

Patricia Rodriguez

I knew my teen-aged daughter wasn't "broken";

She didn't need to be "torn down and rebuilt" in boot camp as some friends and family suggested. But she had fallen into a pattern of destructive attitudes and choices.

I did my best to help her. I tried everything I could but nothing worked. And the deeper my daughter got into her unhealthy life, the more our family's life disintegrated until we had no life at all. I knew I had to try something else. I wasn't about to give up on my daughter.

Enrolling my daughter in this program was both the most difficult and best decision I've ever made. Aside from financial considerations, placing my daughter in the hands of strangers miles away from me didn't feel natural. But I soon came to know the staff at Red River Academy as family and their hands became an extension of mine.

At Red River Academy my daughter worked daily on stripping away the destructive image she'd created for herself so that the smart, kind and funny person she is could shine through again. She also worked on accepting consequences for her actions and learning to make better decision to shape the outcome. And as her sense of self-worth and confidence grew, she became such a profound leader that she even surprised herself.

But none of this came easily. She really had to work on herself. And in this program, parents are encouraged to work their own program of self-exploration and growth to coincide with their child's. This wasn't easy either, but I feel more capable as a parent than I ever have.

For my daughter and family, Red River Academy was essential to enabling us to reconnect and get on with our lives as a healthy, loving, happy family. And I encourage other struggling families to consider this school and its program as well.

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