



Wishing You Hope and Light

Many of us have celebrations in this darkest time of the year: Hanukkah begins on December 21st, Solstice is also December 21st, the 12 days of Christmas begin on December 25th, and Kwanzaa starts on December 26th.



This darkest time of the year belongs to us, the people who work to reclaim youth. We are familiar with standing in the dark and hoping for the light because we do it every day. We are the people who celebrate hope and light when it is dark and cold. Congratulations on being a person of hope and light.

All of us at Reclaiming Youth International send you greetings of light and hope for this season and throughout the coming year. Thank you for working to make the world a better place!

~ Dr. Martin Brokenleg, Cofounder and Vice President, and the entire staff and Board of Reclaiming Youth International

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Neurotypical Syndrome - Lessons for Neurotypicals



Submitted by Erik K. Laursen, RYI Board Member and Vice President of Learning & Program Dev. at UMFS, Richmond, VA

Autism spectrum disorder is the fastest growing disability in the US. 1 percent of US children ages 3-17 have an autism spectrum disorder (1) and it is currently estimated that

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About Us

Reclaiming Youth International (RYI) is dedicated to helping adults better serve children and youth who are in emotional pain from conflict in the family, school, community, or with self.

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one in 110 births is born with an autism spectrum disorder. (2)

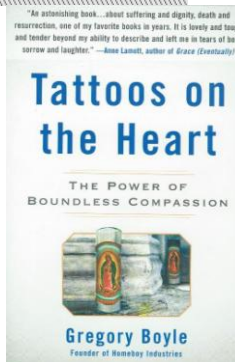
Over the last few years I have been involved in supporting youth on the spectrum and have increasingly been confronted with the question about our understanding of normalcy. I was intrigued when I learned the word "neurotypical" which was invented by the autism community to describe people who are not on the autism spectrum.

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Tattoos on the Heart ~ Book Review

Reclaiming Youth Bookstore is pleased to offer "[Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion](#)" by Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. This book came highly recommended to us by a number of people. Following are two of those recommendations:

First, from Dr. Martin Brokenleg, RYI Co-Founder & Co-Author of "Reclaiming Youth at Risk":



Sometimes I find someone who embodies the hope I have.

Father Greg Boyle writes about his work with poor youth in an inner city in Tattoos on the Heart. One of his goals is fostering , "a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it" (p.67).

This compassion is a quality found in our hearts. Reading this book will open and touch your heart.

[read more](#)

Holiday Peace

The holidays are a busy time; sometimes an overwhelming time. We hope you experience a sense of peace and love during this special season. Thank you for all you do throughout the year to improve the lives of young people!



Our 2012 [Spring](#) and [Summer](#) Seminar information is posted on our website and registrations are now open. Plan to join us at one of these events if you can, and take advantage of the "early bird" and group discount rates. We would love to see you in 2012!

Coordinator, seminars@reclaiming.com

Join us on [Facebook](#) to learn more!

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Where in the World.....?



Where in the World is Reclaiming Youth International?

We have been busy all over the globe with trainings and specialized presentations that help adults meet the needs of children and youth! Here are

some of the places we've been lately:

December 12-13, 2011:

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Steve Van Bockern and Mark Freado testified at the transfer hearing of a youth for which we conducted a Developmental Audit

December 12-13, 2011:

Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

Thom Garfat presented RAP training at Murray McKinnon Foundation

December 1-2, 2011:

Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada

JC Chambers presented a RAP training at Ge-Da-Gi Binez Youth Centre

November 21, 2011:

Ft. Collins, Colorado

Mark Freado conducted a Program Planning Day with Matthews House

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Visit our website at <http://www.reclaiming.com/>

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