



Reclaiming Youth E-Newsletter

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January 2009 Newsletter

Monday, January 19, 2009

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A Note to our Readers

We have been experiencing computer problems with our e-newsletter program during the past few months. Our last few issues did not go out to our e-mail list as they should have, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience. In order to make sure that no one has missed any valuable information, we are repeating our recent articles in this issue and ask for your patience if you have received this information more than once. Our newsletter is in the process of changing programs, and we look forward to sharing that with you. Thank you for your understanding!

Plan to Join Us in 2009!

Locations for the 2009 Reclaiming Youth Seminars have been finalized. The Spring 2009 (Victoria, British Columbia) and Summer 2009 (Black Hills, South Dakota) Seminar information is now available on our website (www.reclaiming.com). The Autumn Seminar (Nashville, Tennessee) events will be posted soon. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us at one or more of these locations in 2009!

Spring Seminars ~ Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Enchanted With Chemicals - April 25-26

Response Ability Pathways - April 25-27

The Developmental Audit - April 25-27

PersonBrain Model Training - April 28-29



Summer Seminars ~ Black Hills, South Dakota, USA

Life Space Crisis Intervention - June 15-19



PersonBrain Model Training - June 18-19
Circle of Courage - June 20 (1/2 day)
Reclaiming Youth Conference - June 20-23
Response Ability Pathways - June 24-26
The Developmental Audit - June 24-26

Autumn Seminars ~ Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Reclaiming Youth Conference - October 10-12
PersonBrain Model Training - October 13-14
Response Ability Pathways - October 13-15
The Developmental Audit - October 13-15



The 2009 Reclaiming Youth Seminars, each in a unique and distinctive setting, will provide affirmation and introduce new skills for all adults who work with today's most challenging youth. The hands-on trainings and opportunities to visit with experts in the child and youth care industry will inspire and rejuvenate both new and experienced professionals in youth care and education.

Visit our website (www.reclaiming.com) and click on "Seminars" for complete event descriptions, registration information, and additional updates on these highly-rated training opportunities. We hope to see you in 2009!

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Reclaiming Youth Event Descriptions

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us at one of our 2009 Reclaiming Youth Seminar locations. These innovative, strength-based trainings are specifically designed to equip adults for working with today's youth. Many attendees state that our events provide the best staff development training they have ever experienced, and often return for inspiration and affirmation year after year. We thank our participants for recognizing the value and quality we craft into all our Reclaiming Youth training events. Below is a brief look at the events we are offering in 2009:

Reclaiming Youth Conference

Solutions in prevention, treatment, and education
(*Black Hills, Nashville*)

The Reclaiming Youth Conference brings together outstanding keynote and breakout session presenters to explore a rich range of timely issues for adults engaged in the lives of at-risk youth. Educators, counselors, treatment and juvenile justice staff, family advocates, mentors, foster parents, and youth work professionals will benefit from this conference that offers leading-edge information, skills, and practice-based research. The three-day conference is grounded in the positive, resiliency-based model called the *Circle of Courage*, developed by Drs. Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern, authors of the bestselling book, *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*.

Circle of Courage Workshop

(Black Hills)

A half-day Circle of Courage workshop will be held prior to the Black Hills conference in June. Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern, authors of *Reclaiming Youth at Risk* and developers of the *Circle of Courage Model* are please to host this exciting event. The workshop includes a back-to-the-basics curriculum discussing Circle of Courage fundamentals, drawing on the work of early youth-work pioneers and Native tribal wisdom, coupled with youth development research with outlines of the four essential elements every child needs to thrive and flourish: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. The workshop will include innovative approaches for building relationships with youth, fostering their self-esteem, and instilling positive values in classroom, residential treatment, counseling, and correctional settings. The informal and intimate setting of the Circle of Courage workshop will allow attendees a special opportunity to meet with the three founders of Reclaiming Youth International and discover how to incorporate the Circle of Courage philosophy into work and home settings.

Enchanted with Chemicals

A family approach to addiction

(Victoria)

The focus of this two-day workshop will be to examine how strength-based techniques used in therapy with families can be applied to all who suffer from substance abuse. Reorganizing the substance-abusing family system can provide the hope needed to transform. To help families reorganize, generational and other assessments of the family structure need to take place, resistant family members need to be engaged, and multi-level intervention strategies need to be practiced. The workshop will emphasize the participant's skills and understanding of family dynamics related to substance abuse.

The PersonBrain Model

Using neuroscience to connect with children and youth

(Victoria, Black Hills, Nashville)

The PersonBrain Model was designed to provide a high quality, multi-theoretical training approach that combines neuroscience with positive and practical mental health interventions. Drawing on social, emotional, ecological and neuro-relational sciences, this innovative two-day workshop incorporates promising approaches that will transform how adults work with children and youth. Professionals who understand the brain and how ecological factors affect it are better equipped to design positive, dynamic and meaningful interventions for youth.

Response Ability Pathways (RAP)

Restoring bonds of respect for positive growth

(Victoria, Black Hills, Nashville)

RAP provides essential training for all who deal with young persons in family, school, community, and treatment settings. Young people need supportive adults who respond to their needs rather than react to their problems. RAP puts the Circle of Courage into action, building strengths and positive peer climates with challenging youth.

The Developmental Audit

Assessment transformation with challenging youth

(Victoria, Black Hills, Nashville)

This strength-based alternative to traditional assessment is grounded in positive youth development, neuroscience, and the Circle of Courage resilience model. The Audit engages the young person in examining relationships, behavioral challenges, and personal strengths. The Audit clarifies the function or goals of behavior and offers a roadmap to responsibility.

Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI)

Therapeutic skills for talking with youth in crisis situations

(Black Hills)

LSCI is a therapeutic strategy for using crisis situations as opportunities to help young persons learn alternatives to patterns of aggressive, disrespectful, or self-demeaning behavior. Traditional crisis management relies on de-escalation, restraint, and exclusion to manage volatile behavior. Such methods may establish order, but do not correct chronic patterns of self-defeating behavior. Professionals who work in the "life space" of troubled children and youth at risk need effective ways to communicate in times of conflict. In this five-day training, LSCI blends psycho-dynamic, cognitive, behavioral and pro-social methods to provide powerful teaching and treatment interventions for our most challenging youth.

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Youth Violence: Matters of Life and Death

by Mark Freado

Vice President, Reclaiming Youth International

Executive Director, American Re-EDucation Association

Director, Re-EDucation Training and Consultation with the Pressley Ridge Institute



At the fourteenth biennial conference of the American Re-EDucation Association I was inspired and prodded to act in response to a keynote presentation by Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D.

Dr. Prothrow-Stith is the assistant dean for government and community programs at the Harvard School of Public Health. She was also the first female and youngest ever commissioner of public health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Dr. Prothrow-Stith spoke about youth violence in the context of public health and proposed looking at violence like a disease and something that might be preventable.

She is not the first person to promote the idea of youth violence as a public health challenge. Violence and public health may have first been addressed more than 20 years ago in a forum provided by the Surgeon General's office. Youth violence is not just violence done to others but also violence turned inward.

Reclaiming Youth International has a contract with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. Near the end of March last year, in response to the violent death of a young man I met there, I sat with a deputy superintendent of one of the facilities there looking at crime statistics available to her at the time. We learned that sixteen African American young people died violently between January first and March twenty-fifth in the city of Baltimore. In July Steve Van Bockern, RYI president, and Sarah Drennan, consultant and RYI training associate attended a summit at the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. We learned that over the past two years thirty-seven young people committed suicide within the boundaries of that reservation alone. Reclaiming Youth International is working closely with public juvenile justice departments in Maryland and in Manitoba, Canada. We will be exploring opportunities to

assist in any way we can in the crisis on the Rosebud and other Native American communities in South Dakota and elsewhere.

Nicholas Hobbs wrote that “Communities are important for children and youth, but the uses and benefits of community must be experienced to be learned.” We are proud to have so many colleagues around the world do whatever they can to make the communities where they operate as safe and healthy as possible. We appreciate the opportunities we get to provide training and consultation to enhance those efforts. There is much to do and the stakes are high. Let us continue to work together to meet the challenges of today and prepare for those to come.

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Attack of the Nuclear Family

by The Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg

Co-founder and Vice President, Reclaiming Youth International

Professor of First Nations Theology and Ministry, Vancouver School of Theology



Some ideas have an influence on us that we do not immediately appreciate. In 1981, I first saw an ad for a TV with a remote control. I thought to myself that it was a useless device since I would be in the same room as the TV. I now have four remotes in a box on my coffee table. Remote control devices are now a part of my life in ways I did not see at the beginning.

Sociologists report the idea of a nuclear family is about 100 years old and it is an accepted concept only in North America and northern Europe. The understanding that this social unit is made of only parents and children is a new idea in the world and I believe it is dangerous to children. Other cultures and regions in the world understand a family to be “extended” with multiple parents and siblings. Sociologists also report that it is business interests that push the idea that a family is nuclear only. A nuclear family will buy more for only themselves and they are willing to accept a transfer across the country.

Nearly 40 years ago, while counseling couples, I saw how unrealistic it is for one partner to expect the other to meet all of their emotional needs. This may happen in the movies but not in real life. In real life I have perhaps a dozen people, my own personal “village,” who are my intimate family and who all look after me and care for me. One person cannot meet all the emotional needs of another. It takes a “village” to care for a spouse.

It also takes a “village” to raise a child. In human history, we know that all societies have developed the idea of multiple parents. Whether in culturally defined social structures, the addition of godparents, or legally defined guardians, societies know every child should have more than two adults and a teacher to raise a child. In most societies outside of North America, grandparents and other elders are always involved in the lives of children and are a significant part of childcare. Naturally, we are to understand that care involves the emotional and spiritual as well as physical care.

I believe that once a society accepts the “inhuman” idea of the nuclear family, that society is destined to place all of their youth at risk. It is inhuman since human beings around the world have a long history of

“extended” families, except for our modern age. Without a “village,” children might be understood to be the responsibility of only the parents and the occasional teacher. Without a “village,” there is no failsafe system to support a child when a parent has a crisis. Without a “village,” there is no community to guide and model the child throughout life, teaching the child how to mature, age and eventually die. A child without a “village” is at risk as a child, as an adult, and even as an elder.

I refuse to accept the idea that a nuclear family is a complete family.

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A Gift from Larry Long

Larry Long, a past recipient of the Circle of Courage Award, and a friend of Reclaiming Youth International, has made his lifework the celebration of American stories and heroes.



In a community presentation and curriculum called Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song, he has brought these heroes into schools and communities. The last eight years have been spent close to his home in Minnesota, helping to raise children and working on his songs.

The fruits of his work can be downloaded for free at <http://www.larrylong.org>. Go to "Projects" in the menu of choices and then look for the PDF of Songbooks entitled "Just Be Who You Are" and "Be Kind to All That Lives."

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New in the Reclaiming Youth Bookstore

Connecting With Kids in Conflict: A Life Space Legacy

by William C. Morse

Price: \$14.95

Item #3080

[Reclaiming Children and Youth]



This book strikes a fine balance between theory and practical applications. Best of all, these pages reflect so well Bill Morse's legacy of warmth and caring."

- Ralph D. Rabinovitch, MD, Child Psychiatrist and Founder, Hawthorn Center

"With one foot in caring and the other in reality, Bill Morse showed how to really understand children, families, and professionals by living in their life space and sharing their struggles."

- Howard S. Muscott, EdD, President, CCBD Foundation

Quality Care in a Family Setting: A Practical Guide for Foster Carers

by Leon Fulcher & Thom Garfat

Price: \$29.95

Item #1580

[PreText Publishers]



While training and practice standards are now used in many places to enhance, monitor and evaluate the quality of care given to children and young people in out-of-home care, Foster Carers are often expected to perform miracles without practical assistance. Building from a strengths-based approach, *Quality Care in a Family Setting: A Practical Guide for Foster Carers* seeks to redress that deficit, offering practical help for Foster Carers seeking to do extraordinary things with the kids for whom they care.

Written by Drs. Leon Fulcher and Thom Garfat, *Quality Care in a Family Setting*, offers theory, practice tips and everyday advice for helping young people in Foster Care develop the strengths and skills necessary to successfully navigate life's challenges.

A Leader's Guide to The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflicts

Price: \$21.95

Item #2075

[Free Spirit]



This *Leader's Guide* brings the student book, *The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflicts*, into the classroom with lesson plans and reproducible handout masters.

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