



Alumnus Utilizes Past Experiences to Aid Others



The early signs were there - long before Dylan Young started breaking into cars, stealing from family members and even before facing six years in prison.

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“At the age of 13 is when I first used marijuana,” said Young, recalling the gateway drug that would later lead to heavier narcotics use and other destructive behavior, sending his life spiraling out of control.

In and out of drug treatment centers, Young was one of the tougher cases. “I manipulated the programs,” he said. That is, until he entered Rawhide Boys Ranch, an intensive residential treatment facility for at-risk teen boys. It was where he turned his life around.

Now, the ranch is branching out to catch youths before they fall. The New London-based organization, commonly known for its television commercials promoting the donation of vehicles and boats to benefit the ranch, has opened outpatient clinics in four communities, including Milwaukee County.



Dylan (right) with his Rawhide Housefather, Gary

“It’s a growth initiative that builds on our desire to include prevention-based services,” said John Solberg, executive director of the organization, which also operates clinics in New London, Appleton and Green Bay.

“We were receiving 600 to 900 phone calls a year from parents or grandparents expressing concern over the direction of a child,” Solberg said. “That really was the thing that motivated us.”

The outpatient clinics, he said, are aimed at intervening in a young person’s life before there is a need for more serious, out-of-home placement.



Dylan makes frequent trips back to Rawhide to mentor current guys, since his graduation.

Its newest Youth and Family Outpatient Counseling Clinic opened three months ago at 6045 N. Green Bay Ave. in Glendale and serves boys and girls. “These are kids who aren’t in too much trouble yet,” said Mike Rintelman, lead therapist at the clinic in Milwaukee.

Unlike Rawhide’s residential treatment facility, Rintelman said, the outpatient clinics are a resource for the entire family. The counseling sessions are by appointment only.

“We intervene in families to bring back wholeness,” Rintelman said. “We help them set a new tone in the home. We work on strategies to help parents understand their child’s personality and what brings out the best in their child.”

Young, now 19, said that since successfully completing the residential program last year, he and his family have grown closer as a result. He is preparing to attend Bible college this summer, has been clean and sober for a year and a half. He also was one of the program participants giving a personal testimony during the opening of the Glendale clinic at the Milwaukee Making a Difference event in November.

“Rawhide really established a strong foundation for the new journey of my life,” he said. “My family has been restored greatly. I give all the glory to God.”