

# Teen Challenge Update

Teen Challenge of Nebraska

February 2011

## Fish Fry in January

Everyone enjoys fellowship, hanging out or enjoying each others company and all of this usually includes some food. What is awesome though is the knowledge that community is exactly what we were created for. We see it in Genesis 2:18, after Adam had been created, God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." As Christians we are not supposed to isolate ourselves, but meet together with other believers. We did just that in January with a fish fry, thanks to Jerry and Pat.

The Re-Entry Center was packed with guests and students eager to learn more about each other and the organization. The students gave tours and told of how Jesus is working in their lives. We even learned a little about the history of the house itself, those who have prayed and worked to make Teen Challenge Omaha what it is today. We are so grateful for those who have gone before us and paved the way with their prayers for the Re-Entry Center. For those who stand in the gap for us now, on a daily basis we thank you.

Who would have thought of a fish fry in the middle of freezing January? It was incredible though, from Walleye to Croppy it was fantastic. Everyone contributed a dish to compliment the fish dinner, it was a feast. Such a feast, that the men were blessed to be able to enjoy it again the next day! How many times did the disciples fill their nets with fish, have the opportunity to share with the crowds and Jesus! That is just what Jerry did; he filled his freezer with fish, fried it (out in frigid temperatures

and shared it with us so that we could get to know each other better. Let's take the opportunity to stop our busy schedules for community with other believers.

The students at the Re-Entry Center were incredibly blessed from the fish fry, we believe our guests were too and we look forward to doing it again! We are so blessed by your fellowship here at the Teen Challenge Re-Entry Center.



Ryan gives his testimony at the Fish Fry

### The Newsletter Goes Digital!

Convenience is a necessity these days and Teen Challenge is here to help. You can now receive the newsletter in your email, as well as your usual printed edition! It's as easy as sending an email to [Omaha@tcmid.org](mailto:Omaha@tcmid.org) with "Newsletter Add" in the subject line or write "Newsletter Email Add" on the contribution form that you receive with your newsletter. Now you don't have to wait for it to be delivered to your mailbox!

## 180 Degrees

My name is Paul, I grew up in a loving household that included my parents and two sisters. The town in Iowa where we lived only had 800 people. We went to church every Sunday and Thursday night. Although I went, there was something missing, which I wouldn't realize until later, was the Lord and a relationship with Him.

We stayed in that small town until after 7th grade, when we moved to a slightly bigger town of 2500 people. It was hard to feel accepted as the new kid. Then I got to high school and I found the kids who would accept me. I started smoking cigarettes, then drinking and smoking pot. All this time I started to grow farther away from my family, the ones who actually cared about me and loved me. I totally disowned them. All I cared about was the next high and to hang out with my friends.

After high school I went to a community college in Fort Dodge, but my focus was blurred because my focus was on partying and having a "good time". I got introduced to harder drugs like cocaine and meth; which took hold of me to the point that I didn't want it to let go.

Towards the end of my first year in college, I met a girl who I thought was my soul mate. She was pregnant when we met and a few months later she had a beautiful little girl. Her real father didn't want anything to do with her so I decided to stick around and raise her as my own. We all moved to Cedar Rapids and I got a job working in a salvage yard. That's when I got back into heavily using meth and started using crack. My girlfriend and I started fighting all the time, one day she finally had enough, packed their stuff and left. I was heart broken when I finally realized what had happened. I moved in with one of my buddies from college

and continued to use everyday. I was a mess. I got fired from my job and found a job working at a factory in the same town my mom and dad lived in.

I moved in with my parents and things started going good. But it wasn't before long that I got into meth again and this time it held onto me and didn't let go. It's crazy how much evil can come from that drug. I started to lose reality

and live in my own scary little world. I couldn't take it anymore. I cried out to God but couldn't hear anything so I tried drowning myself. But then something or someone pulled my head up out of the water and was holding on to me. I came to my senses and looked around, I was the only one in the middle of the woods. I started to break down and cry. After everything I did and who I was, He still loved me and cared about me.



Paul, Re-Entry student

With His help I got out of the woods and called my mom. It just so happened that her and my little sister were going to a Christian music festival called Sonshine that day, so I decided to go with them. There at Sonshine was a Teen Challenge booth. I talked with them and realized that was what I needed, so when I got back to Iowa, I looked up Teen Challenge of the Midlands in Colfax and took a tour. A few months later I finally got to the doors of my new home. I have met a great group of fellow brothers in Christ and I have learned to deal with my inner pain from the past and bring it to the Lord.

With the help of this program, my life has turned 180 degrees from where it was before. I owe it all to the Lord, my family and everyone who supported me through tough times. I am so blessed to serve a God who continues to love me no matter what I did in the past. I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for me and the rest of my future.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach Admissions by email at: [s.reddish@tcmid.org](mailto:s.reddish@tcmid.org)  
Visit our website at: [www.tcmid.org](http://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  
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Pella Women's Home  
714 Independence St.  
Pella, IA  
50219-1828  
641.628.2808