

# Teen Challenge INDIANA

# Connections

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## Central Indiana Teen Challenge



### CITC Student Ella V.

I grew up in a Christian home, raised by Christian parents. I was always taught that Jesus Christ was my Savior and how to live a Christian life. My parents divorced when I was about two years old. From then on, my

family all started to crumble. My older sister was diagnosed with depression, bipolar disorder, and adaptation disorder, so growing up I witnessed a lot of fighting.

At the age of thirteen, I started cutting myself. At first, it was just every so often, and then it started becoming more and more frequent. No one knew that I was doing this to myself for the first year or so. I was becoming suicidal and attempted suicide four times. On the fourth time, I overdosed on 236 pills and ended up unconscious in the hospital. The doctors told me I was lucky to still be alive. About a year later, I still found myself depressed and lonely. I was then introduced to weed, alcohol, and other drugs. I started getting into them very heavily and very fast. I started stealing, lying, destroying relationships, having sex with guys. I was turning into the person I always told myself I wouldn't be.

**Continued on back**

## Wabash Valley Teen Challenge



Tribune Star printed a [full page article](#) about WVTC and the drug issues we face today.

### Valley Viewer June 6 2016 Teen Challenge provides faith-based instruction to overcome addictions



...with normally 12 to 15 students in each. There are scenarios that take students with disabilities. For a complete list of centers, go to [www.indianatc.org](#). With Teen Challenge's success rate of 86 percent over 10 years of completing the program, many choose to go the adult-based route as opposed to secular programs that maintain a 10 to 15 percent success rate. The program is designed to help help set the captives free. Wabash Valley Teen Challenge as Terry Haute has been doing just that for eight years in its own Brown center. Students participate in devotionals, Bible classes, life skills classes, work ethics and financial classes. TC depends on prayer time. They are educated weekly against behaviors of learning to deal with situations in life, without resorting and using to drugs as an escape. Their Challenge's recent fish fry at Fairbanks Park, organization embarked on the Freedom Jam concert. The other big event this year is the second annual banquet, in all at the Hulman Center. The state speaker was Nicky Cruz, a gang leader in the streets of New York City and one of the teens to get help through Teen Challenge. Cruz has rallies and he to gangs in rough neighborhoods, giving his testimony of saving and changed. Teen Challenge forgets all the organization looks for people who would partner with it financially. Those inspired can contact the local TC at 812-917-5582 or its website. People can know there is hope, often and a way out. Many of a TC staff were once bound by addiction, but found freedom through surrendering at a Teen Challenge Teen Challenge believes there is a better way of life - through the life giving power of Jesus.

Wabash Valley Teen Challenge students and staff pose for a picture May 14 during the group's 2016 Inland fish fry at Fairbanks Park.

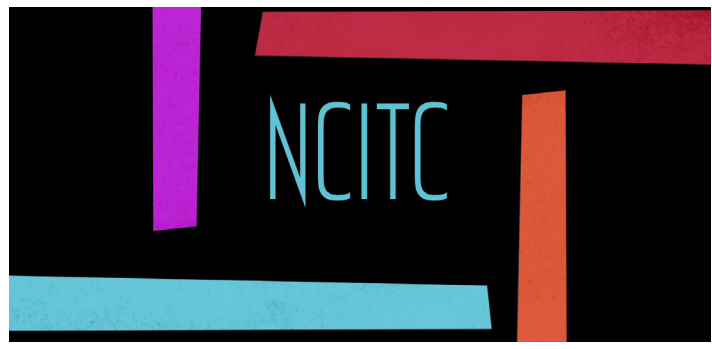
Nicky Cruz was the special speaker at the podium March 5 during the second annual Wabash Valley Teen Challenge banquet. The event was in Hulman Center at Indiana State University.

The food tent for the 8th annual Wabash Valley Teen Challenge banquet May 14 in Fairbanks Park.

Read the full article on back side.

## North Central Indiana Teen Challenge

Watch the NCITC movie sharing their last few months and the status on their new building. [Click here to watch](#) or go to [ncitc.life](http://ncitc.life)



## Grace House Teen Challenge



### Grace House volunteers

Poem VOLUNTEERS CHANGE LIVES  
 by Laura L. (Grace House student)

**VOLUNTEERS CHANGE LIVES**  
by Laura L. (Grace House student)

**It's hard to imagine how it would be,  
Without you pouring into me.**

**All of the prayers that are ever-flowing,  
And the times you've told us to just keep going.**

**You listen, teach and show us love.  
You are each a gift God sent from above.**

**Although our families are not close,  
You all have listened when we needed it the most.**

**It takes a truly giving heart  
To take us to McDonalds and Walmart!**

**It may sound silly, but it's true,  
These things couldn't happen without you.**

**A simple thanks, just wouldn't suffice  
To the best volunteers, you've changed our lives.**

CITC cont.

This last march, I was sent to Teen Challenge. I started coming to Eagle Church and actually listening to the worship songs and the messages. I actually comprehended them instead of just listened to them. **I started reaching out to God** and always thought it was just a one-way relationship- me talking to Him without a reply back. Then I started to ask myself, Is God not answering or is it just not the answer I want to hear? **I have started praying and actually talking to God. I've realized that the emptiness I always tried to fill with other things really only could be filled with Christ.** I now realize that I cannot do this on my own. I cannot go through life depending only on myself, others, drugs, or relationships.

I am definitely only at the beginning of my journey. Since I started letting God in more, I think I have gained strength and



self-confidence. I have changed my outlook on my whole life. I now realize that I was put in this world for a reason. I realize that I can do anything I set my mind to. **I realize that God kept me alive through everything as a meaning of His love.** I plan to travel the world to visit all the foreign, less fortunate countries to give them hope for their lives. I want to spread the Word of God with them. I am now so excited for my life and my future that I never thought I would have.

WVTC Cont.

Headlines that are common in Indiana.

- "Meth lab seizures rise 76 percent"
- "Indiana, one of the top 10 states of illicit drugs"
- "15th-highest rate of drug overdoses — 16 deaths per 100,000 residents"

Drug overdoses have become the leading cause of injury deaths in Indiana. One solution to the problem is here in the Wabash Valley. Lives are being transformed and set free from drug and alcohol addictions through the ministry of Teen Challenge. Since 1958, when Teen Challenge first got its start, helping teens in the streets of New York City, many things have changed with this global organization. It is a powerful tool now used by men and women alike, youth to adults, not just teens. The centers provide in-house care for those who need a breakthrough in their lives.

Faith-based instruction is key to the success of Teen Challenge centers, with terms usually 12 to 15 months in length. There are some centers that take mothers with children, and others that address family units. For a complete listing of centers go to [teenchallengeusa.com](http://teenchallengeusa.com).

With Teen Challenge's high success rate many choose to go this faith-based route as opposed to secular programs. The program is designed to truly help set the captives free. Wabash Valley Teen Challenge in Terre Haute has been doing just that for eight years in its men's division center. Students participate in devotions, Bible classes, life skills classes and work duties; and attend church services, TC chapels and prayer time. They are educated on morally upright behavior and learning to deal with situations in life, without running and turning to drugs as an escape.

At Teen Challenge's recent Jonah fish fry at Fairbanks Park, the organization embarked on the first Freedom Jam concert. The other big event this year was the second annual banquet, in March at the Hulman Center. The keynote speaker was Nicky Cruz, a former gang leader in the streets of New York City and one of the first teens to get help through Teen Challenge. Cruz hosts rallies and speaks to gangs in rough neighborhoods, giving his testimony of a life saved and changed.

As Teen Challenge forges ahead, they look for people who would partner with them financially. Those inspired to help can contact the local TC office at 812-917-5562 or their website, [wvtc.life](http://wvtc.life). People can know there is hope, freedom and a way out.

**Many of the TC staff were once bound by addiction, but found freedom through surrendering at a Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge believes there is a better way of life — through the life-giving power of Jesus!**