



The Challenger

June, 2004

The Women of Teen Challenge of the Midlands

Many times it is easy to forget that Teen Challenge of the Midlands is made up of a lot of men AND women. While our student body is male, many important women are in the background helping to make sure that Teen Challenge runs smoothly. We wanted to introduce you to some of these women so that you have a better idea of what all it takes to keep Teen Challenge up and running!

There are quite of few women on our staff:

Jennifer Ridgway heads up our Wives Ministry and is also in charge of GED/Reading Enhancement classes. Dawn Schenemen is Jennifer's assistant, and together, they do a tremendous job of ministering to the wives of our students. Both Jennifer and Dawn are also full-time wives and mothers themselves, so they have a lot on their plate!

Gretchen Good is Teen Challenge of the Midlands' Accounting Manager. She has worked at Teen Challenge for just over 11 years, which makes her our senior employee! Gretchen started as our office manager before settling into her current position. Many of us at Teen Challenge joke that she is the main person that keeps us going, but

joking aside, we could not do it without her!

Beth Welch, Sarah Hunsberger, and Megan Hunsberger make up our administrative staff. Beth is Warren Hunsberger's Executive Secretary is and also over our Nutty Bavarian sales. Sarah is the Teen Challenge receptionist, as well as Bob Larson's administrative assistant. She also puts together all publications. Megan is the newest member of the administrative team. She joined us in February as Megan Nolan, but just this month married Teen Challenge's Construction Coordinator, Michael Hunsberger! Megan works in both the admissions and education departments, and she is doing a great job of getting all of us organized!



Gay Hunsberger is our Food Service Manager and does a wonderful job of keeping us all fed. She plans weekly menus for an average of 70 people a meal! We definitely appreciate all the work that Gay puts into the kitchen.

Not only is our staff made up of many women, but we would sorely miss all of the female volunteers that constantly help us. Here are just a few:

Jan Beal is on our Board, and gives tirelessly of her time, finances and resources. We so appreciate all the different ways that Jan serves Teen Challenge of the Midlands and are blessed to have her work alongside of us.

Helen Jansen and Wanda Anthony come every week to work in the Teen Challenge quilt shop.

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SET FREE! -- A Testimony of Hope

My name is Jason. I am 29 years old and I grew up in a loving, Christian home. I spent a good number of years destroying my life with drugs, alcohol, and pornography, but that is not who I am now. I am a son of the Most High God. He is my Father and He is my Lord.

I grew up in the pacific northwest, raised with my brother by our mother. She did a wonderful job, more than most single parents have done, I am sure. Unfortunately, there are some things a mother cannot be, namely a father. My father has been in prison for most of my life, and so unattached from my development.

I had a very low self-esteem when I was young, causing me to reach out to others, desperate for validation and identity. Because of this, I felt I had no courage to stand up against and denounce the obviously detrimental lifestyles of my peers, for fear of them rejecting me. As a result of this, I became a chameleon, subject to change my own self to please others around me.

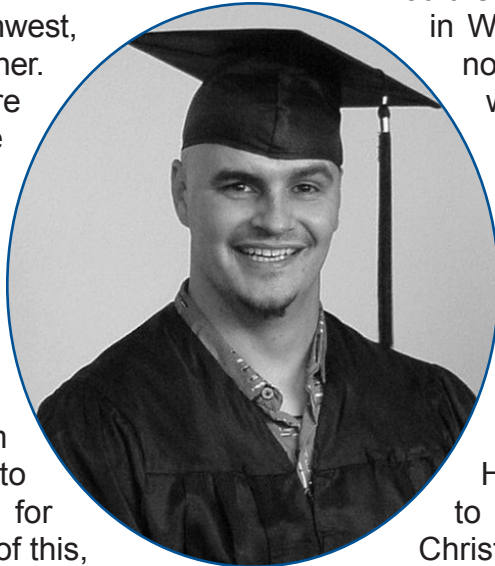
My first and last drug was pornography. It held me in bondage from the first exposure at the age of 13. That was not the only bondage in my life,

and I became addicted to drugs and alcohol shortly after that and culminated with an overdose to methamphetamine in 2000.

On November 28, 2000, I joined Teen Challenge of the Midlands, terrified that if this did not work I would soon die. I had been in a program in Washington state in 1999, but had not finished. I was a wreck all the way around, but I believed that God could save me!

I spent 22 months in Teen Challenge of the Midlands, 16 in Colfax and six in Omaha, and by His grace I am a different man. God used the tool of Teen Challenge, the men and women who give their lives to Him, to first give me hope and then to train me as a disciple of Jesus Christ. This has not made me perfect and without sin, but it has freed me from bondage. I have not "arrived," but I will! By His wonderful grace, I will!

Jason was one of three students that graduated on June 12, 2004. He is currently residing in Washington and working as a plumber's apprentice. Praise the Lord for the mighty work He has done in Jason's life. Glory to God!



Congratulations Class of 2004

*Jason Webb
Cleveland Roberson
Doug Heilesen*

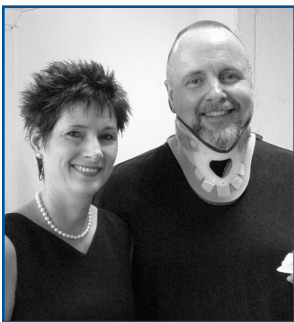


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Not only do they make quilts to sell to support Teen Challenge, but they also mend our clothing, upholster furniture for our guest rooms, and bring in clothing and other miscellaneous donations. They do beautiful work and we love having them as part of our family.



Mary Hays is a behind-the-scenes volunteer for Teen Challenge of the Midlands. Mary heads up a ministry specifically designed to encourage and uplift our students and staff. Every week we can be sure to find a little note of encouragement to brighten our day. Mary and her husband have also blessed our students by having them over for dinner and fellowship before they leave for re-entry in Omaha. They are here almost every Saturday working in one capacity or another. Mary is a wonderful gift to us here at Teen Challenge and her servant's heart is a HUGE blessing to us all.



We also could not be an effective ministry without the help of staff wives that support their husbands and the Teen Challenge program. Thank you, Lord, for Kristin Schroeder, Judy Aubuchon, Diane Larson, and Denise Cohen. We love you all!

As you can very well tell, Teen Challenge of the Midlands is more than just a program for men. Women are a HUGE aspect of keeping this ministry effective, and we could not do it without them.

*“Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies.*

*The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her so
that he shall have no need of spoil.*

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

*She seeketh wool, and flax,
and worketh willingly with her hands.*

*She is like the merchants' ships;
she bringeth her food from afar.*

*She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to
her household, and a portion to her maidens.*

*She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit
of her hands she planteth a vineyard.*

*She girdeth her loins with strength,
and strengtheneth her arms.*

*She perceiveth that her merchandise is good:
her candle goeth not out by night.*

*She layeth her hands to the spindle,
and her hands hold the distaff.*

*She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;
yea she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.*

*She is not afraid of the snow for her household:
for all her household are clothed with scarlet.*

*She maketh herself coverings of tapestry;
her clothing is silk and purple.*

*Her husband is known in the gates,
when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*

*She maketh fine linen, and selleth it;
and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.*

*Strength and honor are her clothing;
and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

*She openeth her mouth with wisdom;
and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*

*She looketh well to the ways of her household,
and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

*Her children arise up, and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praiseth her.*

*Many daughters have done virtuously,
but thou excellest them all.*

*Beauty is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that
feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.*

*Give her of the fruit of her hands;
and let her own works praise her in the gates.”*

Proverbs 31:10-31



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Helping People Who Hurt



The Living Stones performing for our Celebration Weekend

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