



## *Third Way Center*

Residential Treatment and Education for At-risk Youth  
*A third alternative to homelessness and incarceration*

### **Mission Statement**

*“To provide a continuum of services in a home-like environment where high-risk, homeless, mentally ill and disadvantaged youth can work through their problems, learn to take responsibility for their actions and become productive members of society.”*

### **Programs**

**York Street Program:** Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facility (TRCCF) serving 16 adolescents

**Pontiac Street Program:** TRCCF serving 16 adolescents

**Teen Mother Program:** TRCCF serving 13 teenagers and up to 8 babies

**Lincoln Street Supervised Apartments:** TRCCF serving 22 teens

**Joan Farley Academy:** State Approved Alternative High School serving up to 60 youth.

**Next Steps:** Supervised follow-up program for up to ten emancipated youth. (home based or in community apartments)

**Marvin Foote Center Educational Program:** Approved school program for youth who are committed in a youth detention center in Arapahoe County.

**Lowry Treatment Campus:** TRCCF currently serving 8 adolescents, scheduled to grow to 32 youth in 4 cottages.

### **Referrals**

For York and Pontiac contact Dave Eisner 303.780.9191 x 460 or send intake packet to [deisner@thirdwaycenter.org](mailto:deisner@thirdwaycenter.org) or fax to 303.780.9192

For Teen Mother Program, Lincoln, Next Steps or Lowry contact Renee Johnson 303.780.9191 x 462 or send intake packet to [rjohnson@thirdwaycenter.org](mailto:rjohnson@thirdwaycenter.org) or fax to 303.320.4290

### **History**

Third Way Center, Inc. was originally founded in 1970 by Dr. Hildegard Messenbaugh, M.D. as an overnight shelter for runaway youth. Having experienced poverty and the atrocities of an Austrian concentration camp as a young girl, Dr. Messenbaugh can empathize with the troubled lives and turbulent pasts of the abandoned, abused and emotionally disturbed adolescents treated at the Center. She knows firsthand the challenges children can face, yet

she is committed to the concept that there is always hope. Accordingly, Dr. Messenbaugh has made it her life's work to treat the so-called "untreatable" teens at Third Way.

Third Way Center is a private, not-for-profit, licensed residential treatment program that has grown to five residential facilities, a transitional supervised aftercare program and an alternative school. Since 1970, we have served over 2,000 of Colorado's homeless, mentally ill, abused and at-risk youth.

## **About Our Teens**

Most of our residents are 15 to 19 years old and have severe mental health and/or behavioral issues that have led to homelessness, functional illiteracy, learning disabilities, chronic truancy, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, crime, delinquency, suicide and other dysfunctional behaviors.

## **Our Treatment Approaches**

We do "whatever works" to reach these children. More than half of our full-time employees are masters level, licensed therapists and counselors. We offer a comprehensive approach that incorporates individual therapy, substance abuse treatment, gender-specific groups, family therapy, vocational training and education, life-skills training, grief and loss groups, abuse survivors groups, recreation therapy, creative arts therapy approaches, parenting groups and much more. Every child is different and has specific needs, which we do our best to accommodate. Education is one of our most important programs. We recognize that these children will not have a chance at many of life's opportunities if they don't have the proper education and credentials. Each year, through our approved high school program, we graduate close to 50 youth with high school diplomas. We require every child to work toward graduation or a GED certificate when they are with us. Our doors stay open to all of our residents, for as long as they need us. Our policy is that they are always welcome to come back, even after they've left us, as long as they are willing to work on their issues. We often see former residents years after they've left us. They come back to let us know how they're doing, to ask for help in some way, or just to let us know that we made a big difference in their lives.