

**60 Minutes: "The Hyde Solution" Aired October 29, 1989**

Joseph Gauld: My name is Joe Gauld. 27 years ago, I became convinced that our present educational system was, pure and simple, wrong for American kids. So I founded The Hyde School in Bath, Maine, to find an education that respected the character and unique potential of every student. This film by 60 Minutes portrays the exciting new concept we found. It may appear that the concept is just for kids with problems. It isn't. We set out to prove that any kid, regardless of background or circumstances, can excel given the right attitude and effort, but also the feeling that he or she is really important.

Mike Wallace: I'm Mike Wallace.

Morely Safer: I'm Morely Safer.

Harry Reasoner: I'm Harry Reasoner.

Ed Bradley: I'm Ed Bradley. Those stories and Andy Rooney tonight on 60 Minutes.

Private schools, those bastions of upper middle class America where parents who can afford it send their sons and daughters to get away from everyday problems are now plagued by like same everyday problems that plagued the public schools. But there is one private school, tuition \$15,000 a year, that seems to have a solution. It's The Hyde School in Bath, Maine, where 145 students get a different kind of education.

Speaker 6: Good morning everybody.

Students: Good morning.

Ed Bradley: Most of these youngsters have had problems ranging from drugs, alcohol or food abuse to more severe behavioral problems. And every kid here is struggling to make something better out of life. The morning meeting always ends with one student giving the quote for the day.

Robert King: "Character is like a photograph that develops in the dark," and what that means to me is you learn the most from the mistakes that you have made in your past.

Tripp Holton: I came here, November of last year, I came right out of a mental hospital. It had been my second time in a mental hospital. I was heavy into drugs and suicide attempts and all that kind of stuff. I was not taking responsibility for anything.

Joseph Gauld: The kid who comes here wants something and he knows he's not putting it together right. He's screwing up and he knows he doesn't believe in himself and

that he's got a lot of pride and he's fighting a lot of things. Maybe he's got some problems.

- Ed Bradley: Joe Gauld founded The Hyde School in 1966. His dream was to have a school where troubled youngsters could come for help.
- Joseph Gauld: The question is can they look at themselves? Do they really want help and are they willing to put something in to get it?
- Tripp Holton: I guess when I came here I just wanted to get over the bad stuff. I didn't want to think about anything above and beyond that. I mean, since I've been here, I've not only shed that and come to a point where I can run my own life, but started to pursue excellence.
- Ed Bradley: Tripp is a senior now. The other youngsters are still underclassmen.
- What is it like here at the school? How would you describe it?
- Mary Y. Y.: Well, it's very different. It's very different from any school I've ever been to. I think the expectations here are so much greater. Not so much *what* you achieve but how you achieve it. No one here expects you to be the best compared to everybody else, but they want you to be the best that you can be for yourself.
- Bob Felt: Any feeling? Any sense?
- Speaker 12: Negative.
- Bob Felt: A negative feeling? Anything else?
- Speaker 12: Fear.
- Bob Felt: Fear.
- Speaker 12: Evil.
- Bob Felt: Evil.
- Ed Bradley: Although academics are important, heavy emphasis is also placed on other things. Things like excellence, hard work and character. And even at an English class there is a continual self-examination.
- Bob Felt: I know we've talked a lot in the class about how in order to really come to grips with yourself now, you need to come to grips with parts of your past.
- Chris Gatty: I had an incident with my grandparent's house and it kind of burned down and it was my fault. But in the same day, I met a girl and I didn't want to stay at the

motel with my family. I wanted to go out and hang out with this girl and it was unbelievable that I didn't recognize my own selfishness.

Joseph Gauld: If you can believe in yourself, then you can accomplish anything. You know, whatever it is that your potential says you have.

Ed Bradley: How do you get kids to believe in themselves?

Joseph Gauld: Well, I think that's ...the first thing is get away from the comparison about abilities. Get them away from the idea that their achievement measures their sense of worth. Get them to the idea that what measures you is your character. Abilities are a gift, okay? Those are something you were given, your character is what you own. That's what you've got.

Speaker 14: I know I took a real step this year in doing that.

Ed Bradley: In fact, it's the kids themselves who make sure those standards are maintained.

Speaker 15: My parents and I came to an agreement that the character thing has to be put on the back burner for now and I have to go for more grades.

Speaker 16: You don't put one aside to work on the other.

Speaker 17: Grades are a result of character. You put your character back on the back burner then your grades are going to go right down in the ash tray, you know?

Ed Bradley: It's in these informal situations outside the classrooms that you get a better sense of just how unique this place is.

Joseph Gauld: The only way it's going to work is you have to be true to yourself. You got to start there and you have to be what you are. If you're a jerk, you're a jerk.

Ed Bradley: Are there people who go through here that fake it? Beat the system. [crosstalk 00:06:00]

Speaker 18: I don't think they can make it all the way through.

Speaker 19: What's the point of lying your way through? I mean, being honest with yourself is one of the big things and if you're lying about it, how's that going to help you at all?

Speaker 20: Up!

Students: One!

Speaker 20: Up!

Students: Two!

Speaker 20: Up!

Students: Three!

Ed Bradley: Gauld says they have a way of dealing with kids who have alcohol or drug problems, too.

Joseph Gauld: First of all, you have to begin to get them to start focusing upon who are you and where you're going with your life and what does this have to do with it. For example, brother's keeper at Hyde School. If you go out and you smoke pot and I'm one of your classmates and I see you, I'm going to get you to turn yourself in.

Ed Bradley: So I'm a kid in the Hyde School.

Joseph Gauld: Yeah.

Ed Bradley: I'm smoking pot. You're going to come to me and say turn myself in?

Joseph Gauld: Yeah, sure.

Ed Bradley: I'm going to say buzz off.

Joseph Gauld: Not here you won't.

Ed Bradley: Do you ever feel like you're snitching on your friends?

Tripp Holton: No. I mean, I think when everyone first comes here they do. I just thought narc. I mean, I'm not going to narc. [crosstalk 00:07:01] I mean, no way. The longer you're here, the more you realize if I respect this person and I love this person, then I want them to go after their best. And I know that if it's someone with an eating disorder, if they're abusing food, then they're not going after their best. I'm going to hold them to that. If it's someone who's going out and drinking, they're not going after their best. I'm going to hold them to that. You view it more as how can I help this person rather than narcing them. [crosstalk 00:07:29]

Ed Bradley: Joe Gauld says that Hyde hasn't always run the way it does today. That in the early years they were always experimenting with ways to make the kids turn out right. And although they haven't done any formal followups on their graduates, Gauld says that more than 90% of them go on to college.

You live up here in Bath, Maine. Some people would say it's pretty easy to achieve, or easier to achieve, success here than in coping with problems you

have out there in the real world. That you pull the kids away from reality and put them in this situation.

Joseph Gauld: Well, I think that's probably true to the degree that you got a situation where there are problems and those problems are rooted in families. So sometimes what we do is we pull a kid out of that and so now we can get the kid to focus on his or her problems and get the family, get the parents, to focus on theirs.

Speaker 21: You're doing good, Dad.

Ed Bradley: Which brings us to Joe Gauld's secret weapon. Parents.

Speaker 22: Use that white rope.

Ed Bradley: Parents are expected to put in their time at Hyde. There are several weekends a year when all of the parents meet at the school. They are also divided into regional groups that meet around the country each month. And if you think this looks tough, well that's not the half of it.

Speaker 23: Brandon, if I didn't give you some conditions, you wouldn't give off your butt, dammit. You would just coast. You really would just coast. I think you've got to be pushed. You won't push yourself.

Ed Bradley: Every parent and child is required to participate in these three day marathon group therapy sessions.

Tripp Holton: He is picking up these traits from you. And you can dictate to him but that's not going to make it any different.

Ed Bradley: They divide the group into small clusters of several families with one faculty member present. The theory is behind every troubled youngster there's a troubled family.

Judy Holton: If you expect him to put out 100%, you have to put out 100%.

Actually most people get here because their kid is out of control. There is a problem. Something is going wrong in your life. And most parents point their finger at the kid and say, "What are you doing? Why are you ruining my life and your life?" And that's what we were doing. And when we came here, the idea was that maybe you're focusing on him and you should look elsewhere. You should look within.

Ed Bradley: Like most Hyde parents, Judy and Hank have found that look within to be very painful. It's their second year here now and Tripp hopes to graduate in June. Like most parents, they've learned that Hyde can better help their son if they try to work on their own problems.

Hank Holton: I've dug deep. I know that because I'm an adult child of an alcoholic that I'm angry. I felt abandoned and I reacted to everything with anger.

Speaker 26: Hank, can you see how by you getting into your anger, the role that you play in helping the family avoid the issue?

Hank Holton: Yes.

Speaker 26: I feel I-

Hank Holton: If you stuff anger when is-

Speaker 26: I'm not-

Hank Holton: ... which is what I did for the first half of my life. If I don't react honestly-

Speaker 26: I'm not asking you to do that.

Hank Holton: Okay.

Speaker 26: Okay?

Hank Holton: But then it's ... I'm sorry.

Speaker 26: Okay. I just want to know if you can understand how ... Because that's what happens with us. Because if it works in your family the way it works in our family, that's trouble.

Hank Holton: Getting in a group dynamic sometimes it just gets very painful. And you just feel like, "Geez, I can't take another minute of this." In the end, it makes you look at the real issues.

Ed Bradley: Why did you choose to go down this road? I mean, it's not the only-

Hank Holton: These wasn't a choice. It was that or lose him.

Ed Bradley: It can't be the easiest thing to have to accept though some of this blame.

Hank Holton: It's awful. But it's easy to accept if it gets better, right? If you can say, "I screwed up. How do we fix it? Let's go to work."

You and I share a lot of the same background and experiences and I hated admitting it here.

Speaker 27: I really believe that if you're feeling emotion, you're into something that's important.

Jodi H. C.: For my parents, when I think about just growing up and seeing the changes with them, it's amazing.

Ed Bradley: It is that they are changing or you are seeing things differently that you've changed? Or have they really changed?

Jodi H. C.: They've really changed. I mean, both. I'm seeing things differently because I've changed. It was really easy for me to point the finger at them and them to point the finger at me. I think just this last parent's weekend we both sat back and had to look at ourselves.

Speaker 29: You're one hell of a kid.

Jodi H. C.: And ever since then, I see such a difference in the way we communicate and interact with one another. It's like we've accepted it as our own problems and that we can't control the other person.

Ed Bradley: One thing that comes across to me here is that parents are expected to sort of show their children how they have improved. When I went to school it was the other way around. You had to impress your parents.

Jodi H. C.: I don't think it's impressive. I know what I do and what they do we doing for ourselves and for no one else but ourselves.

Ed Bradley: But what happens when these kids leave here? Will the Hyde solution work?

(singing)

For a large percentage of the kids who graduated from here, it has. For these youngsters, this graduation is the first step from a troubled past to a future that looks more promising than the day when they first arrived at The Hyde School.

Tripp Holton: I am eager to live the life you've all helped me to see for myself and I'm very, very ready to start. Mom, Dad, Kimmy, Nanny, Jason, there's no question that you've all been behind me the whole time and I love you all very much and I'm glad that you're here to share this with me.

(singing)

I wish that there was a Hyde Colorado and a Hyde California. I think it's a great concept.

Judy Holton: I think this idea can be incorporated in lots of schools. It doesn't have to just happen at this one place.

Tripp Holton: Let's spread the wealth.

(singing)

Ed Bradley: In June, Joe Gauld stepped down as headmaster. His son, Malcolm, has taken over. Gauld is going out after his dream to set up Hyde schools in other parts of the country.

Joseph Gauld: Hyde families are successful because they rediscover the pioneer spirit of America. If you're dissatisfied, you pull up stakes and find a better way. This concept will work anywhere given the commitment to one's best by the entire family, backed by a school community of committed teachers, students and parents. If you and other members of your community are convinced the education you have now is not your best, write to us. Together all of us can begin to build an education that means something to all American kids. Thanks. Hope to hear from you soon.

For further information, write Joseph W. Gauld, 616, High Street, Bath, Maine, 04530. Or call area code 207-443-5584.