



Pathways

Live
Learn
Work
Succeed

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM AT THE CROSSROADS

JANUARY 2006



From the Desk of Michael Alger

Jessica and I were reviewing the past few months and looking forward to plans in the works for Crossroads this upcoming year. The theme "Changing Lives" seems to be the common thread

that runs through the program. Each student comes to Crossroads with his own strengths, weaknesses, challenges and past to overcome. Each has his own goals to achieve. Our students come here seeking an opportunity for a fresh start, an opportunity for a life change. While here, each student also has a great opportunity to change lives as he serves others.

A key element of the Crossroad program is service to others. As we serve others, we become less self-centered. We often grow in compassion and humility. We grow personally as we find ourselves in circumstances that might be outside our comfort zone. We learn a lot about our individual talents and strengths while providing meaningful work. It is a positive experience to help those in need.

Continued. See "Changing Lives" on back page

Welcome Brian

Brian Virgin joins the team from Charlotte, North Carolina. He is joined in Southern Utah by his wife **Shannon** and daughter **Payton**.

Brian has spent almost his entire adulthood in the service of youth. Brian served a two-year humanitarian mission for his church in upstate New York. He served as a volunteer with the Spanish Action Coalition teaching Hispanic youth to speak English.

Brian has always felt a responsibility to serve others. He worked for a youth residential treatment center in Southern Utah, where he first met Executive Director **Michael Alger**, before moving to Charlotte. While in Charlotte he worked for the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services as a certified bilingual eligibility specialist and interpreter.

"I feel very lucky to be able to work with this "one of a kind" program. At The Crossroads engages its students at the most pivotal time in their lives. The program structure mixed with real world experience helps students in making a "real life" transition into an independent and healthy adulthood."



Tis the Season

The Christmas season is a great time to lose oneself in service to others. Crossroads students took full advantage of that opportunity.

Coins for Kids:



Patrick finishes a gift.

On December 15th, 2005 Crossroads students helped with the local Coins for Kids program. The Coins for Kids program raises money each year to help provide local needy children with toys and clothes for the holidays. Crossroads students joined other volunteers as they wrapped over \$120,000 in toys. While

we had a great time working together, it was surprising to see the amount of needy families in the small city of St. George.

St. George Catholic Church:

What has been a regular service project for Crossroads students working and helping in the Church's soup kitchen will become a weekly service opportunity beginning in January.

Secret Santa:

Crossroads staff and students participated in our own Secret Santa project to help needy families in the St. George area. Crossroads received donations



Brent serves in the line

that allowed us to adopt three families. Dixie Care and Share and St. George Catholic Church provided names and information on needy families. Students shopped at Toys-R-Us, then wrapped, labeled and sorted gifts by family. On

December 21st, students took turns dressing as Santa and delivering gifts to the homes of our families. It was a great experience as we watched eyes light up in children and swell with tears in parents. After the event we as a group talked about how grateful we are for what we have and that the spirit of the holiday season is about giving and seeing happiness in the hearts and eyes of others



Upcoming Events

- ✓ Jan - Subway hike at Zion National Park Hiking
- ✓ Jan - Homemade pasta with Dawson
- ✓ Feb - Las Vegas - Blue Man Group (donated tickets)
- ✓ Feb - \$10 Tuesday - Ski days at Brian Head Ski Resort

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Changing Lives (continued from front page)

December was a busy and fulfilling month for those of us at Crossroads. Our students learned to balance their studies, work schedules and also find time for many service opportunities. Be sure to read 'Tis the Season to find out more. Some students traveled home to enjoy the holidays, others became part of our extended family. All of us benefited from the opportunity to volunteer this holiday season.

We were able to experience this because of generous support. I would like to thank those of you that donated to our Secret Santa program. It is good for our students to have these special opportunities while attending our program. Without your donations, our opportunities would be more limited. You have helped touch the lives of families during the holiday season and you have helped to touch our lives as well.

Hoping each of you experienced a happy holiday season.

We look forward to an exciting and life changing 2006, serving youth. --- **Michael Alger, Executive Director**

Donation Opportunities*

Scholarship Program - Supports enrollment of financially needy youth who, without support, would not otherwise be able to participate.

Service to Others – Helps pay for service projects performed by students.

Outings and Events - Used to help pay for and sponsor special outings and events for all students.

Crossroads Program Support - This is a general fund that supports the Crossroads program.

Current Wish List:

Camping Supplies – (\$200) – as spring approaches we are seeking to purchase supplies we can use on camping trips.

Motivational Books. – (\$100) – To be purchased and added to the current apartment library of books for students to read.

Thank You for Your Support

Helping make our Secret Santa Program a success:

Jean and Russell Trifovesti, Mary Trifovesti, Dan & Lita Alger, Russell and Susan Adamsen, Kim Hugentobler

Providing us with our Wish List request from last month:

Glenn & Valerie Alger – New BBQ and BBQ tools
Robert & Sandy Hogan – New Chairs for the BBQ area

**Have a Problem to Solve?
Learn to Climb a Rock!**

Crossroads students went with a team of counselors from A Southern Utah Counseling Experience on a rock climbing adventure. The event was an opportunity for students to try something new and learn life lessons from the experience.

When bouldering, a new rock is known as a problem. In order to achieve your goal and make it to the top, you have to work out each problem in your path until it is solved. We learned that life is very much the same. To be successful, each of us must learn to solve those problems and tests we are presented with. As in rock climbing, we are not alone in this difficult task. We have to build and rely on teammates to support us, help keep us from falling and encourage us to get up when we do.

During our adventure, we had students who fell many times, but they were not allowed to give up. They stuck with it until they accomplished what they set out to do.

We had a great time learning the basics of boulder climbing and we look forward to doing this in the future.



Chris poses while bouldering

Headline News!

✓ Congratulations to **Brent** for having his second article with the St. George Spectrum printed on the front page.

✓ Congratulations are again extended to **Brent** on his 3.5 GPA in his first semester at Dixie State College. Keep up the good work!

✓ Congratulations to **Seth** on bagging his first pheasant on a short and successful hunting trip at a local pheasant farm. Rookies **Seth** and the **Algers** were guided by local experienced hunter **Charles Spence**. The day started by practicing with clay pigeons.

More Cooking with Dawson

With the increase in students and in order to allow each to be an active participant, our monthly cooking with Dawson class will be increased to twice monthly beginning in February.

Part of teaching students to be independent and healthy is teaching them how they can prepare a variety of healthy and tasty meals.

Later this month Dawson will be teaching how to make homemade pasta.

