

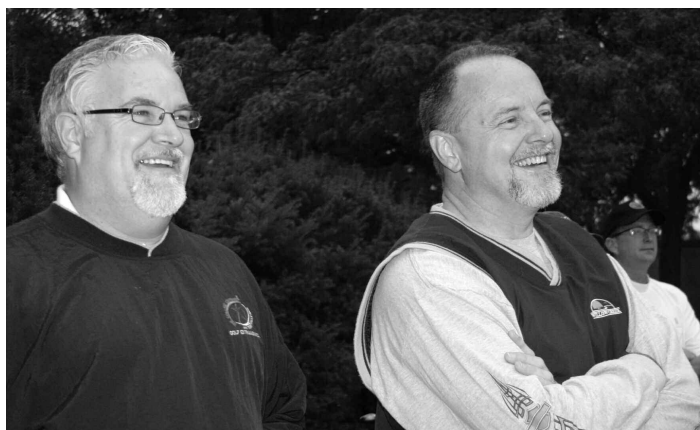


The Challenger

October, 2007

Golfers Raise More Money than Ever!

Outstanding food, 100 holes of golf, and weather improving by the hour: who could ask for more? This year's golf marathon was our biggest success yet with over \$116,000 raised to date! We had more golfers than ever before, and the total dollars raised was more than we've ever raised in a golf event. Mark Allen, of WHO Radio in Des Moines, helped to raise more than \$4200 in his closest-to-the-hole contest alone!



Jerry Nance, President/CEO and Warren Hunsberger, Regional Director, enjoy themselves at the marathon

Van and Bonnie of WHO Radio in Des Moines broadcast from the studio and joined our golfers at Willow Creek Golf Course immediately following their show. Van and Bonnie then rode through the golf course thanking our 67 golfers for their participation and taking pictures with them. We had 29 golfers that joined us



Golfers take a minute to pose with Van & Bonnie



Mark Allen, a sports announcer of WHO Radio with Colfax Executive Director, Bob Larson

from outside of Teen Challenge, 11 staff members, and 27 students from both our Omaha, NE, and Colfax, IA, campuses. Our students especially enjoyed getting their own golf cart for the day as most haven't been able to drive anything for quite some time!

We are anticipating an even bigger event next year with plans already underway to attract more golfers and more participants. A BIG thank you to all who participated. We can't do this without YOU!

(Please see the insert for a list of this year's sponsors.)

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SET FREE! – A Testimony of Hope

It is always humbling and exciting to see how God impacts and directs the lives of Teen Challenge students, and I unfortunately don't take the time to always acknowledge all that He has done through the course of my own life.

I grew up in a Christian home with parents who loved Jesus and emphasized having a relationship with Him.

I knew from a young age that He was the One I wanted to follow even though I had little understanding of all that would entail. My faith was not really tested until I entered college where several things shook what I thought was a "firm foundation." The shakeup shocked me. Like many other high school grads I thought that I had the world figured out, but that illusion quickly faded away. The reality was overwhelming, but I was able to turn to different people in my life who walked with me as I wrestled with questions and doubts. The entire process led

to a deepening of my own faith. It was a faith that was separate from my parents' "faith umbrella" I had lived under for so long. Throughout the rest of college I learned the value of living in community and fellowship. I also began to see more of the relevance of Christ in my life and in the entire world. Leading up to my senior year, I took an overseas missions trip that began to change my direction in life (although I wasn't aware of this at the time). As a follow-up, I attended a missions conference over my Christmas break where I felt God call me to missions. I stood up and committed two years of my life, not knowing where that might lead.

It wasn't until a year later that I heard about Teen Challenge through my sister. It was not long after starting that I began to fall in love with the ministry of Teen Challenge. Here was a place where the reality and relevance of Jesus was played out in lives everyday. Even though I had been a Christian most of my life, I had never seen the consistent and dramatic transformation of lives so vividly. It was humbling and challenging. I found that I could not just talk the

Christian walk, but it had to be my life at the center and at home. I committed two years to Minnesota Teen Challenge, but soon found myself going on five years and not looking to be anywhere else. Life was good: I loved my life, I loved my community and life outside of work, and I loved the city.

Then I received a phone call from a friend who worked with Teen Challenge of the Midlands. She shared about the progress of the women's home in Pella, IA and asked me if I had any interest in returning to the area (I went to college at Central in Pella). My answer was a direct and immediate, "No." For some reason this did not deter her and before I knew it I was on the phone with Warren Hunsberger talking about taking a position with the women's home. My stomach churned, my brain went a little numb, and as we got off the phone I said I would pray about it because I was a "good

Christian." I already knew my answer, even though I knew that God was calling me, I still would say no. The next month I tried to justify my answer and pretend I didn't hear His voice. It was actually the words of a Teen Challenge student that finally woke me up to the reality of the choice I had to make. I could say "Yes" to what God was asking or say "No." It seems like such an easy choice, yet it was another two weeks before I finally called Warren and told him "Yes."

It has now been almost a year since I left Minnesota and although I have times of wanting to return, I know that I am where God wants me to be. I am learning a new reliance and trust in God that I have never known, and finding that it is a necessity for my life, not a luxury. It seems that every weakness has been exposed in this new place, and I am finding the truth of celebrating the weaknesses because God has a great way of showing up. The Women's Center has been open for almost three months now, and God has already begun making changes in the lives of women here, myself being one of them. As I enter this next year, I look forward to seeing what God can accomplish.



Candace Wilson, Executive Director, Pella, IA

A Season of Change is Upon Us

Warren Hunsberger and his family have officially transitioned to Jacksonville, Florida, where Warren is serving as Executive Director for Teen Challenge International Ministry Institute. TCIMI trains men and women who have a calling of God on their life to be in full-time ministry. Most of the students are Teen Challenge graduates and over 70 alumni are actively working in Teen Challenge centers in over 30 locations nationwide and in the Caribbean. Warren will also continue his role here as the Regional Director, traveling to the Midlands at least once a month.

This transition, along with our recent merger, has given each center more of a local flavor than ever before. With Warren as Regional Director, each center now has an Executive Director of its own. Each center will also have a local Advisory Board and all funds given to that center will now go directly to that center and its local needs! Donors-be sure to send all gifts to your center of choice, otherwise we will apply your gift to the appropriate center based on your local zip code.

Bob Larson has taken the Executive Director position for our Induction and Training Phase Center in Colfax, IA. He and his wife Diane have served in different capacities with Teen Challenge of the Midlands for over twelve years. Isaac Hunsberger serves as the Executive Director for our Admissions Center in Des Moines, IA. Isaac and his wife, Beth administer our Admissions department, accepting applications and interviewing all potential students. Isaac is also working toward opening a Crisis Center in the heart of Des Moines. Candace Wilson is our Executive Director for the recently opened Women's Center in Pella, IA. Michael Hunsberger is our Executive Director in Nebraska. Michael runs our Re-Entry Center in Omaha and is excited about the potential of an adolescent center in Nebraska as well!

Please continue to pray for us as we are in this season of change. We all know that change is good, but is sometimes hard. As we are walking through this merger, please lift up both our staff and students to the Lord as we endeavor to serve Him in all we do.

Looking for Just the Right Christmas Gift?



Teen Challenge of the Midlands has traversed across Iowa selling The Nutty Bavarian's cinnamon glazed nuts!

Trained staff members and students roast and sell the delicious pecans, cashews, and almonds, at venues such as carnivals, farmer's markets, parades, church bazaars, neighborhood celebrations, sporting events, and many other special events.

We are now offering these delicious cinnamon glazed nuts in Christmas gift tins! These decorative tins, containing cashews, pecans, almonds, or mixed nuts are perfect gifts for anyone on your Christmas list.

Decorative Christmas Tins

Large Tin—16oz

\$25 or \$22 if you buy 5 or more-plus shipping

Small Tin—10oz

\$15 or \$13 if you buy 5 or more-plus shipping

To order, contact Nathan Hamler at
(515) 674-3713, ext. 208 or n.hamler@tcmid.org.

***How about a
Nutty Bavarian
Christmas Tin?***



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Helping People Who Hurt

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Golfers with Van & Bonnie of WHO Radio