



The TELOS Times

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

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TELOS GRANTED NEW CANOES!



A "paddles up!" salute to the Chapman Foundation along with a cheer of "thank you!" for the generous donation of three new Old Town canoes (green, in center). Telos residents prepare to shove off on a canoe descent of the Mattole River.

Demonstrating remarkable social responsibility, our insurance broker—Chapman and Associates—created a foundation some years ago. The foundation makes grants to Chapman's insured's for worthy causes. This year, the Chapman Foundation granted Telos three new canoes for its outdoor education program. While Telos has been slowly replacing its old, worn out canoes over the past few years, this grant allows a full complement

of new to newer Old Town canoes to be placed in service. The maiden voyage of these new vessels was the Mattole River, descended by our residents in May. The canoes were used again in June for our mountain training camp. They will be used

again on the upcoming 70 mile canoe and raft descent of the Trinity and Klamath Rivers in mid-July. Words alone, cannot express our gratitude to the Chapman Foundation!

Six Graduate 8th Grade

Of six residents eligible to graduate, six earned their diploma's this Spring, not a bad record. Chris (Mendocino) earned a 'B' average and also received a Character Award for Perseverance at the Principal's annual candlelight dinner. Billy (Yolo), Donte (San Joaquin), and Caleb (Mendocino) all earned 'B' averages. Josh (El Dorado) worked an extra sixteen hours to earn his diploma, then learned that a mistake had been made, and that he needed eight last minute hours more. Without frustration, he then completed that work too, proving that he could go the distance, whatever it may be. Randal (Sacramento), not pictured, also earned his Diploma from his middle school. The others graduated from the Charter Community School.



Josh, Billy, Donte, and Caleb (L. to R.) all show off their diploma's graduation night at the Charter Community School. Not pictured, but receiving his the same night was Chris (Mendocino).



SUMMIT, MT. SHASTA

New Logo Unveiled

For our seventeenth birthday, celebrated June 23rd, Telos commissioned a local artist to redesign its logo. Since Telos' beginning, a picture of 13 year old Jordy Morgan, a former Boy Scout in Troop 54 (Eureka, CA), once headed by the- Executive Director, had served as our logo (L.). The new logo (R.) maintains a likeness of Jordy, complete with 54 (for Troop 54) on his shirt—to



honor our roots—standing on top of a peak with an ice axe, reaching for the stars, which grow from small to large. We believe that this new logo honors our past (there's quite a story behind Jordy's climb of Mt. Shasta), while reflecting our use of the outdoors in motivating the healthy growth of our residents. Using this new logo will reduce our stationary costs, and will allow easy printing on shirts and hats, something that could not be easily done with the old logo. We hope you like it!



Reaching deep, not only for the strength, but also for the courage, Donte (San Joaquin) stretches to touch his belay point to demonstrate that he has successfully reached the top of his climb. (Pinnacle Peaks, January, 2004).

Residents Rock climb and Rappel

Early last January, while folks back home suffered overcast skies and cold weather, Telos residents enjoyed the balmy coastal microclimate of Pinnacle Peaks National Park. Pinnacles Peak is a famed winter climbing Mecca, and Telos often yields to its allure. This year Telos spent three days exploring and rock-climbing in Pinnacle Peaks, enjoying the last day a wall area known as the "Camel's Back." While there are many climbs available on the Camel's Back, Telos' final climb was an 80 foot "challenge by choice" climb up a dizzying wall back dropped by a climbing area called the "Discovery Wall," a long curving face of rock seen in the background of the

picture below (R.).



The Pinnacle Peaks area is also home to wild pigs which have over run the camp-ground. While enjoying a campfire one night, Randal (Sacramento) remained motionless and exclaimed "Guys! Something's eating my desert!" We grabbed a flash camera and captured the picture to the left. When not entertained by pigs, a three-some of raccoons entered camp and provided a troupe of entertainment.



Billy (Yolo) is silhouetted while rappelling against the famed "Discovery Wall" (background) in Pinnacle Peaks National Park. Billy is descending after making a successful 80 foot climb to the top.



The camera catches a silent prayer by Albert (Kern), just before he makes a difficult move on an 80 foot climb of the Camel's Back in Pinnacle Peaks National Park. (P.S., He made it to the top!)

Telos Chosen for Research Study

Last fall, David Zander, a candidate for an MSW degree at CSUS, approached Telos requesting permission to conduct a research study. Dave had chosen an interesting area. While the literature is replete with studies of the effectiveness of wilderness programs, Dave proposed to study the working alliances that develop between staff and residents, especially during wilderness activities, and their effect on resident treatment. Dave spent the fall securing the myriad of permissions necessary, then began his research by accompanying Telos on its Pinnacle Peaks and Death Valley trips. He conducted his research, one subject at a time, in a tent! Dave's project was accepted and he since has been awarded his MSW. While Dave's research gave us many insights and suggestions for improvements, generally he found that the wilderness program increased positive staff-resident affective bonds. Too, Dave found that "Telos' staff training program, which includes over 40 hours of outside training per year, and considerable on-the-job training, appears to be largely responsible for the strong awareness of the value of the working alliance (possessed by Telos staff.) His overall conclusion? "Telos has a well organized assessment and treatment system that effectively discerns and treats core resident issues," says Dave. We congratulate Dave and thank him for his interest in, and insightful contributions to Telos. Dave was also good company, a great rock-climber, and an excellent photographer!

Death Valley Adventured

Having tired of the usual places visited in Death Valley on its annual trips there, this year, Telos explored further into the Park's remotest regions. How remote? Well, one day a family drove to our camp on three tires. They had had two flats twenty miles back, and only needed to travel 80 more miles to reach assistance! Now, that's remote!



Pat (Sacramento), Donte (San Joaquin) and Caleb (Mendocino) pause in their climb of the 700 foot high Eureka sand dune in Death Valley National Park.



Jesse (Shasta) stands atop a peak overlooking the "Racetrack" valley in the remotest part of Death Valley National Park. Jesse climbed the peak while on a cross country hike which included the descent of a scenic slot canyon.

The first night Telos camped at, and then the next morning climbed the Eureka Sand Dunes, a 700 foot high mountain range of white sand. Another day, Telos hiked across country, climbing a peak and descending a beautifully colored canyon that terminated in a scenic slot canyon. Two other days, Telos explored remote mines, ghost mining camps, and other ruins created by the dreams of hardworking miners.

One night, snug in their tents, Telos residents endured a fierce sand storm, one that required the field kitchen to be thoroughly cleaned before breakfast the next morning. All in all, Death Valley was quite an adventure!



Annie Winter Named Staff of the Year

Waylaid from her passion, her education, and her early history of working



with youth, Annie came years ago from a market- in the wine in- and as she says, hasn't looked back. Testament to Annie's personal qualities, she quickly rose from outstanding staff to outstanding supervisor, to now outstanding Operations and Case Manager (we all wear at least two hats at Telos). At one point, Annie persevered against all odds and qualified Telos for the National School Lunch Program, extra, but much needed income (that the State Comp Insurance Fund quickly claimed through its 400% rate increase over the last few years.) Staying intensely focused on the task at hand, Annie gets the job done well! But Annie also loves to laugh and that makes working with her fun, though underneath, there's a strict Catholic disciplinarian (her sister is a Nun,) who holds unruly boys to their programs. We appreciate you Annie! Congratulations!!

Feedback...

A friend, who is an author and well known trainer of group home staff, recently called to relate a conversation he had had with an acquaintance of his. His acquaintance, he related, had concluded that it seemed like group homes well contained and treated troubled youth, but wanted to know if any homes actually "inspired their charges?" My friend wanted me to know that, in his words, "Telos immediately came to mind!"

Our Sincere Thanks to...

...staff Chris Columbini and Ana Rothschild for conducting a superb tutoring effort all year long! Working closely to support the teachers of our residents, Chris and Ana's efforts clearly paid off, with six of six possible residents graduating 8th grade, and with four of the six earning 'B' averages!

Telos has a rather ruthless motto regarding school: "If we can't educate you, we won't keep you!" But such ruthlessness pays off: Our enforced daily study periods, our consequences for school inattentance and misbehavior, our support of good scholarship, and the provision of qualified tutors, all help emphasize to our residents that we mean what we say: "Your education is important!" And this year's results prove that kids who have lost their confidence in their ability to achieve at school can regain it again with focused effort and support.

Actually, we need to thank all Telos staff, not just Chris and Ana, because they created the environment in which the tutoring effort could flourish!

Congratulations to...

*** Ricky (Shasta) and Randal (Sacramento) for both earning their Gold Peak Awards and graduating from Telos, one to home, and the other to a foster home.

*** Donte (San Joaquin), Billy (Yolo) and Caleb and Chris (both from Mendocino County) for each earning a B average last report card, and collecting the \$15 Telos grade challenge award.

*** Chris (Mendocino) for earning a Character Award from his school's principal at a candlelight dinner.

*** Staff Adam Wells for qualifying as a Red Cross Lifeguard.

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.