



TEEN CHALLENGE  
C I N C I N N A T I  
The Proven Cure For The Drug Epidemic  
www.teenchallengecincinnati.org

September 2010

## From Rebellion to Righteousness by CJ Wessel



**CJ Wessel**

Hi, my name is CJ Wessel. I am now 25 years old and doing great. My testimony begins when I was young and rebellious. I grew in the country with, in my mind, a whole lot of nothing to do other than partying and tipping cows, which wasn't much fun. When my parents divorced I really went crazy and rebelled even more. At age 12, I had my first taste of alcohol. By 15 I was heavy into drugs ... smoking pot, taking pills,..whatever I was offered. By the time I was 18 and 6 months into my senior year, I made the next big mistake of dropping out of school. It didn't take long before I was homeless, smoking crack cocaine and stealing anything that wasn't nailed to the wall! But even in that mess I was totally self absorbed. I remember walking down the road as cars would pass me thinking, "I'll never have anything like that ... no wife ... no kids ... no life!"

After a year or more of getting into trouble I realized I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I went to my dad's to get away from everything and slept for 5 days! During this time the opportunity came up to go to Teen Challenge and on April 28, 2004 I entered the program. I remember on my way there I put the biggest chew of dip in my mouth I could fit! That said a lot about where my head was at. But at the Ranch I learned about relationship in a way I had never known and the world suddenly became much bigger than myself! Teen Challenge provided me with the discipline that I so desperately needed in my life. They gave me the spiritual tools I needed to make a consistent change every day. Teen Challenge showed me that it wasn't the drugs or alcohol that was the problem ... I was the problem and the sin in my life! When you

overcome sin with righteousness you will win every time! By opening up and receiving what Jesus and the program offered, I successfully completed Teen Challenge on May 6, 2005! Not long however, after my completion, I began to compromise my walk – just a little. I also had a prideful self image that I had not given up. Soon, I had re-entered into the same place God brought me out of. Thankfully, I soon came to my senses that I was outside real relationship and re-living the lie. That is what quickly brought me back and has sustained me since.

Today I am blessed with a beautiful wife and 3 beautiful children. Hannah – 3 yrs, Joshua – 2yrs and Caleb - 9 months. For 5 yrs have I worked for City Sash Home Improvements selling windows, roofing, siding, etc. Because of my walk of trust in Him, God has blessed and prospered me in every way and beyond my expectations. I can't say how privileged I feel to be part of Teen Challenge and one of the changed lives!

**Save the Date! May 26 at 7:30 am**

Awareness Fundraiser Breakfast for Teen Challenge Cincinnati.

For information contact: Dave at [Dave\\_Holwadel@ML.com](mailto:Dave_Holwadel@ML.com)

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**"Sunday School  
class raises  
\$6,700!"**

"Kenwood Baptist  
Sunday School  
class,  
Christian Seekers,  
held a luncheon  
fundraiser on behalf  
of Teen Challenge  
Cincinnati"

# Men at Work!

Students participate in work details, designed to disciple strong work ethic, learn new skills and maintain the Ranch. Thank you to generous donors for supplies!



Thank you Kings Electric Services for providing new lighting in front of the Multipurpose Gym!  
Students help make use of the extra cement used to set a light pole.



Students work under supervision clearing branches from power lines across at the bottomland. *Don't worry, the power was turned off!*



Significant thanks to those givers who made it possible to buy all new mattresses for the students.

## Did you know?

We are a privately funded, program fee based organization. However every student is subsidized over 75% of total cost is provided through the generosity of individuals, businesses and churches that give us the freedom to do this great work changing the hearts and minds of individuals. You can contribute safely and securely online via our website.

[www.teenchallengecincinnati.org](http://www.teenchallengecincinnati.org)

## "The Good Report!"



David Booze (2004) and wife Ashley welcomed Sophia Janell into their family on September 7. Weighing 8 lb 2 oz, all are doing well and we are praising God for this precious blessing! David, who works full time at US Bank and works part time at TCC, is also attending Cincinnati Christian University as a result of a \$22,000 scholarship he recently received!



(We want to highlight noteworthy accomplishments from alumni.)

Josh Rolen (2003) has moved from the Hazard, Kentucky area back to Greater Cincinnati! He is employed by Convergys as Technical Support and is taking online computer classes to earn his computer networking degree. He thanks God for the blessings in his life!

Donyell Hall (2003) is living in Cincinnati and attends Christ Emmanuel Church. He is doing well and is involved with helping individuals recovering from their addictions.

Kris Carrier (2004) – "George, Thank you so much for writing a letter of recommendation on my behalf! I wanted to let you know that I've been admitted to Western Kentucky University graduate school for the fall semester (2010) and that I began Master's online program for Adult Education this week. I will keep you posted. Thanks again for everything!"

Doug Rebholz (2007) is taking online classes with Regent University majoring in Business Management with a minor in Christian Ministry.

Sandy Berry (2008) is a part-time staff with us and is taking pre-nursing classes at the College of Mt. St. Joseph in Cincinnati!

Jared Krepp (2008) married on September 12, 2009 and he and his wife Corinne welcomed Alden Barrett into their family on August 30, 2010! God is good!

Brad Aven (2010) has completed a 6-month internship with International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Missouri and has just been invited to join their staff as a Core Leader where he will be discipling interns.

**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.



### Who Are We?

Located on 165 acres of beautiful countryside in Milford, Teen Challenge Cincinnati is a mission of hope, offering a 7 -12 month residential treatment program for men ages 18-35 dealing with the issues 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.

**Restoring  
God's dignity  
and destiny in  
the hearts and  
minds of men.**



# TEEN CHALLENGE CINCINNATI

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[www.teenchallengecincinnati.org](http://www.teenchallengecincinnati.org)

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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:**

Local Churches are involved in our ministry in a variety of ways...  
Serving (not cooking) the food at a monthly Family Night dinner  
Preparing a meal and serving it to our students  
Praying for monthly prayer requests from the students  
Bringing a men's group to do an evening devotion with the men

### **Financial needs:**

Please consider sponsoring the full cost of discipling a young man for an entire month - \$2,200.  
Gas cards to fuel our 15 passenger vans.

### **We can always use:**

Nice, clean men's dress and work clothing and shoes  
Cars or Trucks in good working condition for staff and Graduates  
Automotive mechanic's tools and tools in general

Visa  
Mastercard  
Discover  
and  
Paypal  
accepted for  
donations  
by phone or  
online.

### **Get Connected Online!**

**Check out our informative and dynamic new web site!**

[www.teenchallengecincinnati.org](http://www.teenchallengecincinnati.org)

Monitor current events, **listen to chapel speakers, testimonies** and 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 friend! Just let us know by emailing us at

[\*\*email@teenchallengecincinnati.org\*\*](mailto:email@teenchallengecincinnati.org)