

Teen Challenge Update

August 2006

Coming Soon: A Porch Portico Near You!

The first concrete was poured this month as reconstruction continues to make progress on the historic Spanish-style porch portico on the front of the Colfax Induction and Training Center.

As age and weather took their toll on the



more than 100-year-old lobby entrance the original portico began to lean and despite our efforts to brace and shore it up, we made the decision to tear it down more than two years ago.

Now, after much hard work, we are seeing the beginning of its restoration. Praise the Lord!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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One Month to 9th Annual Golf Marathon



September 20th is coming quickly and that means the 9th Annual Stanbrough/Teen Challenge Golf Marathon is right around the corner! Our golfers are rounding up their pledges and getting ready to swing and sweat through around 100 holes at this year's new venue, Willow Creek Golf Course. The course, located in West Des Moines, will

be bustling all day long starting early with WHO Radio's "Van & Bonnie Show." The live broadcast will begin at 4:55a.m. and the golfers will hit the holes at sunrise. We will also be hosting a car wash at Willow Creek.

If you'd like to know how you can golf in the Golf Marathon or if you'd like to find out how to financially support Teen Challenge in this event, please contact Merv Roth at m.roth@tcmid.org or call 515-674-3713 x256.



Van Harden golfing for last year's Marathon

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

Growing up our family went to church pretty regularly. I do remember different times at church when I felt God's presence, but I thought being a Christian only meant that you were good and didn't sin. I didn't understand that you could have a relationship with God. There were many times when I felt God speaking to my heart that I needed to change my life, but I would always ignore it. I knew if I chose to accept Christ I would have to give up basically everything that I knew, and even though I felt a tug on my heart I still did not see my need for God.

Five years ago the destructive lifestyle I had been living finally caught up with me. I had lost my home, my job, had dropped out of college, and after a long time of staying one step ahead of the police my friends and I were arrested for manufacturing methamphetamine. After being bailed out of jail I lived in my mom's basement for the two months before I went to Teen Challenge. It was the worst time of my life. I desperately wanted to get high to escape my thoughts. I couldn't cope with the reality of my situation. I felt as if my whole world had fallen out from underneath me. I couldn't sleep at night, I would just lie there all night with my mind racing. I remember wanting to pray to God to ask Him to help me sleep, but I didn't know how to reach Him.

One night I rummaged through my mom's books and found an old Bible study of hers. The first chapter talked about asking for forgiveness for your sins, and it said that if you didn't know where to start, to read Psalm 51. I read it over

and over and asked for God's forgiveness. It was after that God gave me peace, and I could fall asleep without the torturous thoughts. Not long after this night I packed up what little I had and left for Teen Challenge in Minnesota hoping that somehow this program would be able to help me out of my misery.



*Beth Hunsberger, Executive Secretary,
with husband, Isaac.*

Going to Teen Challenge helped me to finally say, "yes" to the tug I felt on my heart. I was able to walk away from my old life and focus on God and developing a relationship with Him.

I graduated from Minnesota Teen Challenge in 2002 and did a six-month internship in their admissions department. After my internship, I heard about a job opening at the Teen Challenge in Iowa. I really wanted to move back home but I was fearful about moving back to the area where I had previously

been caught up in drugs. Despite my trepidation, a couple of months later I made the transition back to Iowa and was given the job of secretary to the Executive Director.

The past three years here at Teen Challenge have been very rewarding. God has given me a wonderful husband, a new home, and hope for the future. My husband and I are expecting our first child in January and are looking forward to raising our family here. I consider it a privilege to live and work in a place where God is changing lives everyday. I am anxiously awaiting the opening of the new women's facility in Pella. I know first hand that there are women all over the state of Iowa that are in need of a program like Teen Challenge.