

Teen Challenge Update

August 2005



Excitement Grows for the 2005 Stanbrough/Teen Challenge Golf Marathon!

Activity and excitement for the September 20, 2005 Golf Marathon continue to build daily! Dan Stanbrough of Stanbrough Development in Des Moines has signed on to underwrite all expenses for this event, allowing all proceeds to go directly to support the operating expenses of the Teen Challenge ministry!

Once again, Van Harden of WHO's Van & Bonnie show is the Promotional Chair for the Golf Marathon. His media position has greatly increased awareness and visibility

for Teen Challenge of the Midlands! What a HUGE blessing for the ministry!

Show your support for Teen Challenge through your participation in this great event. Call 1-800-596-1706 to get information on how to raise pledges and golf that day! You may also call this number to make a donation for the Stanbrough/Teen Challenge Golf Marathon. Go to our website at www.tcmid.org, or listen to WHO Radio at 1040 on your AM dial to learn more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Intake Coordinator by email at: info@tcmid.org
Visit our website at: www.tcmid.org

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It's growing out of our ears!

Our corn field and garden are bigger than ever this year, and we are reaping the benefits! The expression, "We have corn growing out of our ears," has been very relevant here at Teen Challenge recently. With a 75 x 100 foot field full of sweet corn, we will eat fresh corn on the cob for weeks this summer, and what we can't eat we will blanch and store in the freezer. The truck loads of corn that are donated every summer along with the crop from our field will last us the entire year.

With beautiful weather and skilled gardeners (our students), we have been blessed with a great harvest of fresh vegetables as well. We've eaten fresh peas, green beans, zucchini, watermelon, cabbage, and there is much more to come!

The harvest from the corn field and our garden are a great blessing to us every year. This is just one way that we are able to supply the needs of our centers. As you know, Teen Challenge of the

Midlands is mostly run on donations from individuals, churches, and businesses. We depend greatly on the benevolence of our donors to feed our student body and staff family.



At this time, our kitchen's greatest needs are cheese (both cheddar and mozzarella), beef, chicken, fish, aluminum foil, napkins, and 60 gallon trash can liners. If you are able to help us in any way, please contact Brian Near at 515-674-3713 ext. 211.

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

I was born in northwest Indiana, and I have two older brothers. My parents are loving and caring people and are still together to this day. My father always provided for our family, and I had almost everything I ever wanted. I was an honor student and an athlete in high school and college, and I had what it took to be successful in the world. But, there was just something missing. When I went to college at Indiana University, I decided to join a fraternity. I began to try to fill the void I had in my life by binge drinking. I was receiving large checks for my schooling and rent, and I came up with an idea that I thought would be brilliant. I figured since I was living with 30 guys who bought marijuana at an increased price, and since I had a good, cheap drug connection, I would start a little "business". So, with very little to no risk of getting caught by the police, I began buying pounds of marijuana and dealing it. I was making \$500-\$600 a week. It was then that the real problems began. With the name I had made for myself, I was meeting other dealers who wanted me to move their products. Thus, I was introduced to an assortment of pills, LSD, mushrooms, ecstasy, cocaine, and heroin. I thought everything was going great: I was making a lot of money, I had girlfriends, I had lots of friends, I could pay someone to help me out with classes I didn't attend. I didn't seem to have a care in the world. But, what I thought would be a never-ending party came to a halt when I realized that I no longer wanted to drink and use drugs. I began using crack cocaine when I was 18, and by the time I wanted to quit I was 24. I had developed a serious craving and addiction that just could not be fulfilled. I hated it. I wanted to do what was right, but instead, I did the very thing I grew to hate: drugs. I could see that I was out of control and the damage it was causing in my body and in my life.

I had graduated from college by this time and stopped selling drugs, but I could not stop using. I had a good job and decided rehab was the place I needed to be if I was going to quit using cocaine.



While I was in rehab I met a man who was addicted to heroin. He introduced me to injecting heroin and to the gangs on the south side of Chicago. The heroin was cheap, and at first it didn't seem to be nearly as bad as crack. I found some clientele to sell the heroin to, and I was back in a drug dealer position. I was selling \$200-\$600 worth of heroin a day and using the equivalent in crack and heroin. I eventually started overdosing and was sure I was going to die. I overdosed probably ten times. It is only by God's mercy and grace that I am even alive today. My mother told me of a dream she had. She said she was in a funeral home walking up to a casket, and inside the casket, she saw me wearing my favorite green suit. I broke down. I just could not deal with what my life had become. I will never forget that day when I instinctively cried out to God, and He answered my prayer.

God used my Christian brother as a vessel to show me this place called Teen Challenge. I just knew it was where I needed to be. I came to Teen Challenge six months ago, and my life is forever changed! God created us to live in relationship with Him and for us to do His will, not our own. My will had gotten me to a place in my life where I was in desperate need of change, and if I didn't change, I was going to end up in prison or dead. By living in relationship, I have been freed from my addictions. God is working on the parts of my life that lead me to the alcohol and drugs. I have learned that God will take all the deep hurts and pain that I was trying to escape from by using drugs. I was placing my trust in others, drugs, women, sex, money, and many other material things when what I should have been putting my trust in was God. God has a plan for us all and it is not for disaster like I was living. God wants to give us all a future and a hope. If you look for God, you will find him, and if you pray, He will listen. He will put to rest your captivity and allow you to live in freedom.