



PROJECT OVERVIEW

(2007– 2012)

Purpose

The project was designed to promote resilience & character development in troubled and at-risk children and youth by integrating social emotional learning principles, human/animal interaction and humane education.

Approach

Individual and small group sessions held in a psychiatric residential center and various community-based settings via collaboration with multiple youth organizations and animal welfare entities. Human-animal interaction was structured to teach social-emotional skills that buffer risk factors and promote resilience

Resilience (USDHHS)

“The human capacity to face, overcome and even be transformed by adversity” (intensity/frequency/duration of behavior)

Social / Emotional Learning (USDHHS)

“The process of acquiring skills to recognize and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships, and handle challenging situations effectively”

CAMPUS COMPONENT

- > Intensive mental health
- > Psychiatric Residential
- > National
- > Integrated treatment/education
- > Confounding medical issues & trauma

- > 250 youth ages 11-18
- > 8 states and 34 communities
- > 1400+ class sessions
- > 3 youth organizations + other collaborators
- > 38 animal kinds, 45 dogs rescued/adopted

- > Integrated treatment outcomes
- > Levels of participation
- > Self-reporting
- > Other reporting

- >Transition to:
 - > A new national summer program
 - > Seasonal services for schools, special needs populations, military families and children in foster care

COMMUNITY COMPONENT

- > Foster care
- > Residential Care Facilities
- > Day Treatment
- > Alternative Schools
- > Shelters

- > 630 youth ages 7-18
- > Denver Metro communities
- > 400 class sessions
- > 16 youth organizations + other collaborators
- > 100+ dogs rescued/service-in-training

- > Pre-post testing
- > Levels of participation
- > Self-reporting
- > Other-reporting

- > Continuation of core models
- > Integration with home-based services
- > Fee-for-service contracts
- > Refinement of data collection

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