

Teen Challenge Update

Colfax Training Center

September, 2011

It's TEE Time!



Are you ready for the 14th Annual Valley Bank Teen Challenge Golf Marathon? On Monday, September 12th, we are holding our golf marathon to raise funds for Teen Challenge of the Midlands. Every staff member and student raises support to take part in one of the craziest golf events around! Each golfer tries their best to golf one hundred holes starting as soon as the sun comes up. With each dollar raised, Teen Challenge is able to minister to that many more men and women who are desperate for life change.

Valley Bank has once again graciously sponsored the overall event so that every support dollar goes directly to Teen Challenge of the Midlands. This year, we are excited and honored to have Governor Terry Brandstad speak at our closing banquet, and the Van and Bonnie show will once again be broadcasting live! I would like to ask each of you to consider supporting Teen Challenge through this event. We will be continuing to raise support throughout the month of September, and there are multiple ways for you to be involved. You can raise funds and try your hand at one hundred holes, support another golfer, become a business hole sponsor, or donate items for prizes. If you would like to get involved, or need more information, please contact Joel Byford at (515) 205-9537, or email him at j.byford@tcmid.org. We are so thankful for all of our faithful supporters, and realize that we cannot do any of this without you. Thank you!



Greg Tutor puts on one of MANY holes in last year's golf marathon.



Left: Harrison and Shane enjoying a beautiful day of 100 holes of golf to raise funds for Teen Challenge of the Midlands.

Right: Colfax Staff Members, Larry & Dixie Low take a break from golfing for a quick photo. This event involves ALL of our staff to ensure its success!



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:

Teen Challenge Admission and Crisis Center
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

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

I was born in Hollywood, California, but my mother moved my older brother and me to the east coast when I was young because my biological father was physically abusive. We settled in Pennsylvania, as we had family there, but my father found us there. I don't remember much of the abuse, but I do remember being afraid of my father. With the help of my grandmother and aunt, we moved to New Jersey. I don't know if he couldn't find us there, or maybe he just didn't look, but I do know that my mom was safer without him around.

My mom worked very hard to raise me and my older brother by herself. The cost of living was so high in New Jersey that without my grandmother and aunt's help, I don't think we would have had a roof over our heads for very long. My mom worked all day, and went to college at night, so my brother and I ran the streets a lot. When we got into trouble at school, or with the law, she disciplined us, but like a lot of single moms, no matter how hard she tried, she still ended up with strong willed children who had no respect for authority.

I went to Sunday school as a child, and heard about God, but then just went about my own business the rest of the week. I still believe a seed was planted, however. In the neighborhood I lived in, drug and alcohol abuse was pretty common, and offered a way of being accepted by my peers. I also used it as a way of escaping the pressures of life.

My grades started slipping, and I began lying to my mom. She remarried when I was fourteen, but instead of being grateful for a de-

cent father figure, I was so self centered that I just made things hard for everyone around me. At eighteen, they had finally had enough of all my nonsense, and told me to leave. Looking back, I'm surprised they waited that long.



Jason, Colfax, Iowa Student

I moved around a lot in an attempt to find peace, but no matter where I went, there I was; different location, same problems. I eventually made my way to Iowa, got married and had two children. Unfortunately, my self centered ways made my life, and everyone's around me, miserable. I called myself a Christian, but I didn't practice anything Christ taught. James 1:22 says, "Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves." I was deceived all right.

My wife finally divorced me, and much like when my parents kicked me out, looking back, I am surprised she waited so long. I heard about Teen Challenge in 2009, but wasn't ready to commit a year of my life to the Lord. I thought I could do it on my own, but I was wrong.

Since coming to Teen Challenge in April of this year, I've learned to communicate with God. Not just hit Him up with a grocery list of selfish wants and desires, masked as prayers, but to have a real relationship with my creator. You can't put a price on that; it's awesome! Learning how to walk the walk instead of just talking the talk isn't easy, and I still make mistakes, but now I'm learning to take my problems to Jesus. In the four months that I've been here, He has restored the broken relationship with my parents, and given me a peace and a hope that I never had before. Praise God!