

Teen Challenge Update

Teen Challenge of Nebraska

April 2009

Today's Economy Effecting TC

With today's economy we are all facing hard times and unexpected financial trials. As you can imagine these hard times effect Teen Challenge in a great way as well. All of our funding comes from generous donations from businesses, churches, and individuals, and when the economy hurts our donors, we struggle as well.



Students share the joy of the Lord

Currently Teen Challenge of the Midlands, in Nebraska is facing financial struggles that we have not seen in many years. So many hurting men have been changed and ministered to through this program, and we want to continue along this path, especially through hard times in our country.

Please, prayerfully consider blessing this ministry with either a one-time donation or monthly support. All we ask of each of our partners is to give as God directs. THANK YOU for your prayers and financial support!

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

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

Pella Women's Home
714 Independence St.
Pella, IA
50219-1828
641.628.2808

Set Free: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace

I was born in Virginia, but soon left for Nebraska so my mom could have more help raising a set of twin boys. I grew up without a father, and the abusive stepdads that were around seemed like they were always too busy doing their own thing. I was never a sports guy, so during the process I learned a lot on my own or through the friends I hung out with. By the time I was 12 years old I basically did whatever I wanted. I smoked cigarettes, drank, and was heading into smoking marijuana.

Just when it seemed like I was getting to know a town we usually ended up moving. That meant finding new friends, and leaving good ones behind. I can't even give you a number on how many times I've moved. It's hard growing up trying to find friends that accept you for who you are rather than what you have. Also, it seems like when you're the new guy in town nobody wants anything to do with you. I hated my life because I was getting picked on in school. It seemed like no one cared, so I started hanging out with a low class group that partied all the time. I drank and smoked marijuana each night. By the age of 16, I was living life with a so called split personality. The nerdy smart type during the day became the cool party dude by night. Even though I was working a full time job and partying as well, I graduated in the year 2000 with a 3.5 GPA. My high school called our class "The Class of Nothing."

Finally, I thought I made something out of nothing. By the age of 21, I was still living the party life. I had a nice car, money, drugs, friends, and not a care in the world. Everything was perfect, and I had it made or so I thought. Everyone knew me for what I had more than who I was. The only thing I thought was missing at the time was a girl, and we eventually met when I was 21.

I had found something that was so special and never wanted to let her go, but I soon found out that she was cheating on me. My heart was dramatically crushed. Feeling even more depressed than ever I started using heavier than before. I began using a more potent and addictive drug called meth. At first I was using the drug for free, and then I started paying for it. The next thing I knew I was living paycheck to paycheck and was on a downward slope to hopelessness

My life was a total shipwreck and it was hitting rock bottom. One night I had enough. I got down on my hands and knees and cried out to Jesus, asking Him to please do something in this life. I wanted to get away from it all

and have freedom! I called my mom and soon found myself at Teen Challenge.

Since I've been here at Teen Challenge, my life has never been the same. God has given me hope to a bright future, I think clearer, and I have a new perspective on life. I now worship Him and give Him all the praise, glory, and honor. He deserves it! No love is greater than His, and I'm glad He looked down at me and saw through the filth I bound my life up with. He literally turned a bunch of rotten lemons into freshly squeezed lemonade! I know what it takes to be a disciple of Christ. I need to reach others out there and tell them that there is a God who loves them more than they know. Thank you Jesus for all that You've done!

Jon has now completed the program and is doing well. He is working a fulltime job while living and helping out at the Omaha Re-Entry Center. Jon is a pleasure to have around and is spending time praying about what the Lord has for him in the future.



Jon, completed student