

Teen Challenge Update

November 2007

Portico More Than 90% Complete!

The Colfax porch portico is ALMOST completed!

After first tearing down the portico in 2004, we've been watching and waiting for the final unveiling. With the help of Brent Whitney of The Weitz Company, the basic concrete structure for the front wall of the portico was completed last fall. This spring, steel beams went up connecting the front wall to the main building and the roof was completed this summer.

The final phase of the construction is currently underway including a stucco finish to complete the look of the old Spanish-style portico.



Colfax's New Spanish-Style Portico

Thank you to Kevin Veir of Ames who donated all of the steel. Lumber for the roof was donated by Joel Goodman of Triton Homes. Beisser Lumber supplied much of the materials for these final phases, and Loren Steenhoek donated the stucco. Thank you to Ron Hayes and Trent Forest for your hard labor! Also, thank you to Joe Maher who poured all of the pots and new railing pieces to complete the look of the entire entryway.

The Portico is more than 90% complete and we're praying to have the project finalized before harsh weather comes our way.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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2007 Regional Conference

Teen Challenge of the Midlands was proud to host the Teen Challenge International North Central and Great Lakes Regional Conference on October 3-5. These two regions included Teen Challenge organizations from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, North & South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska. We fed the crew at our Colfax center Wednesday evening and held tours of our facilities following dinner. Joe Brummel, a Campus Chaplain at Pella, IA's Central College, ministered that evening in our chapel and shared a great message entitled, "Hey Jesus!"

Thursday and Friday's meetings were held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Moines.

Sessions were held throughout both days including sessions on Crisis Intervention, Aftercare Programs, Vehicle Donation Programs, and the Emerging Leaders Program. Our Regional Director, Warren Hunsberger, gave a wonderful devotion Friday morning on "Resting in Him," and the conference was wrapped up with a presentation by Mike Hodges, the National Teen Challenge President. Hodges updated the attendees on the national office and its vision for the future of Teen Challenge.

It was a privilege for us to host this year's conference. A big THANK YOU to all who were involved!

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

When I walked into Teen Challenge, I was very angry, hurt, and afraid. My life up until that point felt like one big ball of hurt. I grew up with loving parents who taught me about Christ. Whenever the church was open, we were there. I went to a Christian school, yet didn't really know who God was. I went through all the actions to please my parents and my mentors, but all along, I was dying inside. I wanted to be me, not the fake that I was, and I became very angry and depressed. My relationship with my family became strained. When I reached high school, I discovered guys, and my problems only increased with the immoral relationships that I found myself in. I would bounce between immoral relationships and then getting "right" with God. Finally, after I fell the fourth time, I called it quits with Christianity. I couldn't be fake anymore.



I moved out of my house before I finished high school, and met my first boyfriend who turned out to be a drug dealer. He introduced me to the world of alcohol and drugs where I found most of my comfort. I stopped talking to my parents and stopped going to church. After a year, I was an alcoholic and constantly high. I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and put on intense psych drugs. I was a mess and realized that something needed to change. I tried to leave the relationship but wasn't strong enough to stay away.

I got a call from my parents, asking me if I wanted to come over to get my mail. I went to see them, and they told me that the house I lived in was under police surveillance. They gave me the option of going home or moving to Austin, TX to live with my sister. I wanted out of the relationship that had turned abusive, so I decided to move to Austin. A few hours later, my parents put me on a plane with only the clothes I had on my back and my purse.

I got clean and started going to church again, but only because that's what everyone wanted. I got a job and met a guy at work. I became involved with him and started to drink again. The vicious cycle started all over. My boyfriend eventually broke up with me because of my drinking which made me turn to drugs and even heavier drinking. I couldn't do my job anymore because I was drunk or high so I quit without notice. The day I quit was the day I hit rock bottom. I called my mom out of desperation, admitting that I needed help and that I was ready to change for good. The next morning I was back on a plane and was headed for Teen Challenge in Pella, IA. When my parents left me at Teen Challenge, I felt abandoned and completely alone. I was so hurt and angry at the world and at God. I felt that not only had God taken everything else away, He had taken my family away, too.

I was emotionally, physically, and spiritually broken. As soon as I came to that place where I couldn't take another step without God, He began to work in me and change my heart. I still had a wrong view of who God is. I started asking God to show me who He really was. In counseling one day, God showed me that He is a loving, jealous God, that hurts when I hurt; He's full of mercy and grace and unconditional love. Once I realized this, my eyes were opened. I started getting my conscience back, and I yearned to be a better person. I hated who I had become, and I started taking steps to change. I felt my burdens lifted off, little by little. Now I know that God is my creator and that He loves me unconditionally. I still have so much to learn and much to be healed of, but God has given me a hope for the future. I know He is beside me, taking every step with me and that He will give me His strength and comfort when I feel I've reached my limits. I praise God for what He has done, what He is doing, and everything He is going to do.