



Lessons from the Buffalo

By: Dr. Martin Brokenleg

I come from the Lakota nation, called Sioux, by the government. One of our traditions is to study the natural world for lessons on how to live life well. Many lessons come from studying the North American bison we call Buffalo, Pte Oyate, in our language.



When buffalo sense danger they move into a protective formation. The buffalo bulls surround the community. They take their instructions from an elder Buffalo cow that stands in the middle of the herd. The buffalo cows form a

secondary protective ring inside the circle of bulls. The calves are in the very centre, since they are the most precious and the most vulnerable in the community. A function of the herd is to protect the young since they are the ones who ensure the survival of the herd into the future. From this, we Lakota see that it is the task of the adults to protect the young, if we want them to have a good life and to live well into the future.

In my Reclaiming Youth work, I mostly encounter professional youth workers such as teachers, counselors, and child workers. I see parents less frequently but I see them as the main protective front line for youth. Of course we expect parents to have the most time in

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Annual Seminar Dates Finalized!

We are pleased to announce that dates for the annual Reclaiming Youth Seminars have been finalized. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us at the following

Contact Us

Phone:

Toll Free: 888-647-2532
Outside US: 605-647-2532

Email:

seminars@reclaiming.com
bookstore@reclaiming.com

Mail:

104 North Main Street
PO Box 57
Lennox, SD 57039

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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events at these beautiful locations:

2012 Spring Seminars ~ Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Circle of Courage® Workshop – April 20

Effective Leadership – April 21-22

Developmental Audit® - April 21-22

Response Ability Pathways®–April 21-22

Deep Brain Learning® - April 23

2012 Summer Seminars ~ Rapid City, South Dakota, USA

Life Space Crisis Intervention–June 18-22

Deep Brain Learning® - June 20

Developmental Audit® - June 21-22

Response Ability Pathways®–June 21-22

Circle of Courage® Workshop – June 23 (1/2 day; 8:00-Noon)

Reclaiming Youth Conference – June 23-26

(Beginning 2:00 pm, June 23; Ending 10:30 am, June 26)

Registrations are now open for all events! Space is limited. Visit our website (www.reclaiming.com) for complete details and registration information. We look forward to seeing you in 2012!

Innovative Strength-Based Trainings for Caring Adults who Work with Children and At-Risk Youth
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Toward the Restoration of Dignity

Submitted by Steve Van Bockern

For those of you who know Reclaiming Youth International, you know those



of us in the organization aren't fans of corporal punishment. We don't think hitting, spanking, pinching, yanking and a host of other physical reactions to misbehavior are effective if the intent is to teach youth self-control. Attitudes about corporal punishment may be changing, but slowly. According to Patrik Jonsson in CSMonitor (<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2011/1103/Texas-judge-beating-video-brutal-lashing-or-parental-discipline>) the percentage of adults who believe children benefit from the occasional "good, hard spanking" declined from 83 percent to 70 percent between 1986 and 2008.

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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:

- Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada
- Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
- Parksville, British Columbia, Canada
- Laramie, Wyoming, USA
- Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada
- Machesney Park, Illinois, USA
- Zurich, Switzerland
- Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada
- Freiburg, Germany
- Hinckley, Minnesota, USA
- Gormanstown, Meath, Ireland

Read on to find out more about each location, presenter, and the training or keynote topic provided.

[read more](#)

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

Reclaiming Youth International, 104 N Main Street, Lennox, SD 57039, phone 1 605-647-2532