



**ANDERSON COOPER 360**

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COOPER: Well, still ahead, the story of a young man who has more to lose or who had more to lose than you can imagine and who actually lost it, thanks to the life saving school for the obese.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, it is a safe bet one of your New Year's resolutions is to lose a few pounds. Who in America doesn't want to do that? But we met someone a while back that need, really needed, desperately need to do a lot more than that. More than just a few pounds to lose. Gary Tuchman went back to visit a teen that's now literally half the man he used to be and the school that helped him lose more than most of us weigh in the first place. (COMMERCIAL BREAK)

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Terry Henry weighed almost 11 pounds when she was born. Fifteen years later, he was one of the heaviest teenagers in the world, just shy of 600 pounds. Hard to believe this is the same guy.

(on camera): How much do you weigh now?

TERRY HENRY, TEENAGER WHO LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT: I weigh 252 pounds now.

TUCHMAN: I mean, two thirds of you is gone.

HENRY: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He has to make it look like a complete book.

TUCHMAN (voice-over): Terry, who is from Texas, goes to the world's only boarding school for obese and overweight teenagers.

HENRY: Make it like King Kong.

TUCHMAN: We met him a half year ago when we visited the Academy of the Sierras in Reedley, California for the first time. At that point, he was 85 pounds heavier than now.

(on camera): How are you able to even know how much you weighed? The scales don't go that high.

HENRY: I go on a cattle scale.

TUCHMAN (voice-over): His life had been debilitating. But his 18 months at the school have not. He learned to enjoy academics. He's been taught to exercise properly.

HENRY: Give me some onions and some sauce on it.

TUCHMAN: And he's now dedicated to healthy foods. Most importantly, how the change his life style and mental outlook and it's all led to a total loss of 339 pounds. Much to the delight of the school's clinical director.

MOLLY CARMEL, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, ACADEMY OF THE SIERRAS: I think it's probably in my career, most of the most amazing things that I'll ever see happen.

TUCHMAN: Terry hopes to lose another 50 pounds, a good part of which will come from necessary body tuck surgery for his loose skin.

HENRY: The other day I woke up, I'm like feeling around and I'm like I feel a hipbone. I'm like, whose hipbone is that?

TUCHMAN (on camera): Terry's weight loss coincides with gains, a gain of confidence and self esteem, a gain of knowledge on how to stay healthy and a gain of a girlfriend. Liz Steven, academy student who has lost 80 pounds is the first serious girlfriend Terry's ever had.

How does that make you feel, going through this, losing the weight, changing your appearance the type of person you are, and now having a serious girlfriend?

HENRY: Makes me feel like I'm living a lie.

TUCHMAN: But a good lie?

HENRY: Yeah. It is a real good lie.

TUCHMAN: And this is an especially good day. Because while his classmates jog along the grape fields in the San Joaquin Valley, Terry's mother has arrived for a visit.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Didn't I tell you that there was always a really awesome person living inside there?

TUCHMAN: She can be there for his graduation.

CARMEL: We are all really proud of you. I think I speak for everybody when we're glad you're going but you are going to be genuinely missed and we love you very much.

TUCHMAN: Terry is given the opportunity to say some final words to the other 70 students. Who look at him with a little envy and a lot of hopefulness.

HENRY: I came here a low self esteem, super-morbidly obese, angry morbid teenager barely making it through life. Being here is one of the hardest things I have ever done and my success is one of my greatest accomplishments. I was one of the biggest people in the world. Not many people live older than their 20s who are as big as I was. People thought that even the idea of me losing this much weight was so absurd, it was fallacy. I proved them wrong, though.

TUCHMAN: He paid tribute to his new girlfriend.

HENRY: You have let me over come my fears about relationships and taught me to love again.

TUCHMAN: And then, gave his final words as an Academy of the Sierras student.

HENRY: The secret to success is never give up. Believe in yourself. And you will move mountains.

TUCHMAN: Terry Henry will resume his education at a regular boarding school in New Hampshire. His new life is now underway. Hundreds of pounds lighter, infinitely happier. Gary Tuchman, CNN, Reedley, California.