

Treatment centers assist kids in trouble

by KAYE BARTON

They are all kids in trouble. That is the only common denominator for 30 young people who live at three state-funded treatment centers in the Sandy and Gresham area. The centers are operated by Portland Youth for Christ on a private contract basis with the state Children's Services Division.

The atmosphere of the facilities belies the forbidding sound of the term "treatment centers." They are group homes, operated on the "houseparent model" with a married couple serving as full-time resident houseparents.

There are four couples who live in the three centers. Their job is to cook for, supervise, counsel with and sometimes discipline the clients — boys and girls ranging in age from 10 to 16.

"Frankly, I don't know why anyone would want to be a houseparent," said Shirley Youngstrom, a social worker who supervises cases at two of the centers. "They're really on the line. They are responsible 24 hours a day for the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of troubled kids. It can be overwhelming."

The houseparents agree, but they stay at their jobs for a relatively long time in spite of the pressure. Stan and Sue Heath have been with the Shelter Evaluation Treatment Center on Southeast Division Road near Gresham for 15 months.

"I think the average stay for houseparents is about three months," Stan said. "The YFC centers have a much lower turnover rate than other programs."

The Heaths live in the ranch style home with their 20-month-old son, Ben. There are six boys in their care. "We have to budget our food, plan meals, do the laundry, supervise chores and take the kids on recreational outings," Stan said.

The Gresham home the Heaths supervise differs from the YFC centers in Corbett and Weeme. The shelter Evaluation Treatment Center is a short-term program in which kids with problems are placed for assessment of their needs.

"We have kids in here who've had some trouble with the law," Sue said. "There are some who were abused or neglected in their homes. The purpose of placing them here is to evaluate how they function when they are removed from the negative environment which caused their problems."

The evaluation process goes on for 56 days. Recent provisions allow residents to remain an additional 34 days, making the maximum stay of any client at the center three months.

In contrast, the Corbett and Weeme homes keep the residents an average of one year, with no maximum or minimum stay proscribed. The Corbett center is a group home for girls, and Son Village in Weeme is its counterpart for boys.

Son River is the oldest YFC treatment center in Oregon and serves boys 12 through 16. The facility has two residences which house a total of 14 boys. Two sets of houseparents supervise the program on a "ten days on and four off" work schedule.

"It's hard to say what the 'typical' kid is like who comes to Son River," said Ken Wilson, who has been at Weeme with his wife Teri and their two children for a year and a half.

"The kids are so diverse. The typical 12-year-old might be here because he's had problems at home," Wilson explained. "Maybe he's tried running away or been in a foster home or two and it didn't work out."

A 14-year-old who comes to Son River might have a different set of problems. "He's probably been into more things — there's probably been some involvement with the law, maybe a violation or two," he reported.

Whatever his background, the boy will probably offer some initial resistance to the program. "We try to provide some structure for the boys," Wilson said. "This may be the first time they've ever been expected to go to school or ever had a consistent bedtime."

Neither the Heaths nor the Wilsons have had professional training for their position as houseparents. YFC's Youth Guidance Director Dick Smith said that degrees in psychology or sociology are not an absolute prerequisite for the job.

"When I'm making personnel appointments, I prefer to find someone with a degree in human services," he said. "But I don't rule out a candidate who lacks one. I'm much more concerned about how the individual relates to people."

"The ability to relate to the youth is the key to successful houseparenting," according to social worker Youngstrom. "What we are offering these kids is basically a relationship," she said. "We are trying to help them form a value structure for the first time maybe in their lives. But first of all we have to care about them and make them feel good about themselves."

The girls' Youth Care Center is located on eight acres near Larch Mountain in the Corbett area. The five-bedroom home is licensed to serve girls from 13 to 16.

Youngstrom said houseparents and social workers generally see gradual progress among the youths in the three treatment centers. "We've come to appreciate small changes in behavior and attitude," she said.

The key word in the treatment is responsibility. "We try to bring the kids to the point where they can accept responsibility for themselves, for their actions and their choices," she said.

"Whether we're dealing with such questions as drug use or promiscuity, we try to get them to look ahead and see the long-term consequences of the act, to themselves and to other people."

Another primary goal of the staff is to build in a sense of self-worth. "Many of our clients have come from homes where a lack of love and concern were communicated to them in so many different ways," she explained.

"Maybe mom didn't come home all night long, or dad comes in drunk four or five nights a week. Maybe the kids were sexually abused or the parents were well-meaning but set their expectations so high that they were

critical of their children. Nothing they did was ever good enough."

The message the youth hear is "I am not loved," Youngstrom said. "And they ask themselves, if my own parents don't love me, how can I be worth much? Or worse—if my parents don't love me how will anyone else be able to?"

The main component of YFC's treatment is caring, Youngstrom said. "Staff members have to keep on loving

those kids, keep on accepting them even when their behavior is unacceptable."

And when it works, it is very gratifying. Youngstrom recalls a case when one of her most hostile and belligerent adolescents broke down in sobs during a counseling session.

"This is the first time I've ever felt like I amounted to anything," the girl said.



Kaye Barton photo

STAN AND Sue Heath, houseparents at Youth for Christ's Shelter Evaluation Treatment Center on Southeast Division Road, are responsible for short-term supervision of six boys.

According to the social worker who oversees their cases, houseparenting involves everything from fixing zippers to discussing "heavy questions about values."

Daily struggle hazardous for content Welches logger

by CAROL THURKILL
Post Correspondent

"Maybe there's the same romanticism for loggers as for cowboys," says Steve Stockeley. "It's healthy. You're out in the good air."

"The biggest thing is that I can live where I wanna' live — anywhere out of the city."

Like the cowboy out punchin' doggies on the wide, lonesome ranges, Stockeley, a logger from Welches, says his profession also has its shares of long hours, hard traveling, dangerous work and regular stretches of time away from home.

During the warm months, Stockeley, 26, travels throughout Oregon with Harsey Logging Co., working on contract for paper companies. Once the trees in the site are felled and bucked away by "cutters," Stockeley, the yarder engineer, and a logging crew of six men set up the equipment and bring the trees in to be loaded and hauled away by logging trucks.

The yarder, a 110-foot tower, sends spider-like steel guy lines out for 1,500

feet to retrieve logs from the ground. High whistles signal between the choker setters, rigging tenders, guys in the bush and the yarder engineer who echoes through the forest of stumps.

"It's kind of hard to explain if you haven't seen it. I sit up in this cab for eight hours a day and listen to this whistle," Stockeley said kiddingly. "Mostly, you gotta pay pretty close attention to the signals and watch out for other people. My main responsibility is to not hurt anybody. I've been yarder for five years and haven't hurt anybody yet."

"A guy's got to be crazy to be a logger," he said. "There's a lot of danger. You're dealing with so much power and stress — cables break, things go flying."

"There's not only mechanical errors, there's human error, too. Behind coal mining, it's the most dangerous occupation in the U.S. A couple of years ago, seventy-four people in Oregon were killed in loggin'." "I had this tower fall over me, broke a guy line, 200 feet of steel. The thing weighs about 40,000 pounds. I just picked myself up.

That was one of my nine lives. When it gets up around eight, you better start lookin' out."

At the end of the day, the "crummy" (beat up, crummy old bus) takes the crew back to town, Copenhagen spit flying from the windows.

"There's a lot of cussin' goin' on. You have a good time. You joke about things — the danger," he said.

Stockeley grew up in the small town of Willit, California, and started logging after high school in the California redwoods, "runnin' cat and chokers." Three years ago he moved to the mountain area setting chokers on a high lead yarder.

"This is where I wanna' live. I like the mountains, the trees, the snow and steelhead, and it's not California," Stockeley said.

"Single guys, they're a lot more mobile in the choice of who they want to work for. I've been with the company for three to four years. My job has a little more responsibility than others."

"I like to stay with a company if they're going to treat me right. A lot of gypo loggers (small logging contractors) don't pay anything but the paycheck. We have Blue Cross."

"There is a fair demand for my services," he said. "I haven't looked for a job for a while. People call me — there aren't that many yarder engineers."

"One thing I would rather be doing is working for myself, doing what I'm doing. On a small scale, just enough to be responsible for myself and live where I want to. Get a little spread somewhere."

He also wants a sawmill for Christmas, his wife, Allyn, interjects, "Just a little one."

Big and broad shouldered, Stockeley wears the proverbial hickory workshirt, baggy pants, and greasy "CAT" cap of the logger at work and at home. He, his wife and 21-month-old son Erik, live in a cozy, knotty-pine house when he is not out on the job.

"In the winter time, things slow down considerably. There is a lot less to choose from. You look forward to a little break. This is the logger's life right now," he grinned. "Sittin' in a rockin' chair."

"This winter I will probably work on the house. I do a little hunting. A lot of fishin'. I spend a little time at the Whistle Stop playin' pool and drinkin'. Sit around tellin' loggin' stories."



Carol Thurkill photo

Review of salaries surprising

Who is the highest-salaried public official in Oregon? The governor, Sen. Mark Hatfield, the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Actually, none of these. The top salary goes to the director of the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, Dr. Leonard Laster, who receives \$68,112 per annum.

The chancellor of the State System of Higher Education is next with \$57,888 a year while the third highest paid individual is the vice president of the health sciences center, hospital affairs, who earns \$57,225 a year. Presidents of the University of Oregon, Portland State and Oregon State are listed at \$55,428 per annum plus \$300 a month for expenses.

By comparison, the governor's salary is \$46,128 plus expenses. Sens. Hatfield and Packwood each earn \$57,500 plus an office and travel allowance. So do Congressman AuCoin, Duncan, Ullman and Weaver. Presidents of the state colleges (OCE etc.) receive \$43,680 a year plus \$182 in expenses each month.

Clackamas County

A survey of salaries in the county and state indicates that appointed officials generally receive more than elected representatives.

Clackamas County Commission Chairman Ralph Groener and the other two members of the board receive \$33,552 a year, but the appointed top administrative assistant, Jerry Justice, gets \$34,980.

Clackamas County Sheriff John Renfro, an elected official, earns \$32,424 a year, as opposed to the Director of Environmental Services, John McIntyre, who receives \$43,164.

Jono Hildner, Director of Human Resources, earns \$31,332.

Colleges vary

Salaries of community college presidents in the area vary widely. Dr. Amo DeBernardis at Portland Community receives \$51,500 a year. Dr. Stephen Nicholson at Mt. Hood \$46,800 and Dr. John Hakanson at Clackamas \$38,496; Nicholson also gets \$400 a month for expenses plus use of a car.

Next in line at Mt. Hood are Bob Scott, business manager, at \$36,000; Betty Pritchett, dean of humanities and behavioral sciences, \$34,093; John

Keyser, dean of research and student relations, \$32,662; and Jack Miller, dean of science and technology, \$32,661.

Federal wages are a little more difficult to decipher, depending upon whether or not the position comes under civil service regulations. Even though the general schedule goes as high as \$61,449, congressional action has limited salaries to \$47,500. This would include the administrator of the Veterans' hospital, the director of the Bonneville Power Administration, etc.

Judges

On the other hand, U.S. Circuit Court judges earn \$57,500 per annum (the

same as a congressman or senator) while District Court judges receive \$54,500. They are not under civil service. Neither is the U.S. Postal Service but the Portland office would not divulge salary figures.

The governor, of course, is the highest-paid individual in state government (excluding the universities). Next are Supreme Court justices who earn \$43,536 and the secretary of state, state treasurer, etc., who receive \$39,492.

The labor commissioner and the state superintendent of public instruction receive \$37,968.

Rural extension like long-distance dialing

by CAROL THURKILL
Post correspondent

Long distances between neighbors in a scattering of mountain villages does not necessitate loneliness or seclusion. Women from the Mt. Hood area are leaving their homes to enjoy the fellowship of other women and the educational stimulus found in the Clackamas County Extension Program.

As part of Oregon State University, the County Extension agents are now conducting study groups in the Hoodland area. The classes on home health care and family living are taught by local residents who receive training and materials from a county home economist.

"I like it because it is something that can come to my community. It is a stimulating experience to my mind, and I look forward to it," said Marg Wicks, Government Camp resident.

"It serves a social function. It is very much a local thing," added Carolyn Spears, County Extension representative.

Spears explained that the Extension office was formed in 1914 by the Smith-Lever Act to provide free information from universities to rural and urban communities, and to channel local problems back for

research or assistance. Depending on the needs, information on agriculture, forestry, marine sciences, community development and a wide range of other topics is available.

In addition to the study groups, Spear said, the Extension Office also holds special interest workshops in Portland or Oregon City throughout the year. Free informational pamphlets will also be mailed to anyone interested.

Hoodland study groups will be held the second Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Homestead Girl Scouts Camp, Rhododendron. A white elephant sale is held to cover the cost of the building, and some women have been bringing a dish for a potluck. Children are welcome to attend.

Next month's group will feature a demonstration by Rhododendron resident Leah Behan on how to make homemade soups utilizing leftovers and inexpensive foods. Rita Claridge, Chairperson of the Hoodland group, may be called at 622-4822 to confirm the time and location.

For more information on the other services offered, contact Marilyn Lunner, the Clackamas County Extension Home Economist at 655-8634.