



Summer Brings Several Work Projects

Good weather has arrived, and here at Teen Challenge of the Midlands, we are ready for summer! With summer comes many new work projects, both inside and out. Not only do we need people who are willing to give financially, but Teen Challenge also needs individuals who are gifted in construction, landscaping, decorating, and quilting, just to name a few. Now is the time to put your talent to work. To give you an idea of some of the projects we will be working on this summer, we've highlighted a few of the major ones. If you are interested in helping, please contact Roger McKim at our Colfax Center.

With the successful completion of our first work-study house, we are excited to work on two new sites this summer.



Our Spring St. house before demolition

When we acquired our Spring St. house, the dilapidated structure was beyond renovating. We have since completely demolished the house and will be building a brand-new home.



Lincoln house before construction

We started on our Lincoln house last summer, and during the winter we were able to get our plans in order (pricing, subcontractors, etc.). The house has been completely gutted on the inside, and this summer, we will begin construction.



A volunteer work-crew helped gutt the Lincoln house.

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We have both a vegetable garden and sweet corn patch that will be needing maintenance throughout the summer. Not only will we need people who can weed and pick vegetables, but our kitchen can always use help with the canning and freezing.



Part of the Colfax vegetable garden

Our kitchen project is well underway, and our next step is to finish the new pantry area. Construction has already begun, and help is always welcome! Our new walk-in freezer and cooler have been such a blessing, and our cooks can't wait until the rest of the project is completed.



The kitchen's new pantry area under construction

Our guest rooms are getting makeovers, and we need your help. Some of our rooms have already been adopted by various church groups, but there are still more that need dire attention!

If you are interested in this project, please contact Gay Hunsberger at our Colfax center.



One of our guest rooms that needs remodeling

Some of our staff are living in temporary quarters while we renovate their homes. We are currently in the process of remodeling and renovating one of the apartments in our Colfax center.

Please keep us in prayer as we work on the many projects around our centers. We would love for you to drop in and see first-hand God's provisions!



The staff apartment currently under renovation

SET FREE! -- Teen Challenge Student Testimony

Most Teen Challenge students that come to our program start at our Colfax Center. But, we also have students that transfer from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Brookings, South Dakota. Michael is a transfer student, and he, along with other students coming from Brookings, go directly to Omaha from South Dakota. You have read many of our Colfax students' testimonies, but we thought it would be good to share with you from one of our transfer student's life.

My name is Michael. I am 25 years old and have a three-year old daughter named Makayla. I grew up in Max, North Dakota and as a child, spent most of my day working on the family farm and cleaning my father's shop. My father was always very abusive. He ruled our home with an iron fist. I remember running to hide when I knew he was coming up to the house from the shop. He was always mad about something and he took that out on our family. My life got even worse one day when I was 13 years old. My dad brought me into his office on the farm and told me that he and my mom were getting a divorce and that mom was moving to Minot, about 30 miles north of Max. I stayed with my dad for about two months, but then I moved to my mom's in Minot. I found myself trying to fit in with every different kind of crowd. In a family where my mom worked full-time just to pay the bills, it was kind of hard to hang out with the popular kids in school. I found



myself hanging out with the people that smoked cigarettes, drank, and were sexually immoral. I became addicted to marijuana, meth, and anything else I could get my hands on to fill the hole I had in my heart. I learned the hard way that you are who you hang out with. I eventually found myself at the age of 17 in jail for writing bad checks; roughly \$15,000 worth of checks were written in North Dakota. I spent 10 months behind bars. When I was released from jail, I went right back to the people I knew and after only a month, was back in jail with two felony charges. I served six months of a five-year sentence. After this time, I met my daughter's mother, and about a year later, Makayla was born. Her mother and I tried to build a lasting relationship, but it didn't work out and since I didn't know how to be a father, Makayla stayed with her mother. I continued to drink and use drugs and eventually life caught up with me. I found myself in front of a judge asking for mercy. My mom found out about a program called Teen Challenge. I showed the paperwork to my probation officer and only by the grace of God was able to come here. Since I have been in Teen Challenge I have given my life over to God and all that he has for me. I have forgiven my father for all he did to my family. I do my best to rely on God and trust in Him with all that I have.

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Helping People Who Hurt

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The inside of one our work-study houses before demolition