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RICKY

NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA TEEN CHALLENGE

## RESTORED

Growing up I felt love but also felt a veil between myself and everyone around me. I dealt with a slew of emotions, never feeling normal. I began experimenting with prescription meds at age 15. I continued using drugs and at age 21 my life was a train wreck. Several people offered me Teen Challenge and desperate for hope it seemed to be the only option.

I came into TC with a measure of faith in Christ but Jesus is much more real and intimate to me now. Many of my emotional problems have been healed and I now understand that Jesus is Lord. He is much more than a theological concept; He is the purpose of life. He is to be experienced and loved by us.

My life verse is John 15:5 "I am the Vine, you are the branches, he who abides in me and I in Him shall bear much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing." When I am finished with my time here at NCITC, doors are opening for me to do a worship/music internship at International House of Prayer in Kansas City, MO.



## CLAYTON WABASH VALLEY TEEN CHALLENGE



## DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

My name is Clayton and I am 37 years old from Southeast Illinois. As far back as I can remember my family was very close and I wanted for nothing. When I turned 10 my parents divorced and my twin brother and I chose to live with our mother. Eventually our mother remarried and we moved to Mississippi. As a teenager trying to fit in, I would casually drink alcohol. This eventually turned into every weekend and by graduation I was completely addicted to alcohol and nicotine. As life continued I learned how to function and live life in my addiction.

On April 24, 2014, I gave my life to the Lord and was saved. In a matter of one short month small compromises led me back into my addiction. This time the bottom fell out and I was in complete darkness as described in Proverbs 4:19.

On Oct 7th, 2016 I came to Teen Challenge. I knew right away that this ministry was of the Lord. Within the first week I re-committed my life to the Lord. The Lord has been rebuilding relationships in my life and using me to share the gospel. The verse that I stand on is Matthew 10:28.

# Enabling

## When HELPING becomes HURTING

It can be a fine line between helping and enabling. Letting a teenager ignore chores while studying for finals may be helpful. Dismissing that teenager's drug use, drinking, bullying, defiance or violence as "just part of being that age" is not helping.

Here are some questions to ask yourself when considering whether you are an enabler:

- ignore unacceptable behavior?
- resenting the responsibilities you take on?
- feel fearful that not doing something will

- cause a blowup, make the person leave you or even result in violence?
- lie to cover for someone else's mistakes?
- assign blame for problems to other people rather than the one who is really responsible?
- offer help when it is never appreciated or acknowledged?

Proverbs 19:19 "A hot-tempered person must pay the penalty; rescue them, and you will have to do it again".

Resources: (Click on title for Amazon link.)

**The Enabler** (When helping hurts the one you love) by Angelyn Miller

**First Aid for Enablers** (10 treatments for the enabler & addict they love) Dr. David Curry

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## CENTRAL INDIANA TEEN CHALLENGE

### STAY SHARP DRUG PREVENTION PRESENTATION TEAM

On June 8th, we attended a Kiwanis lunch meeting at the Lebanon Country Club. We were asked to share a portion of our Stay Sharp program that we present in Middle /High Schools, alongside community service groups, youth organizations and the like.

One of our students shared that her life struggle which played a part in leading her to drug abuse and other at risk behaviors was being deaf. She stated that her home life was chaotic at times. This student was introduced to a hearing aid implant that enables her to hear. She shared that it was when a loved one intervened and brought her to Central Indiana Teen Challenge, she began to have hope for her future.

Several members of the Kiwanis Club told the students they were moved when hearing the girl's stories. Another member mentioned they were concerned for the teens that aren't aware of a program like ours that walks alongside the students day by day to ensure they are staying drug free and learning to be citizens with character who can give back to their local communities. Dave Rose, the State Director of Indiana Teen Challenge is also a Kiwanis member. He assured the group that our Stay Sharp program wants to reach as many students as possible with their high energy presentation. The girls in the photo are a few of the students that participate in leading this program in our local schools. They share their stories of hope, recovery and family reunification, as-well-as lead small groups that invite participants to share their story and concerns.

Thank you Kiwanis Club for inviting us to share! We appreciate your kindness.

For more information or to schedule a Stay Sharp presentation please call 765-482-2336 x102 or visit [staysharp.us](http://staysharp.us)

