



TEEN CHALLENGE
CINCINNATI
The Proven Cure For The Drug Epidemic
www.teenchallengecincinnati.org

FALL 2006

Building On A Solid Foundation

James Nixon

I grew up an only child raised by my mother and stepfather whom I loved as if he were my biological father. Both were schoolteachers, so grades and studying were a big thing for them. On the outside my childhood looked normal but I began experimenting with marijuana at a very early age. As long as I can remember my parents have always smoked marijuana and at times they sold it. Starting in junior high I began selling it and by high school everyone that indulged knew me. I thought it was cool being popular with the "pot heads". I didn't realize it was the beginning of the path that would lead me down a road of misery and despair that I couldn't imagine.

My teachers all referred to me as an underachiever because I only did enough to get by. After high school I enlisted into the Air Force, where I continued my drug use and began to drink heavily. It didn't take long to seek out others stationed at the in base who also used. After three and a half years, I was brought up on charges and court marshaled for possession and distribution of controlled substances. I received six months of confinement and a bad conduct discharge. Fortunately, my commander seemed to like me and wanted to help me out, even back then God was putting people in my life and I didn't realize it!

I moved to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, adjacent to Dayton, Ohio, which was back home for me. I was back home with a good job but bad past and instead of using this as a chance for a fresh start, I continued going with my old crowd doing the same old things, except now there was a new drug of choice on the street, crack cocaine. I jumped right in and even started trying to sell it, but before long I became my own best customer.

I lost job after job. Soon all my material possessions and even my self-respect were gone. I began to do things I wouldn't have imaged to feed my addiction. As a result I have scars and holes in my body from drug deals gone bad. These scars are a reminder to me every day how I was willing to lay down my life for drugs. I not only had lost my body and mind but I also destroyed relationships with my family and any friends.

Sure I had been in and out of rehabs, NA and AA, but I kept falling down the twelve steps until I was introduced to a place called Teen Challenge. There I truly began to change when I accepted and began a relationship with Jesus. I spent ten months in the program and an additional nine months in the re-entry phase where a job opportunity was provided for me. I had finally been building on a solid foundation in my life and God was blessing me for it. The job opportunity I received was at a company owned by Marty Neltner; he had a son who also completed Teen Challenge. I will be employed with Neltner Billing and Consulting five years now this May! Through a co-worker I was introduced to my wife of three years, Danaé and her (our) daughter Aleque! All gifts from God! We are involved in our church (Community Pentecostal in Independence Kentucky) and have benefited from good relationships we have built there.

I serve at Fairhaven Rescue Mission in Covington. Every weekend I work there is a reality check for me of how far Jesus has brought me. I have also been an assistant coach for little league football in Northern Kentucky the past three seasons! When coaching I get the opportunity to touch young boys' lives showing them God's love and help them from going down the path I chose – helping them build their solid foundation.



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www.teenchallengecincinnati.org

**Did You
Know?**

Teen Challenge does not receive any state or federal monies, but is entirely funded through the generosity of private individuals and businesses. We believe this helps us maintain focus, efficiency and self control.

TC Adventure Camp

On July 24 through 26 the Ranch hosted the first Teen Challenge Adventure Camp for boys ages 8 to 12 years of age! No families were assessed any camp fees and transportation was provided to hurdle any barriers standing in the way of a child attending. Local area churches provided the outreach in locating and promoting the camp to families.



We were excited to spend three life challenging and destiny changing days with the children. Our excellent staff and many volunteers did their utmost to see that everyone was safe, had a Godly manhood centered experience... and above all, demonstrated God's love in a meaningful way.



House Dedication

On Saturday, July 22, Teen Challenge dedicated their new residential housing units. In attendance were board members, former students, staff, influential supporters of our cause, and Congresswoman Jean Schmidt. The house is dedicated to Betty Lindner – board member and faithful servant to Teen Challenge these many years!



Get Connected Online!

Check out our informative and dynamic new web site!

www.teenchallengecincinnati.org Monitor current events, direct others to it who are in need, email, and donate easily and securely online!

Would you like to also get this newsletter electronically? What an opportunity to "forward" the work of the Ranch to your friends! Just let us know by emailing us at email@teenchallengecincinnati.org



Local Area Businesses Partner With Teen Challenge

During their final months at the Ranch, students participate in an occupational therapy program we call Runway. Area businesses partner with us in furthering the students' career and vocational skills while testing their learned and applied character traits. NCE in Milford is one of those companies which we are truly grateful for. Scott Haines, a manager at the plant comments that, "It is not only fulfilling but a pleasure to work with the young men who come from Teen Challenge. By doing this it adds value to our workplace and to the community."



Who Are We?

Located on 165 acres of beautiful countryside in Milford, Teen Challenge Cincinnati is a mission of hope, offering a 9-12 month residential treatment program to men ages 18-35 who are dealing with the problems of drug and alcohol addictions.

Mission Statement

Evangelize people who have life controlling problems and initiate the discipleship process to the point where the student can function as a Christian in society applying spiritually motivated biblical principles to relationships in the family, local church, chosen vocation and the community. Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well and spiritually alive.

Fresh Cut Christmas Trees

Fresh cut Christmas Trees go on sale Friday Nov. 24 thru Friday Dec. 22.



"The Good Report!"

(We want to highlight noteworthy accomplishments from alumni. Please submit items for our next newsletter.)



Chuck Sharp (1980) – He and his wife have been married 23 years, have 4 children and live in Centerville, Ohio. For the past 14 years he has operated Sharp Homes, a construction company. He is doing great, is active in church and loves evangelizing and sharing the love of God with others.

MJ Gammoh (2002) – Just graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Business Management Technology! He is doing great and is managing both of his father's Gold Star Chili restaurants here in the Cincinnati area.

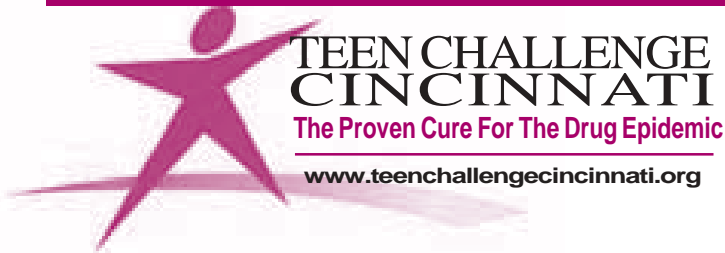
Arick Gittner (2006) – He is attending Westside Vineyard, is involved in a Life Group and leading a study on the book on Romans. Arick supervises a landscaping crew and is doing well!

Sean Mullucey – "Sean just celebrated his 1 year anniversary of sobriety! We thank God for you and how He used you in our lives. Sean and I are also leading a step study in the Celebrate Recovery Program. ... We will continue to pray for Teen Challenge." – Sean and Linda Mullucey

"I am so grateful that God led us to Teen Challenge Ranch to get help for Dusty. Your ministry there touched me and our family, as well as helped Dusty get his life back on track. I believe I have been blessed with wonderful relationships, precious memories and a growing love for the Lord because of everyone at the Ranch – staff, students, and families included. You are often in my thoughts and prayers!" - CT

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU... Alumni of Teen Challenge (grads and non grads) ... we want to organize, come together in unity and lift each other up! Please call us with your contact information and an update on how you are doing.

*Restoring God's
dignity and des-
tiny in the hearts
and minds of
men.*



P.O. Box 249, Milford, Ohio 45150-0249
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Remember Teen Challenge when Estate Planning

Our endowment fund, "*Securing their Destiny*" is growing steadily and stands as an excellent opportunity for your giving consideration – be it wills, stocks, or as a named beneficiary to an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of Teen Challenge and provides a planned means for the Ranch to continue its much-needed outreach to the lost, bound in the cycle of drug and alcohol addiction.

For more information call
(513)248-0452 x105

Needs List ... We Need Your Help!

Volunteer Needs:

Volunteers (mature, dependable Godly men) to help with the Christmas tree lot
Always needing drivers for several hours during the week.
Volunteer to help in shop with mower and vehicle maintenance.
Volunteer your church group to come and serve at Family Night!

Financial needs:

We are in critical need of replacing and upgrading the heating and air conditioning throughout the entire campus. Over half of the units are non functional and the remaining beyond cost effective repair. Administration building - \$55,000; Dorm - \$32,000; Gym - \$36,000
Please consider sponsoring a student for an entire month - \$1,600
We are in need of a new stove - \$8,000
We are planning to renovate two rooms into a library and computer/GED lab - \$3000

We can always use:

Nice, clean men's dress and work clothing and shoes
Cars or Trucks in good working condition
Automotive mechanic's tools
Amping/Hubcat