

Teen Challenge Update

February 2007

For all the Pigs and Pumpkin Pies

There are many different people, churches, and organizations that help Teen Challenge of the Midlands in countless different ways. Not only do we receive financial gifts throughout the year, but we receive numerous non-cash gifts as well. We are blessed beyond measure!

This year alone, we've received gifts such as new mattresses for our Colfax and Pella centers, lofts for interns, meat donations for our Omaha center, tires, brakes, and motor oil for vehicles, paper products, two basketball hoops at an amazing discount, trees, lumber materials, supplies and discounts for our porch portico project, and the list goes on. This past

summer a man gave his time leveling our new activity field. One individual sold two houses and gave us the proceeds! A local mechanic donated work on the TC bus. Ladies from Prairie City make home-baked cakes throughout the year and pies for our big holiday meals. Businesses and farmers donate milk, bread items, potatoes, onions, eggs, sweet corn, bakery items, and more! Sysco donates numerous goods such as canned items, paper products, and cleaning supplies. One individual drives an hour to Colfax every week to hem or repair clothing for students and staff and make quilts for us to sell.

Glad Tidings Church in Omaha gave money to pour a new concrete driveway for our Re-Entry center, and many of our materials were purchased at discount prices. A Des Moines group sends encouragement cards to staff every month. MAPS RVers come year after

year to help with projects around the campuses. Volunteers host the Cursillo weekend every year. We are always encouraged by the donations we receive for prizes for the Annual Golf Marathon, and by the enormous help that Van Harden and Bonnie Lucas of WHO

Radio donate through advertisements and broadcasting the event live during their morning program.

We have a great group of business men and women in the area who do a lot behind the scenes, contributing financially, giving advice, and acting as a sounding board for new ideas.

Every year staff, staff families, and students are blessed by First Assembly of God in Des Moines and Point of Grace Church in Waukee with Christmas gifts galore! This year a group of family and friends in Omaha blessed our Re-Entry staff and students with Christmas gifts as well. One individual gives the children of our staff cash gifts for Christmas year after year. And before Christmas ever comes, AmSam donates through their "Christmas in September" program.

No matter how big or small, every gift is so appreciated! Teen Challenge of the Midlands would never be able to run without the generosity of the men, women, churches, businesses, and organizations that bless us year after year. Whether a financial gift, a gift of time, or a non-cash donation, Teen Challenge is extremely grateful for every blessing we receive throughout the year. THANK YOU SO MUCH!



Pouring concrete for Omaha driveway

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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Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

My childhood was void of a father due to his battle with alcoholism. This void in my life caused many self-esteem issues. I never thought I was good enough to excel in much of anything, let alone develop good relationships with people. I stayed to myself and did not let many people into my life for fear of how my peers would perceive my home life.

Compared to other people's lives, I thought my home situation was awkward. My mother worked hard and kept me planted in church. I soon loved going to church because I developed real relationships with people and had good friends. At the age of 14, we moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. Here, I eventually developed great friends in school but outside of school I had a separate lifestyle. I got involved with the wrong group and started shoplifting. This road eventually led me to juvenile detention. It came as a shock to most of my classmates because I was living a double-life. Most of my teachers gave me grace that semester, and I went on to graduate the following year.

After graduation, I got a decent job and thought things were looking up for me. However, I believed that drinking and partying were the only ways to acceptance. I remember telling my mother that I would never use drugs or drink alcohol; these were just empty promises. I soon got heavily involved with the nightclub scene. I developed many relationships and fictitious friends, and I got involved behind the scenes of the nightclubs spinning records and selling drugs. I believed that I was on top of the world.

I thought I had everything I ever longed for, until I met my worst nightmare and closest friend: opiate addiction. We were inseparable. Several times I would try to leave, but she kept calling back. This lifestyle started as a friendly game, but it led to serious consequences. I saw my girlfriend overdose, I saw my friends desert me, I watched it eat away my

finances and strip away every worldly possession I had. This relationship also sent me to jail on two occasions. I was lost in the wilderness, with no place to go, and no one to turn to.

In April of 2006 I found a home in Teen Challenge of the Midlands. Almost the moment I stepped

through the doors, I gained victory over the addiction, however, I still held onto certain areas of my life. After four months, my unwillingness to leave everything at the cross finally caught up with me, and I left the program. I thought I could enter right back into life, but it was no longer fun to party, and I constantly had a deep conviction. My music and the hopes and dreams I had no longer seemed important. A month after leaving the program, I

answered God's call and came back to Teen Challenge.

The private drive that leads to the Colfax campus has a road sign that ironically reads, "Dead End." This has been anything but a dead end for me. Through this ministry God has filled the void I had in my heart since I was a child. God has done so many things for me. He has delivered me from the enemy's grasp, stripped away my old nature, and has clothed me with a new self that is constantly being renewed in His image. I have lost my desire for my own will, and have replaced it with a desire to seek Him. I still want success in my life, but I now realize that I am working for eternity, and not the rewards of men. God has shown me how to be the man I am supposed to be, and the man He has designed me to be. I have developed incredible people skills, and I have learned to face my problems head-on, instead of numbing them out like times past. More importantly I have the greatest gift of all: a Father. He is a Father who will guide me, a Father that will not forsake me, and a Father who is always listening. I say thank you to my Heavenly Father for intervening and forever changing my life.

