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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. Success

Surveys show that most treatment facilities have results as low as 5% rehabilitation. But a study sponsored by the department of Health, Education and Welfare showed that one program had an 86% success rate with a group of heroin addicts seven years after completion. That program is Teen Challenge, a program that offers REAL HOPE.

5. 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.

6. Duration of program

Students are with Teen Challenge for 12 months. The first 7 months they are in Colfax, IA for their Induction and Training Phases. The last 5 months of the program is called the Re-entry phase. The following is a break down of each phase of the program:

- **Phase 1. (Outreach)**
We go directly to people hurt-on the street and in jail or prison. We offer substance abuse programs in schools, drop-in counseling, literature, and other education efforts.
- **Phase 2. (Crisis Intervention)**
People with life-controlling problems are given a place to live to meet the immediate crisis. We meet their physical needs and love them with the love of Christ. They are evaluated to determine if they need or desire our long-term discipleship training.
- **Phase 3. (Induction)**
The beginning of the discipleship process involves five months of foundational Bible study and character development.
- **Phase 4. (Training)**
Needed life skills such as proper work habits, parenting, budgeting, and resume building are added during this two-month phase. We have job training and classes in construction.
- **Phase 5. (Re-entry)**
This five-month phase involves assistance in finding suitable employment, and vibrant church fellowship in a local congregation of their choice.

7. Educational Opportunities

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

In addition to expanding the student capacity from 32 to 60, Teen Challenge of the Midlands has hired a Dean of Student Affairs and has already begun a formalized training program. This program will allow us to do a better job of helping students leave the program with the life skills needed to be productive members of society.

Students receive credit from the National Center for Construction Education and Research with curriculum on Construction and Maintenance after they attend lectures from certified instructors.

Core Construction

- Power & Hand Tools
- Math
- Safety
- Rigging
- Blueprints

Carpentry

- Orientation to the Trade
- Wood Building Materials, Fasteners and Adhesives
- Hand and Power Tools
- Floor Systems
- Wall and Ceiling Framing
- Roof Framing
- Windows and Exterior Doors

In combination with classroom study, the students also receive on-the-job training.

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 Colfax- Mingo 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.

8. Wives Ministry

Part of helping our students includes reaching out to their families. The wives of our married students have the opportunity to be disciples, along with their husbands, through our Wives Ministry. Ongoing contact with staff provides a support system that the wives can depend on while their husbands are in the Teen Challenge program. Every three months, the wives are invited to come and participate in a weekend set up to minister to their specific needs. During the weekend, guest speakers address issues that apply both to the couple, and to each individual woman.