



TEEN CHALLENGE OF THE MIDLANDS

Pella Teen Challenge Women's Home Newsletter

March 2009

Anyone else ready for spring? This week's warmth has left my heart longing for its arrival. I am expectantly waiting to see new growth, green grass shoots breaking through the dull yellow brown, buds on the trees saying I am still alive, tulips and crocuses peaking through the black dirt, people walking outside without burrowing their heads down into their coats and scarves. I am smiling right now just thinking of it.

We have had a few changes here in the house. One of the biggest being a change in staff. At the end of January, Alecia resigned and returned to the south to be closer to family. I am very grateful for all that Alecia poured into the home in her 1 1/2 years of service and know that God will continue to use her in His kingdom. In her place, Sara Peterson has joined me as full-time staff and it has already been a fun ride. I have greatly enjoyed having Sara here as she is not only a passionate follower of Christ, but a dear friend too. You will get to read her story in this newsletter and it is another picture of God's beauty revealed. Enjoy!



INTRODUCING...SARA PETERSON

Hello! I am so excited to be a part of the work God is doing in the lives of these precious women. God is really moving and setting hearts free in His name!

In This Newsletter

NEW STAFF!
SPRING GARAGE SALE
MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

Prayer Requests

Pray for incoming students in the next month. Smooth transition and students ready for change.

Pray for families of women, many have children and need prayer as they deal with being away from their mothers.

Pray that God will continue to work for restoration in both the women and their families.

Pray for continued financial support from individuals and community support financially.

Prayer for staff for wisdom,

Prior to coming to Pella, I worked at Minnesota Teen Challenge as a Pastoral Counselor and teacher for 6 ½ years. As a staff member and graduate of the program myself, I know all about the dramatic life transformations that take place through the ministry of Teen Challenge. When I entered the program as a student in 2002, I was a broken shell of a human being. I was only 22 years old, and already life had chewed me up and spit me out. I grew up in a loving Christian home, but struggled in my teenage years with depression, rejection, and emotional isolation. Though I attended church regularly, I didn't understand the grace of God or the depth of His love.

When I was sexually assaulted at age 15, I turned to alcohol and drugs for escape. The next 7 years were a blur - I was bound by depression and immorality. My family had been praying for me for years, but there was no getting through. I tried secular treatment centers, psychiatric facilities, and a half-way house with zero success. At the age of 21, I suffered a heart attack after injecting cocaine. The doctors told my family I would die if I continued to use, but even that wasn't enough to slow me down. The shame I carried just drove me to shoot up more meth, cocaine, and heroin - anything I could get my hands on. I had another severe overdose a year later and this time I knew I was standing on the threshold of death. I was gripped with fear and cried out within my heart, "I'm sorry...I didn't mean it!" When I woke up lying on the floor, I knew God had mercifully spared my life. That very day, I drove to my parent's home and told them to lock me up somewhere because I knew I couldn't stop using. They took me to Teen Challenge and that's where I experienced the love and power of Jesus Christ to heal and deliver.

When I came through the doors of Teen Challenge, I was still hardened and hurting and. But slowly and surely, through the love of the staff and the Word of God, my heart began to soften. I remember crying for days as I yielded my heart to Jesus and allowed His grace to wash away my pain. It was a long process, but day by day my character was changing. Jesus truly delivered me from sin and shame and filled me with His Spirit and joy! I graduated Teen Challenge in September of 2003 and have never looked back to my old life. I completed my bachelor's degree in Christian Ministry from Northwestern College in 2007 and have been working within the Christian recovery and discipleship field ever since. When others called me a hopeless case, Jesus did the impossible for me through the power of the cross.

Now I have the great privilege to labor with Him as He sets others free! There is no life beyond God's power to restore and redeem, but we need your help and support to accomplish His goals. An investment in Teen Challenge is an investment in

discernment and peace in the midst of some challenging situations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORUNTITIES

Drivers for student appointments (Iowa City/DM).

Mentors

NEEDS

Bookshelves

File Cabinet (One that locks)

Paper Products (Toilet paper, Kleenex, Paper towels, etc)

Laundry Detergent / Dishwasher Detergent

Fresh Fruit (oranges, bananas/apples) Vegetables

DONATE!

[TCMID Website](#)

or send to

Teen Challenge

714 Independence St

Pella, IA 50219

lives!

Pella Teen Challenge Spring Garage Sale April 3rd & 4th

We are now accepting donations for our spring garage sale on April 3 & 4 at the Pella Memorial Building on the square. Items can be dropped off at the house prior to the sale or at the Memorial Building on Friday, April 3 before noon. All items are tax deductible and proceeds will go directly to the Pella Women's Home. If you have any questions or would like more info please contact me at (641) 628-2808 or email at c.wilson@tcmid.org.

If you have questions on how you can help the women of Teen Challenge by donating or volunteering, please contact me at (641) 628-2808 or email me at c.wilson@tcmid.org

Blessings,
Candace Wilson
Pella Teen Challenge Women's Home

Join Our Mailing List!

March/April Events:

April 3 & 4: Spring
Garage Sale

April 18: Spring Surge
Service Project,
Ottumwa

April 19: Second
Reformed
Church, Pella

April 23-25: The
Journey to Wholeness
Conference