



Teen Challenge Cincinnati Women's Home Love Letter

*For those who have a heart to
Rescue women from their distress and their children from death*



Spring 2009

There is no easy or soft way to articulate how the events of the past ten years transpired. To say that I was “caught up” in a negative lifestyle or to call myself simply a heroin addict would be a gross understatement. My abuse of drugs began at age 19, but my problems began long before that. At age 16, as a junior in high school, while a seemingly well-adjusted and good student, I was also severely depressed. I became involved in the first of what would turn into many abusive relationships (physically, emotionally, and sexually). Although I never told a soul, this abuse continued for over a year and resulted in a pregnancy. So there I was...senior class president, vice president of the National Honor Society, “Miss Teen Dream”... pregnant before the second semester of my senior year. In silence, I had an abortion the day of my senior Homecoming. I marched in a two-mile parade three hours later like nothing had happened. The events of that day in 1995 changed my life forever and set me on a course of self destruction and abuse.



It is so important to say that, while at the time, abortion seemed like such an easy choice, I was unprepared for the emotional consequences, many from which I have still not fully recovered. Over the next ten years I would abuse heroin and other drugs on a daily basis. I found myself hospitalized several times for a series of suicide attempts.

I engaged in every self-damaging activity from self-mutilation to indiscriminate sex. At age 22, intoxicated, I caused a nearly fatal car accident. I spent the next two years in and out of University Hospital having suffered serious injuries to my head, face, and eyes. Through God's grace I survived with minimal lasting side effects and my vision intact. In the next three years I suffered another set back. My boyfriend of four years died of a drug overdose. You would think that I would have stopped and reevaluated my life at that point, but things only got worse. I became more self-destructive than ever, and continued in a downward spiral. I was a liar, cheat, and a thief, even shamefully stealing from my parents numerous times. I found myself incarcerated again, this time facing serious felonies and the threat of losing custody of my young son forever.

In true desperation, on Thanksgiving 2008 I got on my knees and cried out to God. For the first time in years, from the quiet of a jail cell I heard His voice. My life began to change for the good. I continued to pray. I continued to read. I was diligent. If I was going to be incarcerated for what felt like the rest of my life, I was going to spend that time seeking, learning, and praying. Somehow, through God's grace I was released from jail. Drug rehab was no longer an option for me. I had already been in every facility, and every program more than once, more than twice. What I needed was freedom. Real, lasting freedom. That's what I found at Teen Challenge.

I can't tell you that my life is entirely put back together yet. But I can tell you that for the first time in years I have hope. I feel like I have a future and a purpose. I want to live today! I want to be the woman, wife, daughter, sister, and friend that God has called me to be. Today it is His Word that I stand on and not my own power. That is the true miracle that is Teen Challenge. What I had tried for years to do in my own strength, only God can accomplish. All I wanted when I got here was to be able to stop using drugs. Thank God, He saw fit to give me abundantly more than I asked for, because I would have really sold myself short.

Hi, my name is Jo Ann Hutzel. Here I am sitting in a beautiful home dedicated for women and reflecting on the goodness of God and how He has brought men in ministry to these ladies in this home.

My husband and I were called back to Ohio after eleven years of serving Him at Christ for the Nations in Texas and Ghana, West Africa. We were so excited to come back home because we have two of our four children living in the area along with eight of our thirteen grandchildren. God had spoken to my heart while still in Dallas that He had a place for me to work and minister in Ohio and that I would get a phone call about the position and not to worry about it. Well, I did get the call from my friend, Willie Smith about Teen Challenge Cincinnati opening a home for women using a discipleship model just like the men have at the Ranch in Milford. I got so excited when I heard about this ministry! The Lord spoke to my heart and said this is where I want you to take care of my babies in the Lord. I have been blessed to have done a lot of things for the Lord in my life, but I feel all that was in preparation to be able to do what I love most - to see the miracle of hearts and minds being changed daily right before my eyes. I see them come to the home with little or no hope of getting their lives off of drugs and the cycle of bondage they live in. But as they are exposed to the life of Christ in others and begin studying the Word of God for themselves, they begin to blossom into the beautiful new creation God intended them to be from the beginning. I love how they disciple to one another in the Word. They start talking about their drug issues, but soon the Lord is taking them to another level of understanding to who they are in Christ Jesus. This is such a special place where God has His hand extended to change the lives of all who are involved in the ministry here in an amazingly powerful way. Even in the few short months this home has been opened, I could tell you story after story about God's grace on these ladies. If I could ask you who are reading this one thing it would be, please ask God what He would have you do to be a part of changing the lives of these precious ladies and their babies. We in Christ are taking back lives that the enemy has stolen and giving them purpose and a new direction for their lives.

Jo Ann oversees the student's daily activities four days per week.



Needs Corner *contact Marty at 248-0452 x302*

Volunteer Drivers - Requires good driving record. Use of TC vehicles.
Volunteer staff during Sat or Sun afternoons to oversee family visits.
Adopt a bedroom to decorate. (Thank you to Faith Church MOPS who finished the middle bedroom - it's charming!)
We want to purchase a living room sofa (\$1200) to complement decor.
We could use two commercial picnic tables (plastic, 8ft, ADA accessible) \$725 ea. See www.barcoproducts.com/walkthru
Sponsor a student for a day/week/month- \$30/\$210/\$900



Jo Ann

A note from the director:

I am thankful for this opportunity to serve my Lord, Teen Challenge Cincinnati and my community in this exciting and impacting way. We had applied for the ability to use the Teen Challenge name and following an extensive on site audit, have received Honors accreditation. I have chosen to use this space to talk about finance. This ministry has much to offer, without a large expense associated with it. Being part of the larger Men's Ranch facility, we are able to leverage much of our resources.

Please make special note, when considering giving, that the Women's Home does not receive any state or federal funding. But only through the generosity of individuals, businesses and churches that allow us the freedom to do this great work.

Marty Martin



PAID IN FULL

On April 6 Teen Challenge Ministries utilized our storehouse of endowed funds to pay down the remaining debt on the Women's Home!

The Lord will bless your storehouses and in all which you set your hand, and He will bless the property He has given you. Dt 28