

# RIDGE VIEW YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

*A Colorado Division of Youth Corrections Facility operated by Rite of Passage*



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

# A Letter from the Director



Dear Friends:

This year was highlighted with student based initiatives, including paid on-site jobs through Arapahoe Douglas Works and on-site Colorado Construction Institute classes, which enabled students to earn OSHA certificates, stipends and construction tools and boots. We added a compliance manager as well as three therapists and a new vocation. Our success in serving county placed youth was validated by a population of over 70, which enabled us to enhance our skills and services to meet a wider range of student needs within the Positive Youth Development framework.

While the list of 2015 achievements and initiatives is extensive, our greatest accomplishment may be in sustaining the foundation for services and optimal operating systems. Our core tenets of safety, caring and structure support a comprehensive education program including vocations and sports as well as evidence-based groups, individual counseling and medical services. Our second successful contract renewal followed by the unceremonious passing of our 15th anniversary prompted me to reflect on the discipline of thousands of students and staff members whose efforts contributed not only to the long term success of Ridge View, but to DYC, and our County Human Services and community partners.

True success in any endeavor can be measured through sustainability and Ridge View staff and students have achieved sustained success by working together to achieve a high level of services over the past 15 years while adapting to evolving industry challenges and expectations. Ridge View Youth Services Center remains a safe, service-rich option for high risk Colorado youth.

William Wood, Program Director

# 2015 Highlights

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In 2015, Rite of Passage's contract with Division of Youth Corrections was renewed to continue the operation of Ridge View Youth Services Center (RVYSC). We are excited to begin this new chapter, and have developed several new initiatives to improve the services we provide to the youth of Colorado in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Human Services and Division of Youth Corrections.

We have also worked to increase our family engagement. Through DYC's new MDT process, families are involved in every step of Treatment Planning and a student's progress through the Ridge View program. We have increased our family visitation hours on weekends, and the number of special events to target and engage family with their youth.

We are continuing to improve our aftercare and transition services. Approximately 70% of students exiting Ridge View need full or part-time employment. We provide research-based employability skills training, skills-based counseling services, career readiness curricula and job placement assistance to facilitate youths' entry into their home communities and the workplace.



*Ridge View students benefited from the fun, skill building and prosocial opportunities afforded to them through Rugby. Under the leadership of Jason Lane, the team remained undefeated throughout their regular season, allowing them to advance to the "Seven on Seven" Colorado State Rugby Championship tournament, where they took first place.*

*Through partnership with the Denver Urban Arts Fund, RVYSC students collaborated with DYC Client Manager, Martin Friedman, and Denver artist, Bimmer Torres, to create a mural to promote neighborhood beautification. The project allowed students to embrace their artistic skills, and created opportunities to connect them to their community.*

*Recent RVYSC graduate, Jon Light, participated in the 2015 Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii with help from the Roger Allott Memorial Transition Fund. Jon, who discovered his love of athletics while attending Ridge View, now serves as a positive role model proving that with hard work, anything is possible.*

# ROP's Academic Model™

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*The Academic Model™ is the framework for Ridge View's programming. Under the direction of this framework, Ridge View provides a safe, normalized high school environment where students develop their skills and strengths with the help of supportive faculty and staff. Evidence-based cognitive behavioral interventions, AdvancED accredited education, and a wide variety of CTE tracks prepare our students to return to a public high school, or to complete their GED or high school diploma. Community service and restorative justice principals help to foster a sense of social responsibility, which help to guide our students to achieve their goals, and to succeed.*



## Goal Attainment

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*As students reach a milestone, they set new goals and the process of positive change is moved forward, creating a new vision and hope for the youth.*

## Practicing Skills

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*Our students practice their skills within a normalized high school environment where they have the encouragement and support of staff and peers.*

## Skill Development

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*Through targeted interventions, accredited education/vocational training and unique athletic/recreational programming, students build skills, develop career plans and prepare to reunite with their families & communities.*

## Understanding of Needs & Strengths

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*Student strengths and needs are determined through a comprehensive assessment process.*

## Establishing Safety & Positive Relationships

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*The Academic Model™ is a strengths-based framework which begins with a foundation of safety, realized through positive relationships between staff and students.*



## Family, Staff & Community Involvement

*Ridge View Youth Services Center has a vibrant campus where young men can explore meaningful opportunities through campus clubs and athletics, with trained, caring staff to build a foundation for a better future. In 2015, Ridge View demonstrated its commitment to youth and families through:*

10

family contacts  
per student per  
month

5,105

community service  
hours provided

1:6

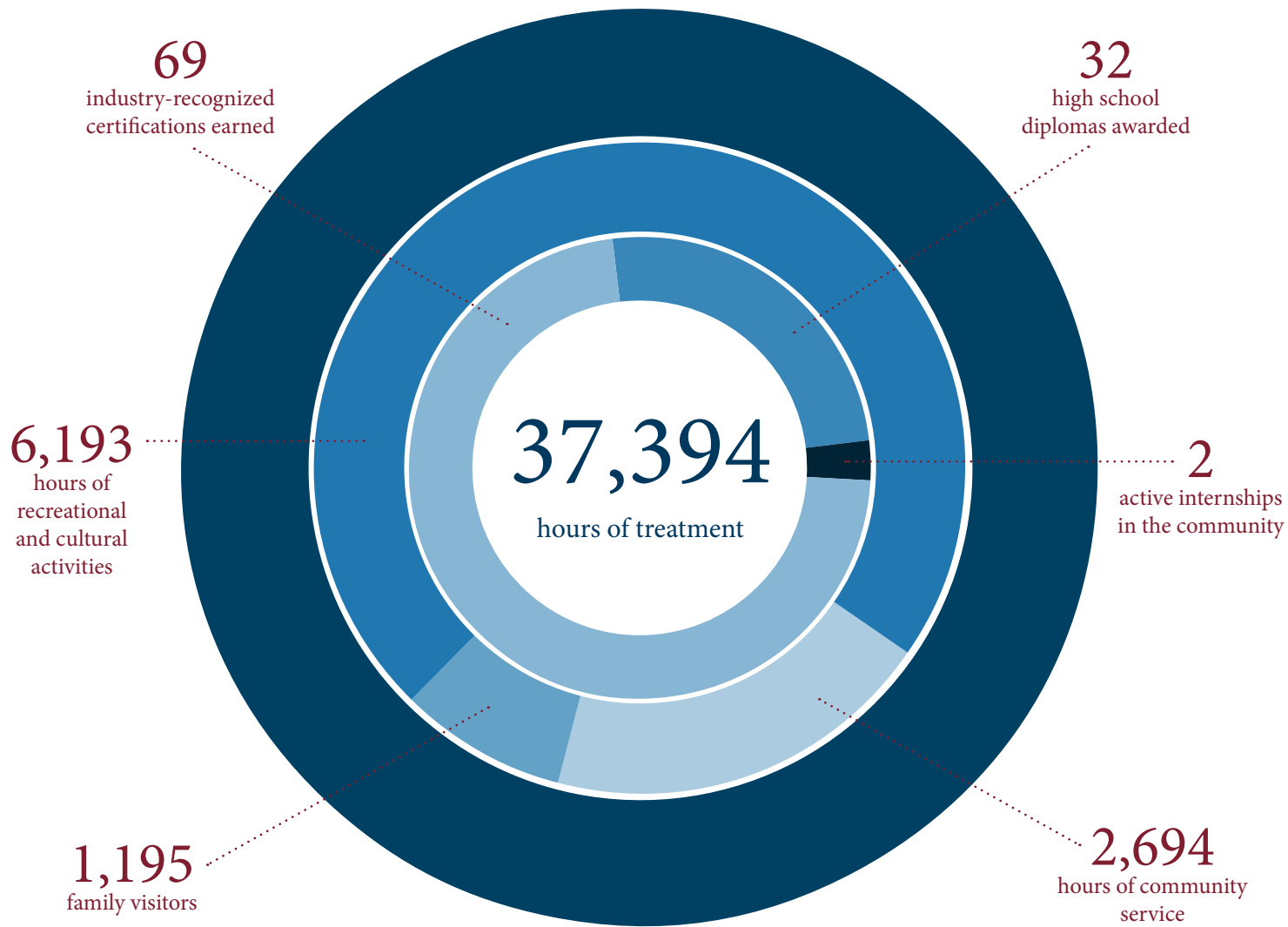
staff to student  
ratio

19,638

phone calls to  
families

# Developing & Practicing Skills

*Ridge View Youth Services Center offers therapeutic services delivered by a highly qualified and credentialed Clinical Team. This talented team has grown to meet the needs of our students through a diversity of approaches and methodologies which include evidence-based practices that address trauma and substance abuse while underscoring the importance of family.*



# Creating Positive Outcomes

*Students are given specific Treatment Plan goals. As they progress in their programs, students meet their initial goals. Award ceremonies, graduations and rewards celebrate these milestones, setting the expectations to establish new goals, forwarding the process of positive change.*



## Student Success: Alex's Story

Alex Barragan became a student at Ridge View during a time in his life when he felt “hopeless.” He had become involved with the “wrong crowd,” had been kicked out of school, and faced criminal charges. He expected the worst - locked cells, fences and guards. What he discovered, though, was “an opportunity of a lifetime.”

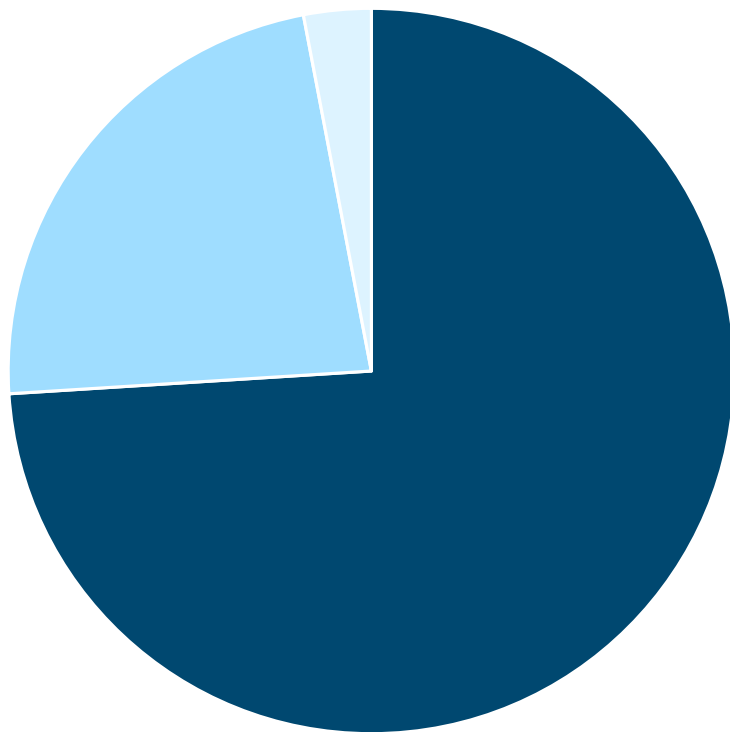
At Ridge View, Alex took high school classes, attended vocational training programs, and played on the soccer team which competed against other local, area high schools. Alex earned his high school diploma at Ridge View, and remembers enjoying fresh air and sunlight, and focusing on his health and wellbeing.

Today, Alex is a second-year student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in the Criminal Defense Clinical Program. This year, he's looking forward to working as a student attorney with the Colorado Public Defender office in Jefferson County.

Alex says: “I owe my success to the Rite of Passage program. I strongly support the program for everything it has done for me, and everything it continues to do for at-risk juvenile offenders.”

# Financials & Community Engagement

*Rite of Passage provides the best value in juvenile justice and residential care. This value is due, in part, to our company's investment in our mission to improve the lives of youth. We are a cause-based organization that answers to our customers and invests in outcomes and quality services.*



■ Personnel   ■ Direct Student Services   ■ Operating Expenses

## Social Responsibility

As a Socially Responsible company, ROP promotes the well-being of youth, families and communities. Last year, ROP students completed over 50,000 hours of community service across the United States.

Social Responsibility is the cornerstone of what we do, and we incorporate this initiative into every aspect of our business.

## Ridge View Academy School Board

Patricia Hayes  
Nancy Spence  
Robert Eikermann  
Craig Bowman  
Pat Grippe  
Julie Fairley  
Jason Stover

## Community Advisory Board

Doug MacCarthy  
Robert Sutherland  
Pat Kirk  
Ed Greivel  
Julie DeNicola  
Jerry Adamek  
John Greene

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