

Teen Challenge USA Biennial Report 2009

The Teen Challenge (TC) discipleship model is an effective, proven, faith-based solution for the drug epidemic. In 1958, the first Teen Challenge center was established in New York City to work with inner-city youth wanting a life that did not involve gangs and drugs.

Evangelism and discipleship have always been the core of the Teen Challenge program.

The core emphasis has continued during 2008 and 2009. In 2008 Teen Challenge celebrated 50 Years of Miracles in New York City.

The mission of TC is to provide a successful faith-based solution to individuals of all ages with life-controlling issues, regardless of their financial condition. Our programs hinge upon biblical principles and endeavor to initiate the discipleship process by helping people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well and spiritually alive.

The Teen Challenge philosophy of the drug problem is summed up as: "It's not just drugs or alcohol; it's sin and a desire for independence from God." True healing begins with a commitment to Jesus Christ, a change in values and the elimination of binding life-controlling habits. Teaching and modelling faith in Jesus Christ helps to alter behavior and instills positive values that allow a person to heal. TC firmly believes, and results show, that if an addict establishes a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, learns life skills, and holds him/herself accountable to other Christians, he/she can find permanent freedom from bondage. This central spiritual dynamic is the foundation on which all aspects of the TC program are built.

Since 1958, Teen Challenge has seen remarkable growth. Thousands of lives have been transformed through the ministry of devoted staff at over 211 centers throughout the United States. The TC approach to helping men and women trapped by addictions has been used in several cultures. Over 1000 TC centers are now operating on over six continents.

Teen Challenge does not view a person as a statistic, but rather a unique life set apart by God. Since Teen Challenge first opened its doors, thousands have come seeking help and have found the Helper. Over the last two years alone, over 20,000 students were inducted into our programs. Many of their lives have been transformed by the power of God's Word.

By challenging them with biblical teaching and loving them unconditionally, they have discovered faith in Jesus Christ and a new way of living. Over the past two years 5,029 students completed a one-year residential recovery program. In addition, TC centers conducted over 18,000 church meetings, 4,214 school meetings, 11,360 prison meetings and over 7,000 other outreach meetings across the country. These meetings reached over 4.5 million people and 24,498 souls made decisions for Christ.

To assist the local centers, the Teen Challenge National Office has developed and conducted a New Director's Conference, hosted a "50 Years of Miracles" celebration and numerous training sessions at Regional Conferences. A promotional DVD and coffee table book titled "50 Years of Miracles", "Emerging Leaders" staff training, "Stay Sharp" prevention program, updated curriculum, an enhanced website and numerous other products and services have been produced over the last two years in order to share our message more effectively and serve our local TC centers. Also, an Information Services Manager was added to the staff and a new office building was purchased in the spring of 2009.

As we enter our 51st year of ministry, the need is still great. Teen Challenge continues to recognize the need for facilities that cater to the entire family, especially mothers with children. We now have seven facilities where mothers can rest assured that their children

are being cared for while they learn new life skills in order to be prepared to raise their children drug/alcohol-free.

In addition, new Teen Challenge centers were opened in Missouri, California, North Carolina, Texas, Louisiana, Washington, Oregon, Maine, Florida, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Texas, Iowa, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Arizona, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, New York, Delaware, Maryland and Minnesota.

Teen Challenge continues its mission to evangelize and disciple those who are addicted. Our theme for 2009 is "Preparing for Impact" as we continue to invest in the lives of those who have no hope. We spend time building relationships and restoring the lives of the most unlikely members of society. Jesus becomes their source of hope and He deserves all the glory!