afoot or afloat 2348 miles, have camped a total of 406 nights, have climbed 122 peaks, and have rock climbed or rappelled at 128 locations. Not meaning to brag, and superstitiously knocking on wood, we are proud to report that there have been no serious injuries during all these wilderness accomplishments—beyond a few sprains, strains,

stitches, and lots of sunburn. Though a costly adjunct to its group home program, Telos receives no additional funding for its wilderness treatment program.

Telos Staff Often Make a Mark



Ricky (Shasta) relaxes outside his tent on Telos' winter overnight. (March 2003)

Recently reflecting on what has come of many former long term Telos staff, many of whom served as wilderness staff as well, Telos proudly realized that its 16 year contribution to the community has not just been in terms of the residents it has served. Many Telos staff have gone on to provide important services in their communities. Some that come to mind: Don Clark is a school administrator in Alaska. His sister Vickie is a CPS employee in Yreka. A third Clark, David, is an administrator of the Salvation Army in Sacramento. Dave Del Rio heads the El Dorado Council on Alcoholism. Debbie Coelho directs the Placerville children's shelter. Scott Allen and Shawn Hogan have both become Sacramento County

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Telos celebrates on top of Chloride Cliff in Death Valley, a peak climbed before starting a cross country descent to the floor of Death Valley, 5000 feet below. (February 2003)

Telos

Deputy Sheriffs. Mike Campbell is a fireman/paramedic in Coloma. Mark Brooks is a fireman/EMT in Diamond Springs. Greg Wooden and J.L. Huey are both correctional officers at Folsom prison. Curtis Doyle is a correctional officer at the CYA. Zack Hatch is an El Dorado County probation officer. Ken Houpt is a juvenile hall counselor. Steve Turoff and Phil Harvey both work for CPS. After her decade of tenure as the Telos Operations Manager, Teresa Russell serves as a long-standing Board Director of Telos Youth Outposts. Jerry Keene is the pastor of a country church, and is also a private jr. high school teacher. Teresa Simons is a Special Education teacher in Sacramento. While Telos doesn't claim to be responsible for the selfless service of these former staff persons, no doubt their gaining an understanding of

the pathways, issues, and treatments of the children Telos serves, has benefited them in making career decisions, and in carrying out their present duties.

Telos Goes Across Country in Death Valley

Always looking for new experiences, Telos wilderness staff led residents across country from the top of Chloride Cliff to the floor of Death Valley on this year's week stay in the National Park. Enroute residents camped at a long abandoned mine, but one so remote that it had not suffered much vandalism or salvaging. While the route was at times tricky, it was no match for residents accustomed to rock-climbing and rappelling. Due to a dearth of water, residents ate "no cook or clean-up" meals to preserve what little water could be carried for drinking.

The group base camped at its usual remote desert camp on Bureau of Land Management land just outside the Park. Then it ventured for one or two days at a time into often desolate areas replete with interesting artifacts of mining activities, and pre-historic settlements. On the last day, the traditional climb of the "lowest peak in America" was made—a 300 foot high sand dune whose base is about 200 feet below sea level! Then, while people back home suffered winter weather, Telos residents swam and sunbathed at a resort—an annual reward earned by demonstrating socially appropriate behavior

throughout the trip. On the last night, residents night hiked to the top of a peak about two miles from their camp, before telling tales around a campfire, and climbing, late and tired, into their sleeping bags.



Hiking the "badlands" of Death Valley. (February 2003).



DJ (Yolo) and Randal (Sacramento) take in the expanse of Death Valley 5000 feet below, from a perch near the Franklin Mine on Chloride Cliff. (February 2003)



Shawn (Yolo) explores the entrance to a hard rock mine in Death Valley. (February 2003)

Telos is a member in good standing of the following trade associations:
 -California Association of Child and Family Services
 -Wilderness Medical Society
 -National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camps
 -Association of Experiential Education
 -Professional Paddlesports Association



DJ (Yolo) and Ricky (Shasta) relax inside a fallen Redwood tree, which measured over 12 feet in diameter, while on the Mattole River canoe trip. (May 2003)

Telos Trains on the Mattole River

Looking for a challenging but not intimidating river on which to train residents in the skills of river canoeing, Telos ran the final, fairly flat 23 miles of the Mattole River in northern California this May. Camped the first night beside an azure blue pool, the canoeists practiced rescuing both canoes and swimmers from moving water. The practice served them well, because despite its relative flatness, numerous rocks, strainers, and sweepers abounded, and upset several of the canoes the following day. The Mattole is an undammed river, and still possesses sizable runs of non-hatchery salmon and steelhead, a few of which were glimpsed in the clear water. Of course, this year's ubiquitous rain challenged the boaters, but the sun also showed itself enough to dry things out and raise morale.

Feedback...

While running errands with a resident in Sacramento, the resident began pointing out to the staff person all the places he had lived in his life. The staff asked him: "Which was the best place you ever lived?" The resident pondered a moment, and then replied: "Telos is the best place I ever lived!"

Congratulations to...

- *** DJ (Yolo) for graduating 8th grade with straight A's! DJ was also honored at a candlelight dinner provided by his school, where he received a good character award.
- *** John (San Joaquin) and Randal (Sacramento) for graduating 8th grade.
- *** William (Sacramento) for his being honored by his school with a service award.
- *** Shawn and DJ (Yolo), Ricky (Shasta), John (San Joaquin), and William (Sacramento) for earning their Green Peak Award.
- *** Former resident Paul (Sutter) on joining the U.S. Air Force.
- *** Former graduate Jason (Modoc) on his decision to join the Marines upon graduating high school.
- *** Telos staff Allen Rivers for earning the Staff of the Year Award (2002).
- *** Annie Winter for her success in guiding the effort to qualify Telos for funding from the National School Lunch Program!

Our Thoughts and Prayers...

...are with former graduate (1993) Matt M. (Placer) and his wife, Danielle, as Matt struggles against cancer. Matt lived at Telos 4 years, and at one point served for awhile as a Telos staff. As a resident, he achieved Trust Level 5, the highest possible level, and is one of only nine residents who have earned their Diamond Peak Award in the Telos wilderness program. As an adult, Matt earned his Airframe and Power Plant mechanic's license, and maintains jet aircraft for Jet Blue. Matt is a survivor, and we know he'll come through all right on this journey he did not choose!

Our Mission...

...is to provide well organized and structured homes in which residents can live safely, in pleasant surroundings, as friends, while receiving professional services aimed at encouraging their healthy growth: Physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually.

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Telos Youth Outposts, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, charitable corporation which provides residential care and psychological treatment to males ages 11-17 who are abused, neglected, delinquent, or who have a failed adoption. Private placements are also welcome. Coupled to the Telos treatment program is a challenging wilderness adventure program.