

Teen Challenge Update

May 2007

Merger Joins Effective Teen Challenge Ministries

Provides For Growth and Development to Existing Operations, Expansion Planned

A merger of two large Teen Challenge organizations, Teen Challenge of the Midlands in Iowa and Nebraska and Teen Challenge of the Southeast, headquartered in Columbus, Georgia, has been approved by the respective boards. Warren Hunsberger will continue to provide leadership for the Midwest region and also serve as Executive Director of the Teen Challenge International Ministry Institute (TCIMI) in Jacksonville, Florida. TCIMI currently trains Teen Challenge graduates to prepare them for Teen Challenge ministry.

"The decision to combine these two organizations was to more effectively minister to the needs of those who are afflicted with life-controlling issues and allow us to develop a greater platform for future opportunities," Hunsberger said.

Operating as a faith-based organization, Teen Challenge provides a 15-month faith-based residential program for adolescents and adults who struggle with life-controlling problems such as drug and alcohol addiction. Students are given a foundation based

on Christian principles and then assisted with beginning to put those principles into action.

The two organizations have the current capacity to serve nearly 1,100 individuals

with more than 225 staff members located in twenty-four locations. Current Midwest locations are in Colfax, Des Moines, and Pella, Iowa as well as Omaha, Nebraska. The organization recently opened a juvenile girls' facility in Kansas City, Missouri. Expansion plans are underway for a center in southern Missouri.

Nineteen sites are in operation in Florida and Georgia. Since 1991, the Florida and Georgia ministry has been under the direction of Jerry Nance, PhD who will head the new organization. His leadership has been significant in the development of the many lives that have been impacted by way of the programs now available.

Each location will be responsible to the community in which it is located with advisory board, staff and student involvement.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Visit our website at: www.tcmid.org

1709 10th St.
Des Moines, IA
50314
515.282.5249

900 N. League Rd.
PO Box 185
Colfax, IA 50054
ph. 515.674.3713
fax. 515.674.4463

714 Independence St.
Pella, IA
50219-1828
641.628.2808

2916 N. 58th St.
Omaha, NE 68104
402.551.2322



Warren Hunsberger, of Teen Challenge of the Midlands with Jerry Nance, PhD of Teen Challenge of the Southeast

Continued: Teen Challenge Merger

The director of each Midwest center is charged with raising needed funds and the administration of all local expenses. Donations to each local center will be used in those communities. Overall direction, planning and supervision of all center directors in the Midwest region will continue to be provided by Hunsberger. In addition, he will be relocating to the Jacksonville area to further develop the existing ministry institute. While continuing to train recent Teen Challenge graduates, Hunsberger's vision is to develop programs to serve present Teen Challenge staff and directors. Services will also be developed for leaders outside of the Teen Challenge network who desire to grow as servant leaders.

"We're appreciative of the leadership that has brought us to the point we are today. Dr. Nance



Every year TC students graduate and go on to change the world around them



TC Southeast's center in Jacksonville, FL

and his ministry team are true servant leaders. We're excited about enhancing what are already two quality ministry organizations. Obviously, much has already been accomplished in each. Our challenge is to expand our vision to be of service to more in need of the



TC of the Midlands ministers to hurting people in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri

unique ministry of Teen Challenge," Hunsberger offered. "The more you realize that lives are being restored and transformed by this ministry, the more you want to make sure that it has every possibility to be available for those in need.

Teen Challenge was started in 1961 as a Christ-centered, inter-denominational effort and



Students of TC of the Midlands

has numerous affiliate chapters around the world. The five phased process of service involves a) outreach, B) intervention, C) induction, D) training, and E) re-entry. A study funded by the federal government and performed by the National Institute of Drug Abuse documented an 86 percent success rate in a group of Teen Challenge graduates seven years after graduation. For more information, visit www.tcmid.org and www.teenchallenge.cc.