

Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

December, 2008

AQ Allstate Pest Control Detective



Brand and Nancy

Throughout the years, Teen Challenge of the Midlands has implemented several work study programs to allow students to earn certifications in specific disciplines. In

addition to the positive benefits of earning the certification, students are better positioned for employment after Teen Challenge. One of the certifications offered is a State of Iowa Pest Control Applicator's license. That's right... we teach our guys how to kill stuff to better equip them for their future. A.Q. Allstate Pest Control owners and operators, Brad and Nancy Janssen volunteer their time to teach and prepare students for certification in this field.

Brad has been with A.Q. Allstate since they began 21 years ago and he and Nancy bought the company in 2002. There are 35 Pest Control Companies in the greater Des Moines area and A.Q. All State is ranked in the top ten.

They recently added a new member to their team, Abby the Certified Canine Detection Dog! Abby is incredibly reliable and effective... she's even court acknowledged. Certified canine detection dogs are recognized in court as a scientific instrument (US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals). Abby's expertise is in Bed Bug detection. Bed Bug dogs demonstrate accuracy in the 90th percentile, compared to an experienced pest management technician, who averages in the 30th percentile of accuracy. A canine can clear a hotel room in 2-5 minutes while their human counterpart takes an hour or two! A dog's "odor image" is much more detailed than a human's perception of a photograph! For example, from a single drop of

urine, a dog can identify another dog's sex, diet, health, emotional state and even if the dog is friend or foe, dominant or submissive. Dogs have a documented olfactory range from tens of parts per billion to 500 parts per trillion (Auburn University - Institute for Biological Detection Systems). Dogs can easily discriminate between ten odor types.



Abby

Abby was rescued from an animal shelter in Louisville, KY where her time was running very short. She was soon to be euthanized. Bill Whitstine from the Florida Canine Academy acquired her and took her to his training facility. A Certified Master Trainer, Bill has over 15 years experience training bomb, arson, drug, mold, termite and other specialized detection dogs. He's currently training dogs for the U.S. Fish and Wild Life service to detect Indigo snakes and Sea Turtle eggs. Bill has been featured on The Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, Newsweek, MSNBC, and Extreme Makeover Home Edition.

The "Nose" is the latest trend in the home/apartment/office inspection industry. This is the only inspection tool that can detect and pinpoint sources of bedbugs. Man's best friend has been used for years by the military & law enforcement agencies to detect bombs, drugs, etc. Brad, Nancy, and Abby are a tremendous gift to the advancement of this ministry as well as the continual discipleship of our men.

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace



Paul

After years of alcohol abuse and ignoring what God's plan was for my life I finally accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and friend in November 2007. God's plan of redemption for me was orchestrated through people who were well saved that I happened to come across while I was walking the streets in Wisconsin, some of whom I haven't seen in 20 years. They stopped me and asked if I would help them do some work on a building they were renovating for a ministry. I couldn't believe they asked me! I was completely broken, a total wreck. I had no job or a place to live. I could have really cared less about life in general. But I said yes, and the next day I started working for Brick Ministries.

All of these volunteers were so happy and content and just had a genuine love for life. It was hard for me to grasp at first. They ate with me, worked with me, and talked to me a lot. Pretty soon I was helping them out

every day of the week.

My life started to change from that moment on. I know God put these people in my path to reveal Himself to me and to save my life from destruction. I listened to what they had to say, and knew that I needed to follow God's instructions or I would be lost and hopeless for the rest of my life, and more importantly all of eternity.

A pastor who I went to High School with told me about Teen Challenge. He told me how though God's word and the teachings of Jesus Christ we can turn from our sins and become children of God. And live not in shame but in the light of the Holy Spirit. Two weeks after our conversation I was in the Milwaukee Teen Challenge. After the first phase of the program in Milwaukee I transferred to Teen Challenge of the Midlands in Colfax, IA. Since being here I've learned that I don't have to be concerned with my old "self", because I know Jesus has forgiven me of my sins. I'm not who I used to be. Now I can live in His glory.

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace



Brandon

For most of my life I've tried to live my life according to my standards. I grew up in a Christian home but I didn't fully understand how to be a Christian or what that meant. I thought that Christians all walked, talked, and dressed the same; I thought that you had to be perfect.

In high school I was a fairly straight laced kid. I excelled athletically and kept good grades. I worked hard in sports and was very driven to play college ball. However, along the way I forget where my talents had come from and put God in the back seat.

I ended up earning and accepting a Division - 1 scholarship to the University of Alabama as well as receiving scholarships from a handful of other Division - 1 schools around the country. I played football in the fall and baseball in the spring for the University of Alabama. I thought I had it made. That's when it all started to come crashing down.

I started drinking, using drugs, and getting involved in the party scene. After almost two years at the University of Alabama my life started to fall apart. In a three month period I failed three drug tests and was released from both the football and baseball teams. I was disgusted with myself and ashamed of my ac-

tions. I was a hometown recruit so the embarrassment was overwhelming. I wouldn't even go out into the public because of the fear that someone might recognize me. This all led to more drugs, more alcohol, and more immoral relationships. I was trying to fix the problems myself.

Before I knew it I was selling drugs to support my habit. I got arrested twice on felony drug related charges. I was put on probation for two years. That didn't stop me at all. I caught another two or three charges while on probation and was facing five years in state prison. When I went before the judge he saw no reason to give me another chance, I didn't think that I was going to get one either, but the Lord intervened. In court I ended up speaking in my own defense. I could feel the Holy Spirit speak through me.

After only two months in county jail I was sent to Teen Challenge. Since I've been here God has started to transform me into the man that He created me to be. He's given me vision of great things to come in my future. God's also instilled in me the hope that I've always been looking for. He's restored relationships that have been broken in my life through His Love. Overall the Lord has given me purpose to live for Him! He fills the void in my heart that I've been looking for.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach our Admissions Director by email at: i.hunsberger@tcmid.org

Visit our website at: www.tcmid.org

You can reach our other Midlands centers at:

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1709 10th St.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515.282.5249

Pella Women's Home
714 Independence St.
Pella, IA
50219-1828
641.628.2808

Teen Challenge of Nebraska
2916 N. 58th St.
Omaha, NE 68104
402.551.2322