



## 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*

November 2011

### Volunteer Edition

Highlighting a few of the volunteers who help make Teen Challenge Cincinnati a success.



**Sue Lawrence**

I started volunteering at the Teen Challenge Cincinnati Women's Home as soon as it was open in 2009. I had just recently remarried, moved from Fairfield to Milford, retired from teaching after 33 years, and had started volunteering at the Cincinnati Vineyard Church and Hospice. It is amazing to look back and discover how God orchestrates your "life plan." I have a good friend on staff at Teen Challenge, Patti Smith, and because God knew I was seeking to help minister and care for these precious ladies at this beautiful home dedicated to women, Patti helped make the connection. Praise God, I give him all the glory! What a blessing for me to drive ladies to various appointments, take shifts at the home, share dinner with them, (or the wonderful desserts my hubby sends over), take someone to parenting classes, to church, help in the kitchen, and work along side them in the yard. I love the time I spend with these women, our discussions and what I learn from them. I see where they are in their life, and their spiritual walk, and how exciting to witness how they blossom! It is like a butterfly coming out of its chrysalis, unfolding its wings, getting its footing, and then embarking on a new journey. I have been overwhelmed with the caring of the staff member and other volunteers.

Family Night is the once-a-month meal shared by Teen Challenge students, their families, staff members, and local churches. It's where I experienced Teen Challenge Cincinnati for the first time. A student shared his testimony that evening, bursting with new-found hope for his life. His excitement was contagious. My 17-year-old mind was deeply impacted. I can remember my emotions on the drive home that night and a silent resolve to serve the ministry. It was nearly two years later before the Women's Maternity Home opened and I spent my first night there. The three girls occupying the bedroom next to mine were all nearly 7 years older than me. Not only was there a wide gap in age, there was also a wide gap in personal background. I had never used drugs, much less experienced the agony of withdrawal from addictive substances. I couldn't relate. Since then, I've slept in the home and shared breakfast with the girls on a weekly basis. I still struggle to relate to their personal circumstances. But I have learned that the girls don't need me to relate. What they do need from me is a listening ear and the boldness to point them to Jesus Christ. He is their only hope. Hope. That's what the students want when they walk through the doors of Teen Challenge for the first time. It's what the student on family night had gained. It's found in nothing but the mighty blood of Jesus.



**Carly Holwadel**

1) What made you choose to volunteer?

I have always had a compassion for those in need. We never know when it could be someone we know, someone we love, or we ourselves that could be in need. We can only pray that God will provide someone for us when we need help.

2) What activities do you do at the Women's Home?

I volunteer for day and sometimes night shifts at the Women's Home or drive students to doctor visits. I've been asked by students to attend an ultrasound, a fetal heart monitoring, a very painful procedure, as well as my opinion on glasses. What a blessing to be trusted and needed!

3) What do you get out of volunteering at the Women's Home?

I get the satisfaction of knowing that I can help make a difference in someone's life. And if something I say or do helps them to see the love of God, my time was well spent.

4) What had been your most rewarding experience at the Women's Home?

My most rewarding experience has been hearing the testimony of those that have graduated from the Women's Home. To hear the difference in their attitudes, compared to when they arrived. They have gone from a dark place of uncertainty, to a bright place of hope.



**Tanya Beaumont**

### *A Note From the Director:*

**Do you have a moment to spare? A hug to share? A heart to care? Become a volunteer! We love our amazing volunteers! Know that you are equipped to volunteer. Whether you are driving one of our students to a doctor's appointment, or filling in for a staff member, or bringing your women's Bible study for coffee and games, just keep a listening ear and then an open heart to share what God has poured into your life. Finally, seal it with a hug. Please prayerfully consider becoming a volunteer then contact me at [mmartin@teenchallengecincinnati.org](mailto:mmartin@teenchallengecincinnati.org)**

*-Marty Martin*

### **NEEDS:**

**Gas gift cards to fill the van & grocery gift cards to stock the kitchen.  
Host a fundraising event to sponsor a student for a month for \$900.**

*Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite. -Psalm 147:5*

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