



The TELOS Times

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

#1 2007 Publication of Telos Youth Outposts. P. O. Box 958, El Dorado, CA 95623 530-626-0345
website: www.telosyouth.com fax: 530-642-8814 email: johndhiatt@telosyouth.com
Editor: John D. Hiatt, M.A., Executive Director



Christmas Edition

*We wish you merriment over the Christmas holidays,
and best wishes for an auspicious New Year!*



Lost in the excitement of having a "fish on!," everything is perfect for awhile in Julio's (Kern) world.

FISH CAMP!

With the unseasonably warm fall, in early November, Telos took a chance on the weather to enjoy a three day fish camp at a mountain lake that is usually frozen over this time of the year. We knew that the water level would be low, thus concentrating the fish into a smaller area. Too, we thought that the fish would be trying to put more food into their already fat bodies in anticipation of the coming winter. So it was hoped that we might find some real lunkers. Little did we know that when we did, we'd stop fishing for them!

The plan had been to hike 4 miles both into and out of camp, but due to a late start and an increasing steady rain, the boys got motor-boated into camp instead.

Despite the rain, while they set up camp, the residents were cozy in their fleece jackets and gore-tex rain suits, made possible by the contributions of generous donors.

After making their own camps, the boys crowded under a large rain tarp to enjoy the warmth of the fire pan, the conversation, and to whet their appetites for sizzling hamburgers. After dinner and chores, they made straight for their tents and warm sleeping bags.

Before dawn, the all night rain (which filled a bucket left out more than two inches deep) turned to snow and the campers awoke to winter. But by breakfast, the sky was beginning to clear, the sun was beginning to warm, the snow was melting, and it was soon high time to start fishing.

At first the fishing was slow, but then Jesse tried his luck at the mouth of a small creek, one of the very few—if not the only one—that was still flowing water



Jesse (Napa) was the first to find the lunkers. Donavon and Verde (both from Kern County) admire his 19" German Brown Trout.

Open Bed Announcement

Telos has not had an opening since August 17th. One high level resident is graduating home this month, but his bed has already been promised. We appreciate the plethora of referrals that we have received and sincerely wish Telos could serve more youths in its program!

into the lake. Bam! He had a hit and lost it. Then another! Soon he had a fish on. It was a fat 19 inch German Brown. Then Donavon tried his luck. He quickly had a fish on, this one quite a bit bigger than Jesse's, but he lost it just as he was trying to land it.

As the excitement grew, this writer soon realized that at the mouth of this small creek the boys had stumbled onto a spawning ground, perhaps one of only a few, or more perilous, perhaps the only possible spawning area for German Browns in the entire lake.

Telos teaches residents not to harm the wilderness or its wildlife in any way. Continuing to fish for spawning trout could irreparably harm the fishery for years to come. Knowing that, fishing was halted and the disappointed but understanding boys moved elsewhere. We had found the lunkers we had come for, but knew we should stop fishing for them at that location.



Jesse helps Donavon fight a large German Brown Donavon hooked at the mouth of a small creek flowing into the lake. It was soon discovered that the fishermen had stumbled upon a spawning ground.



Skyllar (El Dorado) and Julio (sitting) try their luck at Fish Camp. For safety, Telos residents wear life jackets when fishing. And "if its not buckled, its not on!"

Fortunately, the day continued pleasant, and after lunch a rope rappel was set up on a nearby cliff. Boys at Telos work to earn Peak Award patches, and rappels are a part of the requirements. So for awhile, fishing took a back seat to the new excitement of overcoming one's fear and trusting staff and the rope enough to complete one or more rappels.

The hardest part of a rappel is the point at which one begins to back over the edge. Even veterans of many rappels get a lump in their throat at that moment. Thus, the boys are taught that they have to discipline their emotions with their intellect, and think their way through the exercise, useful tools in life for handling emotional adversity!

Clear skies bring their own problems, and as night fell, the campers found that it was much colder than during the rain of the previous night.

Overcast skies act like a blanket holding heat near the earth's surface, but with the clouds gone, the late fall temperature soon reached freezing, and by morning, a thin layer of ice covered all still water.

Good fortune, too, has its limits, and the luck of the late start and rain that allowed the boys to boat into camp, did not carry over to the last day. Once camp was broken, and a careful check was made to assure that we had left camp better than we'd found it, the campers shouldered their packs and hiked the four miles out.

Thus concluded another wilderness trip where Telos residents were challenged, personal growth was stimulated, relationships were built, the wilderness was cared for, and for awhile, boys were able to lose themselves in positive experi-



First timers Skyllar (El Dorado) , Giordan (Placer), and Reggie (Kern) struggle at the cliff's edge to overcome their fears and complete their first rappels.



Rain falls, hamburgers sizzle, and campers crowd under a shelter tarp to engage in conversation, keep warm, and enjoy the first night of a late fall fish camp.

Telos Expansion Plans Progressing

After announcing three years and \$30,000 ago that Telos was intent on adding 4 beds and a two room school, we finally are approaching planning approval. The planning experience has been a real saga and has reaffirmed the belief that a little bit of government is preferable to a lot of it. While we probably have rocks in our head for wanting to provide more care to disadvantaged youths in the face of a hostile legislature, financing is already in place, so we doggedly press ahead. Next comes the permit process.

The Telos Times Goes to Once Per Year

Even as small a newsletter as this one costs plenty to publish and mail. Once produced four times per year, it then fell to biannually to save precious dollars. Because Telos now also produces slide-shows on CDs of its wilderness activities, its has decided to publish this newsletter only annually—in the fall—as then it can serve a dual purpose: Replacing the expensive holiday season cards that we used to send out. Telos constantly endeavors to stretch declining dollars so as to least affect the program we provide the residents. We hope you understand.

New Placement Matching System (Free of Charge)

Not a month goes by without a frustrated placement person calling to ask for help in locating a placement facility for a child for whom they are responsible. Now, the help such persons need may be only a few clicks away. The California Alliance of Child and Family Services—the organization that accredits Telos—has opened a child/placement matching system on their website at www.cacfs.org. County placement persons need only register and then the system is theirs to use free of charge. Hopefully, the system will go a long way in alleviating the pressure of finding an appropriate placement for a child. At last look, there were over 50 beds available on the system.

Telos Does Football

Many residents come to Telos because they have not yet learned to live amicably in their own communities. What better way to help them learn necessary social skills than to immerse them in tackle football in our community?

For over 15 years, many Telos residents have played for the local community team, the El Dorado Jr. Cougars. This year, seven residents played: Skyllar on Bantam (top rt.), Julio and Donavan on Jr. Varsity (not pictured), and Giordan, Verde, Patrick and Reggie (below) on Varsity. All teams did very well, going all the way to the second round of playoffs. The Bantam team even made it to the Superbowl!

While laughter is undoubtedly the best therapy, in our opinion, football qualifies as the second best therapy!



Jim Simons Named 2006 Staff of the Year

Four years ago, Jim was happily retired from a computer career at IBM. His not so lucky wife, Teresa, however, served as the school teacher at Telos' then Charter School. Jim helped Telos and individual residents from time to time, then realized that retirement was too lonely an undertaking to make permanent, and began working almost full time for Telos. His willingness to do whatever he is asked without complaint has endeared him to Telos' administration. His ability to keep Telos caught up on maintenance has endeared him to this writer. His being there for any special need of any boy endears him to the residents. Jim's living proof that job satisfaction is possible long after retirement!



Jude (El Dorado), a 1998 Telos graduate, sends a picture of Jennifer, daughter Abigail, and he, "as a token of *your* success," as he says it. Jude works for Comcast, and is working toward an eventual B.S. in Business.

Feedback...

...Rudy R. (Yolo) now age 24, called to let us know he has been married one year, has a new son, Gabriel, provides relative care to two children ages 11 and 9, manages a paint store, and is attending trade school in the ventilation and air conditioning field.

... Chris D. (Sacramento), age 24, visited after spending the last four years working in the Alaska fishing industry. He stated he was drug free and had no major trouble with the law since graduating Telos almost a decade ago.

...Kris B. (Yolo), age 22, stopped by with his young son, Landon. Kris works in property management and has a home repair business on the side. He and his wife are leasing to own a home on five acres near Woodland. Telos "changed my life and showed me the way to live...because of you I am the man I am today...because of you I strive to be better," he said.

...Jude (El Dorado), age 22, emailed us with a picture of himself, his new daughter, and his significant other. Presently, he is working for Comcast, and is attending the University of Phoenix, working on an A.A. in Business.

Congratulations to...

***Chris (Mendocino) for his after graduation success in foster care, and now his moving to transitional housing, his new job, his first car, and his excellent school grades.

***Josh and Jesse (both Napa), and Chris (Mendocino) for earning their Diamond Peak Awards in the Telos wilderness program. At minimum, they had to hike or paddle 300 miles, camp 60 nights, climb 12 peaks, rappel 12 times, complete six conservation projects, 60 hours of community service, and serve as wilderness leaders to the other residents.

***Verde (Kern) for earning his Green, Blue, and Gold Peak Awards in the Telos wilderness program.

***Julio, Charlie, and Reggie (all from Kern), James (Napa), and Patrick (San Luis Obispo) for earning their Green Peak Awards, the first of four possible.

***James (Napa) for earning the stop smoking challenge and receiving the \$100 reward for 120 smoke free days and a promise not to restart.

Our Mission...

...is to provide the children entrusted to us with a well organized and structured home in which they can live safely, in pleasant surroundings, as friends, while receiving professional services aimed at motivating their substantially improved academic performance, behavioral choice-making, and responsible citizenship.

* * * * *

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.