



# Ridge View

## Youth Services Center

2012 Annual  
Performance Report

*Dedicated to Improving the  
Lives of Youth Since 1984*



Operated Under  
Contract for the  
Colorado Division of  
Youth Corrections

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## Message From the Director

The Ridge View 2012 annual performance report includes a number of significant accomplishments. New initiatives and changing priorities in providing services to high-risk youth require greater focus and resources. What was best practice a few years ago may be deemed ineffective or outdated today. Rite of Passage, as an agency, and Ridge View, as a program, have done a remarkable job in offering services that are at the forefront of these changing priorities. However, the accomplishments requiring the greatest degree of difficulty may be represented in staff's resolve in offering many of the same opportunities to Ridge View students that are afforded to young men who have not been subject to court ordered supervision.

The activities and endeavors that we, as a society, hold near and dear to our hearts represent normalized learning opportunities for our young men. These activities have been interwoven with the progress of our nation. Participation in education and enrichment activities that enable young people to grow by learning to extend them through passion, competition, commitment, achievement and fulfillment has been integral to the socialization of America's youth through the decades. These activities represent evidence-based programming for the masses.

For Ridge View staff to embrace these activities in our holistic approach to working with students is natural, but very challenging. The challenges go deeper than teaching a young man who has never played a musical instrument to participate in a marching band or assembling a group of young men who have never played organized sports to compete at the varsity level. The challenges include motivating students to participate and pushing them in areas where they may have failed previously. Meeting these challenges requires taking "reasonable risk" in putting high-risk youth in natural community situations where their commitment and trust are essential. Most importantly, these challenges cannot be met without staff members who are knowledgeable and committed to working long hours and showing great patience. We have many of these people working at Ridge View and they lead us to our greatest accomplishments year after year.

**Bill Wood**  
**Program Director**



## Community Engagement

As students learn to empathize with others and to sustain pro-social relationships through their experiences at Ridge View, they are able to practice demonstrating the character traits emphasized through the Aggression Replacement Training curriculum. Strengths such as caring, cooperation, goal setting, responsibility and humanity are reinforced through community engagement and participation in community service. Ridge View students provided over 3,500 hours of community service in 2012.

While Ridge View students and staff give back to the community, the community also showed great support in 2012 through donations and the signing of Senate Bill 12-099. Through the legislation of SB99, Ridge View has been able to serve juveniles who are in the custody of the Department of Human Services or who are in the temporary custody of a county Department of Social Services.



"[With the passing of SB99] youth now don't have to be committed to take advantage of Ridge View Academy."

-Colorado State Senator Nancy Spence



In 2012, students volunteered 2,000 hours at Praying Hands Ranch working with developmentally delayed youth.



Former Governor Ritter accepts the Allott Award from Andi Allott and Jerry Adamek.

### Funds Raised and Donated

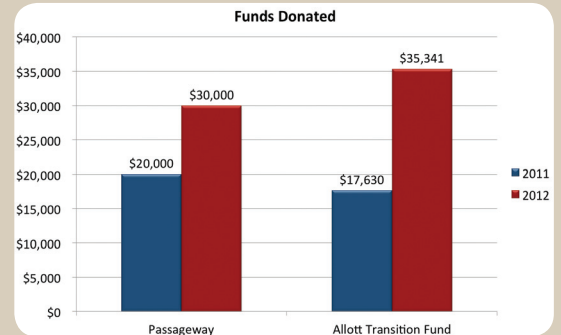
In 2012, two special events, the 3rd Annual "Evening of Recognition" and the 10th Annual RVA/BMC Golf Classic, both sponsored by the Community Advisory Board, generated a total net profit of

\$65,341, nearly double what was raised in 2011. Proceeds were shared with the Passageway Scholarship

Foundation and the Roger Allott

Memorial Transition Fund, a transition fund for ROP graduates in Colorado.

Passageway funds assist our students with continuing education in community colleges, trade schools, four year undergraduate programs and graduate study. The transition monies are available by application to assist students with special needs back in the community. There are no administrative fees for either fund... 100% of the money raised is awarded directly to helping students.



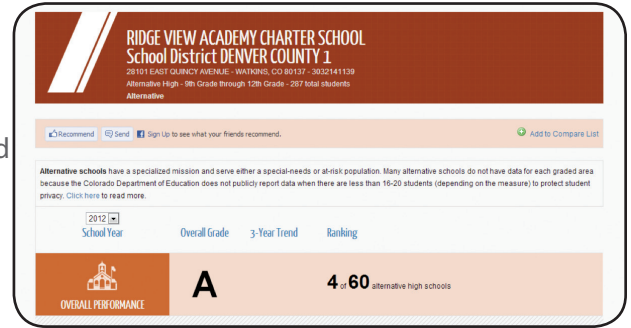
## School

### Academic Achievements

- Highest performing Alternative Education Campus in Denver Public Schools
- Received “Center for Excellence” award from the Colorado Department of Education
- Ranked 4th out of 60 alternative schools in the State of Colorado on Coloradoschoolgrade.com
- 9 students received High School Diplomas
- 56 students earned their GEDs
- 73% of all exiting students who left without diplomas or a GED successfully enrolled in another high school education program
- 81% graduation rate
- Passageway gave 25 alumni over \$38,000 for post-secondary education in 2012

### Education

In September 2012, Denver Public Schools released the results of their School Performance Framework (SPF) for the 2011-12 school year. The SPF was first introduced to create a comprehensive school performance tool that went beyond simply using test scores. The results were released in the form of a scorecard that analyzes data on college readiness, attendance, student and parent satisfaction, student engagement, and year-to-year academic growth. Not only did Ridge View Academy meet all expectations overall with its highest score yet, but the school also received the best overall score and highest student achievement scores of any alternative high school in the district.



### Aftercare

Aftercare is meant to help youth not only reenter society, but *reintegrate* into society. By providing aftercare to youth, Ridge View helps give young men in Colorado opportunities and the support they need to succeed. Through ROP’s partnership with DYC and Savio House, our transition specialists were able to ensure 83% of Ridge View’s successful program completers exited enrolled, employed, or both.

### Athletics

In 2012, over 300 students enjoyed the opportunity to participate in Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) and club level sports. Most notably, RVA was one of only 16 schools across the state selected as a CHSAA Gold Star Sportsmanship recipient. Students represented “at risk” youth by demonstrating the core values of citizenship and fair competition. Annual highlights included three Sportsmanship Awards (as voted on by captains, coaches, and Athletic Directors), Conference Championships in JV and varsity basketball as well as cross-country and winning the “Wooden Cup” Championship in rugby.



## Career and Technical Education

### CTE Certifications

To help provide youth with the skills necessary to succeed after graduation and gain employment, Ridge View provides students the opportunities to participate in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. In 2012, there were:

- 31 students certified in hair styling
- 25 students certified in construction
- 39 students certified in culinary arts
- 21 students certified in media production
- 17 students certified in trowel trades
- 22 students certified in welding



"I am extremely proud that Ridge View ranked first in the DPS framework."

-Dr. Ed Cope, Ridge View Principal

### Colorado: A National Leader in Low Recidivism Rates for Juveniles

The public/private partnership between DYC and ROP helps establish the high national ranking for Colorado's recidivism. In a nationwide comparison of juvenile recidivism rates, Colorado and Missouri appear to be tied for second place for having the second lowest rates in the country; both boasting a low rate of 16%. Louisiana trails closely behind with a rate of 17%. This leaves the lowest rate accolades for North Dakota, which has a juvenile recidivism rate of twelve percent (12%). As the largest single facility in the DYC continuum of care, Ridge View shares in this accomplishment as its drop in recidivism was consistent with the state's.

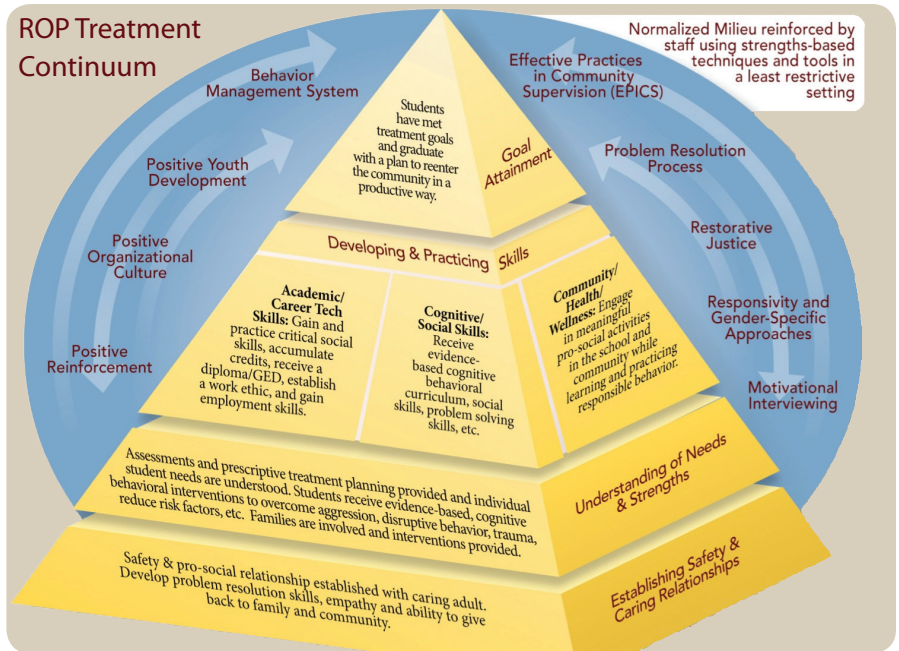
States with Comparable Juvenile Recidivism Measures	
State	Recidivism Rate (Post-Discharge <sup>**</sup> )
North Dakota	12%
Colorado	16%
Missouri	16%
Louisiana	17%
Maryland	20%
Maine	23%
Idaho	28%
District of Columbia	35%
Virginia	37%
Montana	38%
Florida	41%

Source: DYC Research and Evaluation Unit

# Treatment

The Rite of Passage Treatment model integrates Cognitive Behavioral Group Curricula into the school day to ensure appropriate interventions are targeted for each student. This optimizes individual counseling by providing key concepts and common language for staff and students.

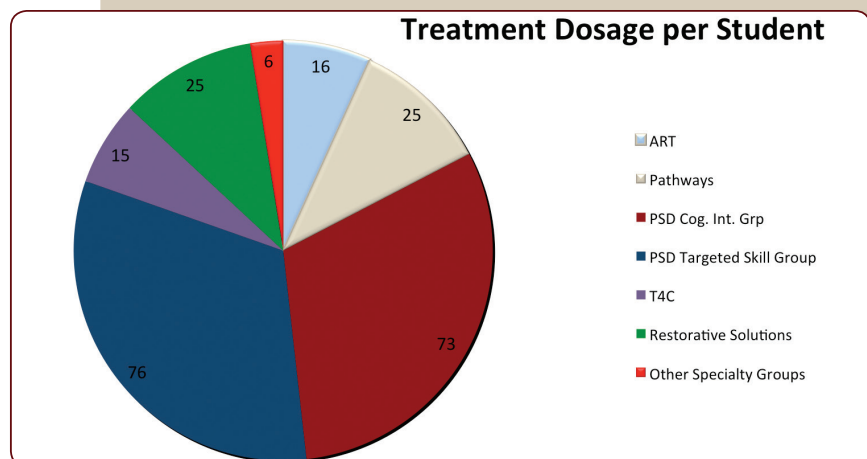
- *Aggression Replacement Training (ART)*, a group that focuses on empathy, anger management, social skills and character education.
- *Thinking for a Change (T4C)*, an integrated cognitive behavioral change program that has been strongly linked to success in keeping young people out of the juvenile justice system by reducing aggression and rates of re-arrests.
- *Pathways to Self Discovery and Change*, a group that serves to educate youth on the effects of abusing substances.
- *Restorative Solutions*, a group focused on understanding the feelings and the impact of negative activity on the victim. An emphasis is placed on restitution, restorative justice and victim issues.
- *Parenting*, a twelve-week long parenting skills class where students learn basic parenting skills and how to promote a loving relationship using creativity and effective communication.
- *Matrix Model Substance Abuse Treatment*, a 16-week intensive outpatient program targeting the skills needed in early recovery and for relapse prevention. A primary therapist conducts both individual and group sessions and is responsible for coordinating the whole treatment experience. A 12-week family and patient education group series and induction into an ongoing weekly social support group for continuing care is also provided.



## Evidence-Based Treatment

Research suggests that youth should have an appropriate “dosage” of intervention that is relative to their level of risk. In tandem with lowering risk factors is a corresponding increase in protective factors. We will continue to focus on protective factors and embrace the concept of Positive Youth Development by building new social assets for youth including pro-social relationships, a functional family environment, academic achievement and community involvement and engagement.

In 2012, Ridge View students completed 46,368 hours, an average of over 200 hours of treatment per student. A majority of these hours were spent in Positive Skill Development (PSD) groups, which target specific skills including social skills and thinking skills. Group Leaders and Case Managers direct the youth through learning activities where students rehearse, practice and role-play skills. Discussion on the application of the skill serves to reinforce the knowledge that has been gained.



## Family Engagement

### Family And Systems Therapy

2012 was a year of growth for family involvement as we had close to 600 family members participate in multi-family therapy groups. Family group incorporates the Active Parenting curriculum, which focuses on parent skill training and emphasizes basic principles including effective communication, setting boundaries and limits, teaching conflict resolution, and issues surrounding drug and alcohol use. Ridge View also had various family events including an ice cream social, family picnic, and a holiday party.

Family involvement is an important component of student success at Ridge View and it comes in a variety of packages. Approximately 30% of our students are fathers. To respond to this essential issue, they attend a research informed fatherhood course each week. Most importantly, every month we host a father and child session overseen by a licensed family therapist. Here, young men have an opportunity to strengthen their bond and fulfill their parental responsibility.

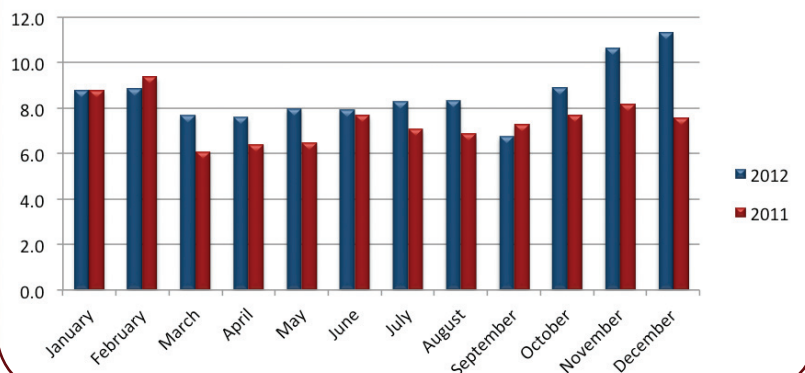
Since its inception in 2001 as a secure residential treatment facility, Ridge View has consistently served as a family friendly community program. In 2009, this was formalized when the campus was relicensed as a Residential Child Care Facility. The transformation was well illustrated in 2012 as Ridge View hosted a total of 4,952 family visitors on the campus who came to spend time with their sons. As solid an accomplishment as this represents, moving forward into 2013 we plan to increase family involvement and therapy on campus by developing a statewide family transportation network and recruiting additional therapists.



"...this is the best our son has done since kindergarten. Ridge View is amazing."

-Mother of Ridge View student

### Family Contacts per Student

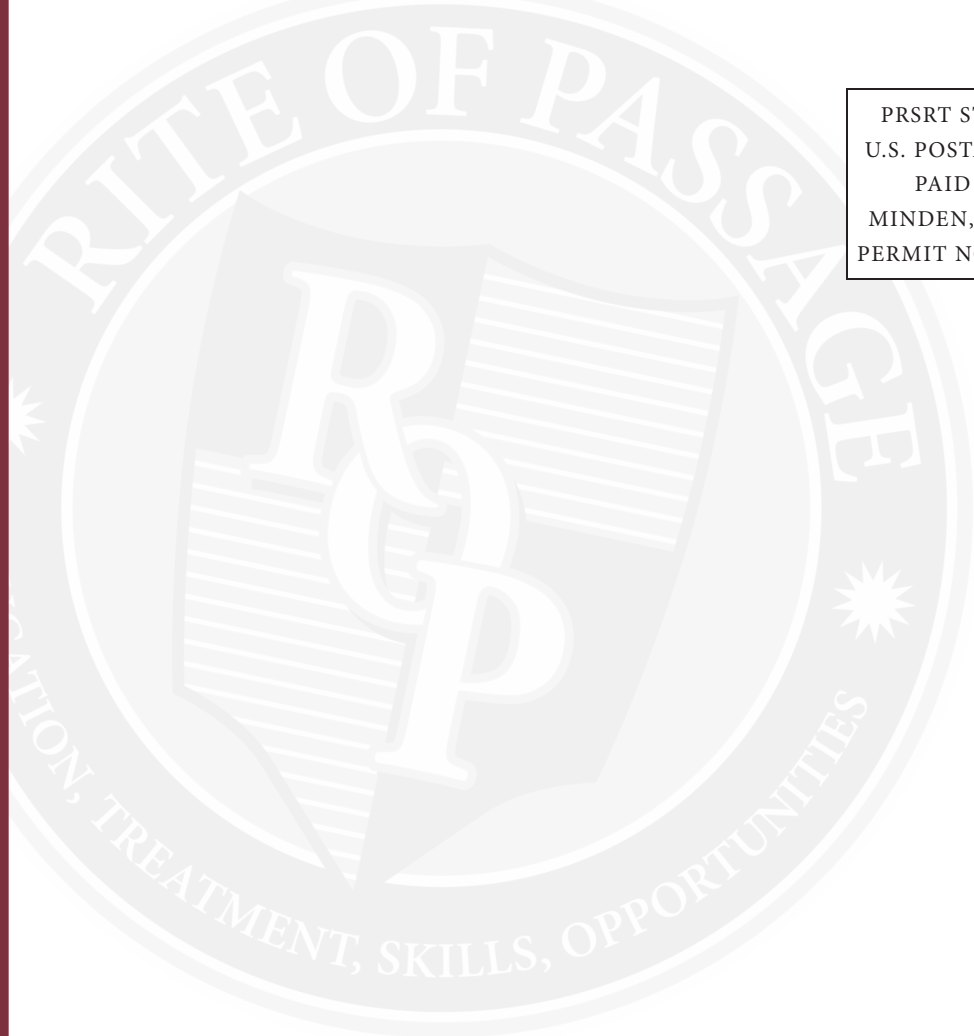




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# RITE OF PASSAGE

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