

TEEN VOICES

By Teens • For Teens • About Teens

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LET'S GO TO THE MOON

By: Zack Ploghoft

How would you like to see the world from a whole other perspective? Well if you would, Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Mobile has made another branch of Virgin Mobile; this time it's Virgin Galactic, were they are chartering sub-orbital flights. It all started in 1969, when Branson made a high-altitude hot air balloon. But Branson still had dreams to put untrained cosmonauts into sub-orbital atmosphere. Asked

why Branson is so passionate about getting civilians into space, he answered, "I just want people to see how beautiful the earth is from space." In 2001 he unveiled the White Knight 1 which had one successful sub orbital flight. Not even 1 month ago, Branson Revealed his new space plane White Knight 2, which Governor Schwarzenegger has christened the Virgin SpaceShip (VSS) Enterprise.

They now have hundreds of tickets booked for a flight. At 20,000 dollars with a 200,000 dollar security deposit, it is now only for high class, high-income families. They hope to have the first spaceport and terminal up and running by 2011. The selected spaceport is in Mojave, New Mexico. The first flight is scheduled to be on November 12, 2011. The crew aboard will be Sir Richard himself, piloting the expedition, and 6 very close friends of Branson. I admire Branson's courage to explore and bring people to enjoy his experiences.



IF PARENTS ONLY KNEW

By: Alexa Walentschka & Kaycee Creeks

Do parents really know what their kids are going through in today's society? How stressed out we are at times, and what we do to fit in or be loved? Being a teen today can be very complex and nerve-racking. Society is bad and getting worse with kids getting inappropriate sayings and content off of T.V. shows. The failing economy makes it nearly impossible for some teens to get jobs. A job is a good thing for teens; it keeps them occupied and keeps them from T.V. and some parties. Also it gives them responsibility and real life situations. Although jobs could cause stress for some, it is better to think that ditching your friends to do schoolwork and work is way healthier, because sometimes friends are friends and other times friends can be bad

influences. Life is mixed up with strict parents or uninvolved parents; parents say 'don't do this or that!' So kids grow up feeling they must hide things from their parents or else they get grounded. Well I'm telling you what! Parents need to understand, and not just enforce punishment and reward systems. They need to dig deeper and try to understand what goes on in teen's daily lives.

Environment is a big influence on kids' lives. Growing up in Georgetown may not be the easiest or nicest place but it sure is calm; for the most part there are no real gangs, only kids who are stupid to think they are going to represent (something) in Georgetown. A great woman who grew up in Georgetown recently wrote a book called Teetering on Disaster; her name is Micheala Renee and we loved what she said: "There are two kinds of people...

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Van Gogh's Starry Night recreated by Isabel Valtierra

WELCOME TO TEEN VOICES

WELCOME TO TEEN VOICES: BY TEENS, FOR TEENS AND ABOUT TEENS

*A Publication of New Morning Youth
and Family Services*

Our Mission is to create a first-class newspaper that informs and entertains other teens and young adults, as well as the people in our community.

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Divide HS

The Mountain Democrat

EDITORIAL SUBMISSION POLICY

We welcome your contributions. All artwork and written pieces submitted to Teen Voices will be reviewed and considered for publication by the Youth Editorial Team. We require your written permission to publish your work—a publication release form is available upon request. We reserve the right to refuse any submission. Articles, art and photographs, whether published or not, will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Content demonstrating flagrant intolerance of, discrimination against, or derogatory terminology regarding any ethnic group, race, gender, handicap or sexual orientation, will not be considered for publication. Written submissions will be copyedited according to standard AP style guidelines—they will not be censored or edited for content. All letters to the editorial team must be signed, but authors who wish to remain anonymous should so state. Poetry and images will not be edited. They will be published as submitted or not accepted for publication.

Send submissions & correspondence to:
Erica Inderlied, Teen Voices Advisor
New Morning Youth & Family Services
6765 Green Valley Road, Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 622-5551
or e-mail: erica.inderlied@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL TEAM



Many thanks to our outstanding team at Divide HS: from left to right, Alexa Walentschka, Kaycee Creeks, Zack Ploghoft, and Cody St. John. Additional team not pictured.

DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE?

Do you like to write poetry, short stories, essays, or opinion pieces?

Are you an artist, cartoonist or photographer?

Are you an aspiring journalist?

You can be seen and heard!

Submit your work for inclusion in our next issue, or come work with us to formulate a news piece, tell your personal story, or become a leader in entire production process.

TELL US WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND

Do you have something to say? Even if you don't think of yourself as a writer or artist, your thoughts and opinions matter and you can make a valuable contribution. What do you think about? What do you feel, and what are the problems that you and other teens face? Go beyond complaining about the cafeteria food at school. Jump into the issues that matter to you most and express yourself. Here's a chance for you to write about the world from a teen's point of view. Connect with other teens and young adults, propose solutions, or just make your voice heard in the community at large.

Write to us today.

Take a look through this issue of Teen Voices—cover to cover—and then drop us a letter about anything that struck a chord with you, from helping a friend deal with a drug problem or a violent relationship to coming to terms with giving your baby up for adoption. Our writers and editors love to hear what you think about our articles and learn how you cope in times of struggle. As teens, we recognize that we all need extra support and reflection from time to time. If we got you thinking, use the inspiration as fuel for a Teen Voices piece of your own!

Send us your words and images! Or drop us a line about other features you'd like us to add or topics you would like to see covered in Teen Voices.

We look forward to hearing from you!

NEW MORNING YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES: OUR MISSION

The mission of New Morning Youth & Family Services is to provide quality professional social services to enhance the lives of Western Slope El Dorado County youth and their families.

BULLETIN BOARD

Alice in
Wonderland
artwork by
Steven Meyer



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Fuel to the Firings

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Passion

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(530) 672-3436.

4 - TEEN VOICES

Jump from Page 1 "...in Georgetown, the ones who catch the next Cessna flight out of dodge or those who drink themselves to a stupor." Georgetown is a great place even though children grow up knowing more about adult life than they need to. Such as drugs and alcohol, most drugs in Georgetown are not a big problem for teens. Marijuana and alcohol are the most used and the easiest to get around here. Belittling and sexual rumors are second worst. All these factors and a school work load can cause severe stress for teens; sometimes kids get pushed over the edge and become very depressed.

Parents need to love, respect and understand our young adults; you are the ones to help us become a better generation. But we all need to trust each other by being honest and open-minded. Parents need to understand that their children will learn from their mistakes. It sounds bad but it's good for your children to screw up, cause when they do they get punished for their actions. You may not agree with your kids, but let them learn that their actions will have consequences, such as major emotional, mental,

BMX ON THE DIVIDE

By: Brennan Souza

As the world grows, the sports that it consists of grow as well: these may be sports such as football, soccer, motocross, and one lesser but just as important is BMX bike riding. One of the big problems with BMX is that there are such few places to ride, and practice. Especially here on the divide, there is nowhere for riders to do such, and if there is, then it's dirt jumps constructed by fellow riders in an effort to practice. Sadly these few dirt jumps are usually torn down by nonbelievers. Youths in today's society are growing ever more bored with their lives, and thus leading to drugs and alcohol. By simply giving a proper place for these kids to ride, hang out or have fun, these

and most serious physical changes from drug use and addiction.

Many teens will experience drug use. The majority of teens will also drive or get in a car with someone who has been drinking. Some teens will lose their friends' or their own lives to the party life and automobile accidents. Many will lose their mind and their brain cells!!! Drug use can cause teens to be very unhappy as the way they are; most will dress how they believe is in style. Some will hurt themselves.

In the end we realize that teens do what they do and always have done what others do to fit in. Parents can only try to better understand their teens; they should tell them about their drug experiences or teenage problems, because when you're young it always feels like the end of the world even when it's not a big deal! Overall environment and mass media have a large effect on all teens whether they show it or not. Society is worsening, teens are getting worse, drugs and parties are the largest and most talked-about these days. Those are the cool kids !!! NOT! Haha they are the not so smart ones that are going nowhere!

problems could easily be cut down. "We need somewhere to ride, so less people will get in trouble and lead to more problems in there future. Also it would be a way for people to get to know each other and create new friends and acquaintances," says Zack "Chunks" Ploghoft, a student, and fellow rider on the Divide. "Having somewhere to ride will help to keep down vandalism to private property, such as handrails, planters, benches and so on. Being as this is one of the most common accusations toward BMX riders," says Will Snoke, fellow rider as well as classmate.

There are many others who feel this way about BMX on the Divide as well as skateboarding. There are many places down in the city to ride, but on the Divide we need somewhere to practice and ride.

DIVIDE HIGH

By: Sam Braham & Cody St. John

What is Divide High School? Divide High serves as the alternative high school for the youth of Georgetown. It's located next to the lower campus of Golden Sierra High School. Currently there are 27 students attending Divide, which is quite small compared to the rough estimate of 550 students attending Golden Sierra. The school consists of two classrooms and an office. "The purpose of Divide is to help students, who are credit deficient, make up the credits they are lacking and return to Golden Sierra," says Heather Penley, Divide's Secretary/Aide.

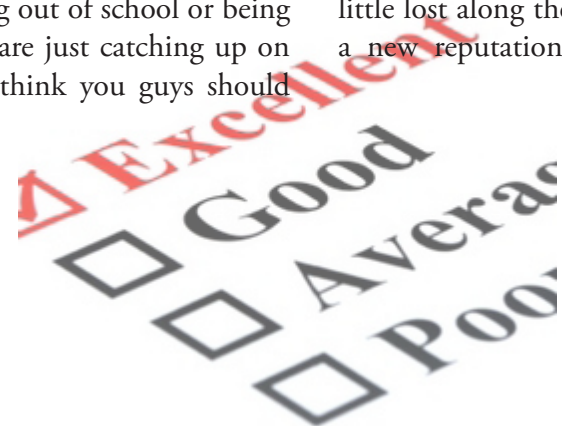
What about the rumors that have been floating around Golden Sierra? Many students from Golden Sierra have come to different conclusions about this school. Some students say that we "Dividians" are just a group of misfits and druggies. Others say that we are bullies, a major distraction in class, and just up to no good. But is this really true? Are we as much of a distraction to the lower campus of Golden Sierra, as they make us out to be?

Curious as we were, we were determined to find out what the students really thought of Divide High. We took the time to interview some Golden Sierra students who have classes at the lower campus. We asked Emily Mathews if she thought that the two schools should be as separated as they are now. Her reply was, "You guys aren't dropping out of school or being expelled. You are just catching up on your work. I think you guys should

be able to attend the dances and rallies." Having Divide and Golden Sierra so separated from each other has always been a problem on the lower campus. Frequently "Dividians" are getting in trouble for talking to kids from Golden Sierra. It simply isn't fair. There have been rumors about the school district considering moving Divide to another campus. Is it really necessary for the school to be moved?

We asked Kalise Ahern for her opinion on the matter. "My dad (Kevin Ahern, Vice Principal of Golden Sierra) and other teachers were thinking about moving Divide to Georgetown. I think it's unfair though. If you know people from Divide, they really aren't that scary." From this answer spurred another question we felt the need to ask. We asked Michael Valdez if he found the students from Divide to be intimidating or scary. "No. I feel quite welcomed at Divide. A lot of my friends go there." The rumors that we "Dividians" were hearing were turning out to be untrue after all. When we asked the teachers at lower, they told us that we hardly ever disturb their classes or teachings. Mr. Larson, whose classroom is closest to Divide, says that we can sometimes bother his class, but not enough to want us gone.

Divide shouldn't be thought of as a prison. This school is all about grades, not being considered a "bad" student. This school helps put struggling students back on track. We "Dividians" are not as bad as they are made out to be. All of us have dreams and inspirations. All of us want something for our futures. We just got a little lost along the way. Divide needs a new reputation. It's starting now.



EL DORADO COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Empowering Youth to Take Social Action

Ready to participate?

Take action now!

You want to voice your opinion or change something about where you live, support the youth in governance movement by getting involved on a decision-making board or committee in your community. How do you start? Right here.

- 1: Get ready! What's your idea or issue?
- 2: Research your community! What groups are dealing with your issue?
- 3: Prepare your case! What's your plan of action? What tools will you use?
- 4: Locate Youth Advocates! Who are the adult-partners who encourage and support the power of youth?
- 5: Be effective! As an active representative on local boards and committees, what will you need to be effective?

A Youth Guide to Becoming a Decision Maker in Your Community

Have an issue with or idea about your community?

What can you do to make a difference?

Make a difference through

Contact Local Officials

Placerville City Council

City Hall

3101 Center Street

Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 621-CITY

Website: cityofplacerville.org

Mayor Pierre Rivas

Councilmember Patty Borelli

Councilmember Mark Acuna

Councilmember Carl Hagen

Vice-Mayor Dave Machado

Board of Supervisors

330 Fair Lane

Placerville, CA 95667

Website: www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/

Identify Your

Representatives

District 1 Supervisor

John Knight

District 2 Supervisor

Ray Nutting

District 3 Supervisor

Jack Sweeney

District 4 Supervisor

Ron Briggs

District 5 Supervisor

Norma Santiago

Placerville Office

(530) 621-5390

South Lake Tahoe Office

(530) 573-3411

Have you ever felt that you and your friends are to "be seen and not heard?"

Do adults (teachers, school boards, elected officials, etc.,) make decisions about the issues that affect you and your peers without asking you what you think? Would you like to work with adults to make a real difference in your community?

As a young person, you have a lot to contribute to your community. You can be an active citizen now! You don't have to wait until you're "an adult" to be heard. By working together with adults on boards and committees (such as local government, non-profit organizations, school boards), you can be active in making decisions that affect your community. This is called youth in governance.

Youth in governance is the key to representing youth! Youth in governance means a young person's ability to participate as members of boards and governing bodies. Working together, youth and adult board members make decisions about issues that affect young people.

FREE COPY

Call the Youth Commission for your free copy of the complete "Youth Guide to Becoming a Decision Maker in Your Community."

You'll discover

- Steps you can take to make a difference in your community
- Tools to communicate your issues and ideas – letter writing and phone call tips, how to conduct in-person meetings with officials
- Facts about proposals, petitions and resolutions
- Voting information

• *Do you need additional education or training to get a better job?*

• *Are you motivated to succeed, but need help to reach your goals?*

El Dorado County's Youth Services Program is seeking career oriented, motivated young people between 16 and 21. What's in it for You? Money for vocational school or technical training. Work experience/on-the-job training opportunities. Information & support accessing college, Regional Occupational Programs (ROP), technical schools, Job Corps and more Job search assistance, career assessment and exploration, Work readiness training, Cash incentives for reaching goals.

For more information contact Lesley Coovelis, WIA Youth Services Program (530) 295-2619, 4535 Missouri Flat Road, Ste 1A, Placerville, CA 95667

Come to a Meeting to Empower Your Voice

The EDC Youth Commission meets at the Board of Supervisors Board Room on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., located at 330 Fair Lane in Placerville. Join the social action! Attend a YC meeting to engage your voice and have some FUN!

Contact the Youth Commission through the UC Cooperative Extension office at (530) 621-5503 or check out our website: <http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/youthcommission/>

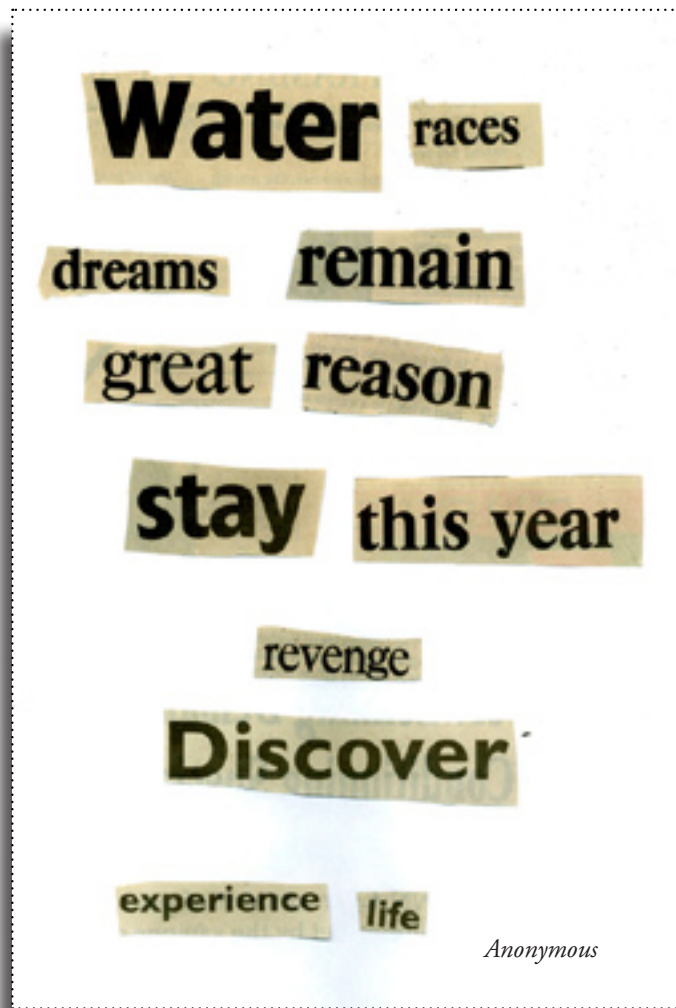




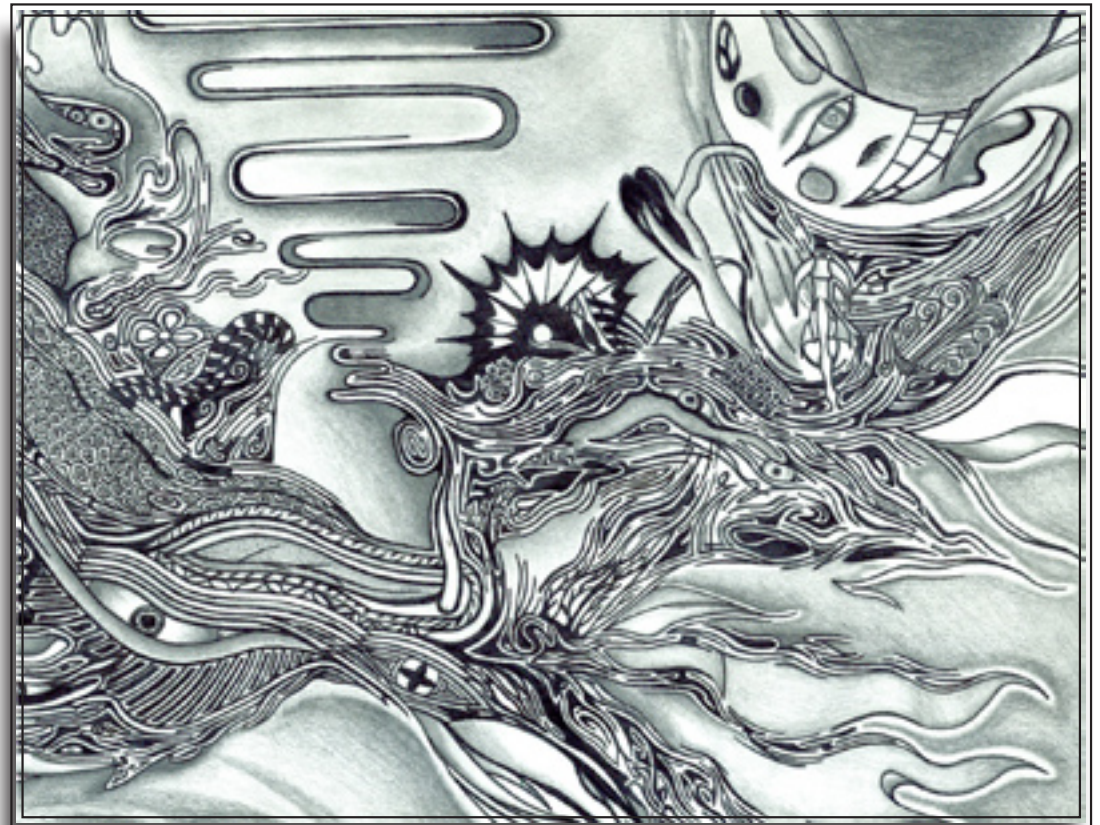
Drawing by Will Snoke



Anonymous



Anonymous



Drawing by Steven Meyer



Emergency Youth Shelter

**WE'RE OPEN
24 HOURS A DAY,
EVERYDAY
530-626-4190**

*Do you need someone to listen?
Do you need a safe place to stay?
Thinking about running away?
Not feeling safe?
Homeless?*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

New Morning Youth & Family Services wishes to extend its sincerest appreciation to the following companies and individuals whose support made this publication possible:

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*For information about sponsoring Teen Voices,
please call New Morning at (530) 622-5551.*

YOUTH SHELTER WISH LIST

If you would like to help youth in crisis, please consider donating of one of the following items to New Morning's 24-hour Emergency Youth Shelter, the only place of its kind in El Dorado County. Want to know more? Call the shelter directly at (530) 626-4190 or New Morning offices at (530) 622-5551. Thank you!

- Bathroom towels, rugs, shower curtains
- Non-stick frying pans (large & small)
- Baking dishes, pans, cooking utensils
- Tupperware and small appliances
- Bedroom dresser
- Couch pillows & blankets - fall colors
- Toy Hammocks
- Personal CD players w/ headphones

- Unisex tshirts, pajama bottoms M-L-XL
- Boxers, kids' 8-12, adult M-XL, socks
- Deodorant, shampoo, various toiletries
- Paints, acrylic/watercolor, paint brushes
- Drawing, construction & art papers
- Drawing pencils, scissors, tape, glue
- Clay/Play Doh, hemp twine and beads
- Yarn, crochet hooks, fabrics
- 6 plastic patio chairs, 100ft garden hose
- Basketballs, volleyballs, badminton set

- Filing cabinet, laser printer
- Office supplies
- Unisex backpacks, Binders, Folders
- Small Journals, notebook paper
- Pens, pencils, glue sticks
- \$5-\$10 Gift certificates - McDonald's, Baskin Robbins, Taco Bell, Wal-Mart
- Any other basic domestic necessities, or fun things that a youth or young adult would enjoy in a home-like environment

SOMEONE TO TALK TO

New Morning Counselors
(530) 622-5551

Mental Health Crisis Line/Suicide Prevention (24-hour) • (530) 622-3345

California Youth Crisis Line
800-843-5200

National Runaway Switchboard (24-hr)
800-621-4000

Confidential message center

Child Protective Services • (530) 642-7100

PFLAG - Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (530) 621-6700
Meetings 3rd Monday of each month

EDUCATION/JOBS/TRAINING

El Dorado Adult Education
GED preparation • (530) 622-7073

ROP (Regional Occupational Programs)
Workforce preparation 16 years to adult
(530) 621-0123

• *Do you need additional education or training to get a better job?*

• *Are you motivated to succeed, but need help to reach your goals?*

El Dorado County's Youth Services Program is seeking career oriented, motivated young people between 16 and 21. What's in it for You? Money for vocational school or technical training. Work experience/on-the-job training opportunities. Information & support accessing college, Regional Occupational Programs (ROP), technical schools, Job Corps and more Job search assistance, career assessment and exploration, Work readiness training, Cash incentives for reaching goals.

For more information contact Lesley Coovelis, WIA Youth Services Program

(530) 295-2619, 4535 Missouri Flat Road, Ste 1A, Placerville, CA 95667

YOUTH RESOURCES

Golden Sierra Job Training Agency
Work experience/vocational training
16-21 year-olds • (530) 642-5505

Indian Education Tutoring Services
(530) 621-3096
Folsome Lake College - El Dorado Center
Financial Aid Available • (530) 642-5645

Job Corps
Vocational, technical and academic skills training - 16-24 year olds • 800-698-3769

Job One - One Stop Employment Resource Center • (530) 642-5505

A PLACE TO EAT ☺

The Upper Room
1868 Broadway, Placerville

(530) 621-7730
Meals served daily (4:00-5:30 p.m.)

SHARE Food Closet
1031 Thompson Way, Placerville
(next to Federated Church)
(530) 626-8299 • Hrs. 10-1/M-F

First Baptist Church of Pollock Pines
6361 Pony Express Trail, Pollock Pines

www.fbcopp.com

644-2133

A PLACE TO STAY

New Morning Emergency Youth Shelter (open 24 hours, every day)
(530) 626-4190

HELP (Housing Emergency Lodging Program) 18 and over • (530) 306-2352

CLOTHING ☩

St. Patrick's Church
Sacramento St., Placerville • (530) 626-8086

Soroptimist Int'l of Placerville
Closet for young women • (530) 344-1476

WHEELS

El Dorado Transit • 1-888-246-BUSS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ☺

Public Health Dept.
931 Spring St., Placerville • (530) 621-6100

Human Services/Medi-Cal

3057 Briw Rd., Placerville • (530) 642-7300
Community Health Center
4327 Golden Center Dr., Placerville
(530) 621-7700

Soroptimist Int'l of Placerville
Svc's open to women: Clothing and Prom Dress closet, scholarships, free mammograms and more. (530) 344-1476

THINGS TO DO PLACES TO GO

Joe's Skate Park
EDC Fairgrounds • Placerville

Cameron Park Skate Park • Cameron Park

Cozmic Café
Main Street, Placerville • (530) 642-8481
Thurs open mic night/music, poetry & more

Placerville Parks & Recreation
Placerville • (530) 642-5232

Bowling
Knotty Pine Lanes, Pollock Pines
(530) 644-5414

El Dorado Hills Community Services District (Recreation) • (916) 614-3216

Georgetown Divide Recreation Center
(530) 333-4000

Sly Park Recreation Area
Pollock Pines • (530) 644-2545

Boys & Girls Club—After school program
(530) 295-8019

Pollock Pines Central
2667 Sanders Dr. Ste C, Pollock Pines
(530) 644-0363 • Teen Night - every first Friday of every month. Ages 13-17

LEGAL SERVICES /ADVOCACY ☩

CASA El Dorado
(530) 622-9882 • www.casaldorado.ca

Sacramento Child Advocates
(916) 364-5686

Legal Services for Children, Inc.
San Francisco
(415) 863-3762 • www.lsc-sf.org

PARENTING SUPPORT ☺

Cal-SAFE • Pregnant/parenting students
(530) 622-7130

Adoption Connection • (800) 972-9225
www.adoptionconnection.org

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION ☩

EDCA - Lifeskills
893 Spring St, Placerville
(530) 622-8193

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
westernslopeD22.com • (530) 622-3500
PO Box 1434, P'ville, 95667

AL-ANON Family Group
Family & Friend of Alcoholics
(530) 676-8005

Narcotics Anonymous
800-600-4673

Progress House Counseling Center
2914 Cold Springs Rd, Placerville
(530) 642-1715

Alanon/Alateen Sacramento
(916) 334-2970

Marijuana Anonymous
800-766-6779
www.marijuana-anonymous.org

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
1-800-622-HELP

WEB SITES ☩

New Morning Youth and Family Services -
www.newmorningyfs.org

National Runaway Switchboard - www.nrscrisisline.org

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*To add your organization to our directory, or to suggest a service for inclusion, please write teenvoices@newmorningyfs.org.*