

January 31, 2009

[This is the print preview: Back to normal view »](#)

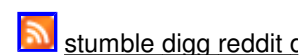


[Maia Szalavitz](#)

Posted January 30, 2009 | 05:48 PM (EST)

Good News: Bad Economy Killing Abusive Tee

Read More: [Abuse](#), [Addiction](#), [Child Abuse](#), [Drugs](#), [Human Rights](#), [Rehab](#), [Residential Treatment](#), [Tough Love](#), [Troubled Teens](#), [Living News](#)



There is a silver lining to this bleak economy: Abusive and ineffective "tough love" programs for teens are failing right :

In just the last few weeks, the notorious Tranquility Bay program in Jamaica, [Spring Creek Lodge](#) in Montana, and [Pat](#) have all been shuttered.

Tranquility Bay was known for making kids kneel on concrete for days and using "restraint" so harsh that it broke bone. Lodge were part of a network called the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASP or WWASP involves constant use of emotional attacks and [humiliation](#) in a rigid, structured day in order to break teens' spirits.

Spring Creek was notorious for a frigid, small isolation room called "the Hobbit"--sometimes teens were left there for m

From Pathway--which was descended from the infamously abusive [Straight Inc.](#)--I received two separate accounts of : reported to their parents, and many stories of the usual attack therapy and humiliation. Unfortunately, neither WWASP WWASP still has centers operating in the US and abroad, and Pathway has sites in Indiana: Porter and Indianapolis.

The media tends to present these closures as sad examples of needed [services being cut](#)--but in fact, teens are better that often divides families and has characteristics known to produce post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Family support recovery--and PTSD doubles the odds that a drug problem will become a lasting addiction.

Troubled teen programs were yet another sign of the bubble economy. Many were financed by mortgage and home ex of dollars a month and because insurers, quite correctly, don't usually pay for programs that aren't proven to help.

Since there are proven alternatives for teens with drug and other problems that do not carry the risks of "tough love," v centers with glee.

And those who care about this issue should keep the pressure on so that the wounded programs finally die. After all, t "treated" without dignity or respect--some of whom were just transferred from closed programs to other similar, sites.

Legislation to ban the most egregious practices is coming--and may well be strengthened now that the Democrats con an even better outcome would be for the "troubled teen" industry to wither and be replaced by what the evidence show centered, minimally restrictive, and youth-driven care.

[Cross-posted from [Mother Jones](#)]

- [Copyright © 2009 HuffingtonPost.com, Inc.](#) |
- [Archive](#) |
- [User Agreement](#) |
- [Privacy](#) |
- [Comment Policy](#) |
- [About Us](#) |
- [Powered by Movable Type](#)