

* While Kids Helping Kids was modeled after the Florida Program, KHK is completely independent and has changed and grown into the program it is today without collaboration with any other program. Kids Helping Kid's model is effective for adolescents for a number of reasons but the three that distinguish it from others is: Length of time, Peer Support/Peer Counselors and intense family involvement including the utilization of host homes. KHK moved into its permanent facility in Ohio in November, 1993.

* FL. PROGRAM - STRAIGHT, INC.
GEORGE ROSS, FOUNDER OF L.Z.F.E.
WAS DIRECTOR OF STRAIGHT, INC.

PFC IS "ANOTHER" PROGRAM, KHK
IS AFFILIATED.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT OF KHK'S WEBSITE
9/30/05

FRAUDULENT ADVERTISING

Untitled

3. "Marathon sessions" where a group of counselors yell remarks at a client designed to provoke the client into feeling guilty.

According to the Saint Petersburg Times of February 12, 1978 two former Straight counselors (in sworn statements) said they had seen Straight program director Helen R. Petermann repeatedly slap a small youth and yanked him by his hair in an apparent outburst of temper. "I saw maybe five good smacks," one ex-counselor had said.. Another bizarre allegation was made by two former Straight staffers who said that Ms Petermann once demonstrated different positions of sexual intercourse to a group of female clients, some in their early teens. When a Times reporter asked Jim Hartz about the alleged incident he said he knew nothing of the sex rap. But he said the subject of sex occasionally comes up. "Helen's a very uninhibited person," Hartz reportedly said. If the session occurred, he said, "It might have been done better in private."

Two former counselors said that Ms. Petermann allegedly prepared two documents to scare clients into remaining at Straight. One was reportedly signed from the police department. After the kid had signed the document, the two had alleged, he was told by Ms. Petermann, "Ah ha! Now we've got you. If you don't stay here now and you run away, we're gonna' send you away to Marianna (state juvenile home)." An ex-counselor claimed that Ms. Petermann had threatened at least one other juvenile in the same manner. [Miller Newton once reportedly threatened a child in a similar manner in front of two HRS officers.]

In 1977 HRS (Florida's licensing bureau for juvenile drug rehab programs) made five recommendations in order for Straight to renew its license. The fifth recommendation had been "to make sure personnel and program policies are in written form and that staff members are frequently evaluated." So in the week before HRS was to make its decision on Straight's license the Straight Board of Directors announced ratings for its program staff members. The report acknowledged that Helen Petermann once struck an "hysterical and out-of-control" program client. "We do not condone the action from Mrs. Petermann, but it is not such a severe infraction that would create (her) severance," board president Melvin Sembler had reportedly said. "Helen did not think it was an infraction at the time," he said. "These (clients) are people who are on drugs, and because of that they are not normal." The board said, "Mrs. Petermann states that . . . [she] only slapped one person; that particular person was hysterical and out of control." She states that she had "wrapped two persons in a blanket who (were) too aggressive to handle." But Jim Hartz had previously publically denied that Mrs. Petermann had slapped anyone. Sembler said that was because Hartz was unaware of the slapping incident. Sembler added that Mrs. Petermann had recently been given the Service to Mankind Award by the Northeast Sertoma Club for her work at Straight.

/ACTION confirm date and source for above

Dr. George Ross, The Johnny AppleSeed of the Straight Movement.

Besides agreeing to give staff officers periodic reviews the board acknowledged that Hartz was understaffed and agreed to hire an educational director to relieve Hartz of that responsibility. The man hired in 1979 for that important function was Dr. George Ross. Actually Dr. Ross's phd. is in education. Dr. Ross left Straight in 1980 taking Straight's clinical director Helen Petermann with him to form LIFE, Inc. in Sarasota, Florida. I call George Ross the "Johnny AppleSeed" of the Straight saga. He left LIFE and formed another second-generation Straight called Kids Helping Kids of Hebron, Kentucky (which operates today as Kids Helping Kids of Cincinnati out of the old Straight facility in Cincinnati.) After leaving LIFE, Helen Petermann went on to become the program director for LIFE, Inc. In 1984 Helen Petermann teamed up with one Barbara Griffith, M.A., LIFE's Director of Prevention and Education, and some other staffers at LIFE to write the paper, "Effective early intervention for adolescents harmfully involved in alcohol and drugs" for The Journal of the Florida Medical Association, Inc., Apr 1984, Vol 71, No. 4. Barbara Griffith would leave

