

From: [Gina L. Turcotte <ginalyn@adelphia.net>](mailto:ginalyn@adelphia.net)
To: [Dr. Mark T. Greenberg](#)
CC: [Kim Hutchins](#)
Date: 10/13/2004 4:23:40 PM
Subject: PATHS for Children (10-14) struggling with Behavioral Difficulties



Dear Dr. Greenberg:

My name is Gina Turcotte and I live in the state of Maine. I left you a succinct voice message today regarding the objective for this email.

I currently work for North American Family Institute, a U.S. east-coast mental health agency which administers residential programs for children with behavioral/mental health challenges. I work in a secured, locked facility for children, ages 10-14, in Sidney, Maine, who struggle with the residue from familial trauma, mental health issues, and violent behavioral difficulties. My colleagues and I believe their behaviors are manifested by their emotional trauma and the child's *perceived* inability to respectfully, lovingly and productively express their feelings, thoughts, and needs.

I also am a college student at the University of Maine at Augusta, in the Bachelor's in Mental Health/Human Services program. During my Violence in the Family course last semester, we were asked to research violence prevention programs that currently do not exist in our state. I was so excited when I discovered your program!! Your concepts, and strategies, are so logical, loving and respectful that I couldn't deny its applicability to human life and our quest for happiness. I prepared a detailed proposal for my class presentation which I not only incorporated for my college class but to my career as a whole.

I recently proposed the PATHS program to my supervisor and our Educational Coordinator. They both are very excited, yet reluctant, to implement the PATHS program at our facility. Their hesitance stems from the expansive format of PATHS and the limited amount of time we have to work with our kids. The children in our facility tend to reside here anywhere from a couple of months to a couple of years. However, a lengthy stay still would not allow for the complete PATHS program to be fully administered to any one child. Therefore, we are asking if a more succinct, concise, conceptual PATHS program exists which will produce similar results as does the full program.

Essentially, we are looking to educate these children, in a more compressed time, how to identify their feelings, acknowledge where those feelings are manifested, and how to effectively and respectfully express those feelings as to not attack themselves or others. Is our goal a concept that you can help us to create and implement?

As I stated on your voicemail, my work hours are sporadic, at best, and I am also in college full-time, so connecting with me via telephone is difficult. Initial communication via email is my preference. I am very excited to discuss this concept with you and how your program can help us achieve our mission for these children. Although we have a very successful objective and strategy, there are always more effective ways of accomplishing the same goals. Thus, our interest in your program.

My contact information is below, as well as contact information for my supervisor at Sidney Riverbend.

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Kim Hutchins, PhD, Director
Sidney Riverbend
North American Family Institute (NAFI)
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We anticipate working with you on this idea, provided your time and interest allows.

Sincerely,

Gina L. Turcotte

"I did what I knew how to do and when I knew better, I did better." - Maya Angelou

"I'm doing what I know how to do. When I know better, I'll do better." - Gina Turcotte

Life is a rollercoaster ride. Get in, sit down, shut up, and hold on!!! Enjoy the ride...