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1. Mission Statement

Teen Challenge of the Midlands provides **HOPE** in Christ, **HELP** for hurting people, and **FREEDOM** from addiction.

- We reach out to those with life controlling addictions and care for them in our residential centers.
- We assist local churches, regardless of affiliation, in establishing and operating support ministries for hurting people and families in their congregations and communities.
- We encourage society around us by delivering first-hand presentations of lives that have been changed.

2. History

David Wilkerson, author of the best seller, “The Cross and the Switchblade,” founded Teen Challenge in 1958. Today there are more than 150 Teen Challenge centers in the United States, and 250 worldwide, including Teen Challenge of the Midlands, which began in Omaha in 1977.

3. Philosophy

Teen Challenge is a Christian discipleship program helping people understand that God created them and wants to have a personal relationship with them. A student who is rooted and established in their relationship with the God who created them will be successful in dealing with life’s issues, including drug addiction.

4. Funding

Churches of all denominations and individuals from many walks of life support this program. The cost of most treatment facilities excludes those who need the services or rely upon taxpayers to “foot the bill”. Teen Challenge is a privately funded tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization that offers its services to students who need help without receiving government funding.

5. Duration of program

Students are with Teen Challenge for 13 months. The first 9 months they are in for their Induction and Training Phases. The last 4 months of the program is called the Re-entry phase. The following is a break down of each phase of the program:

- **Phase 1. (2 months)**

The beginning of the discipleship process involves two months of foundational Bible study and character development. Student attends classes, work detail, volunteers and attends church.

- **Phase 2. (4 months)**

Discipleship process continues, student may begin to take on more leadership roles within the program. Student also begins to build mentor relationships.

- **Phase 3. (3 months)**

Needed life skills such as proper work habits, parenting, budgeting, and resume building are added during this three-month phase. Begin to look at next steps; continuing education, employment, career opportunities.

- **Phase 4. (4 months)**

This four-month phase involves assistance in finding suitable employment, and vibrant church fellowship in a local congregation of their choice.

6. Educational Opportunities

Iowa has been labeled the Methamphetamine Capitol of the world and additional services are needed.

Students who have not received their high school diploma or GED are required to obtain their GED. Partnering with Des Moines Area Community College and Pella Public Schools, Teen Challenge staff oversee study and preparation. Students will earn their GED certificate prior to advancing to the Re-entry phase of the program. Through the class, homework, and pre-testing, students complete their GED while they are in the Teen Challenge program.

We also provide a Reading Enhancement program for students. This program begins with diagnostic testing administered to all students upon entrance into the Teen Challenge program. Students needing assistance receive remedial help with reading and writing as needed.