



TEEN CHALLENGE
ADVENTURE RANCH
EST. 1973



Our Mission

Empowering youth and families
with Christ-centered solutions
to life controlling issues.

Our Vision

Lives Transformed by Christ;
Redemption for Every Youth
Renewal for Every Family
Reaching Every Community



A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

They saw a kid who was a problem. I saw a kid who was hurting.

I arrived at TCAR over 27 years ago fresh out of college with a calling and passion to pour my life into adolescent boys who were struggling with life controlling issues. I knew the central piece to that transformation had to be building relationships and sharing the love of Jesus. It didn't take long to realize that this calling would be challenging.

There is an epidemic that continues to grow out of control in our country. Issues like suicide, depression, anxiety, addiction, abuse and trauma are just an accepted part of life.

The good news is that it also didn't take long to see and experience the rewards of all the hard work. Young men and their families are finding hope at TCAR.

There is nothing more satisfying in life than to see an adolescent boy discover his true identity, know he is valued, and begin to make positive changes in his life. TCAR doesn't just focus on the boys in the program. Every boy has a family that is in crisis, and our vision is to provide the tools for every family to experience renewal.

TCAR has grown dramatically in size and now offers a fully licensed treatment program along with a therapeutic boarding school. We strive daily to provide the most effective services possible. To make this happen I depend on our amazing team of staff, our Board of Directors, our prayer partners and our donors.

Together, we make a difference.

Sincerely,



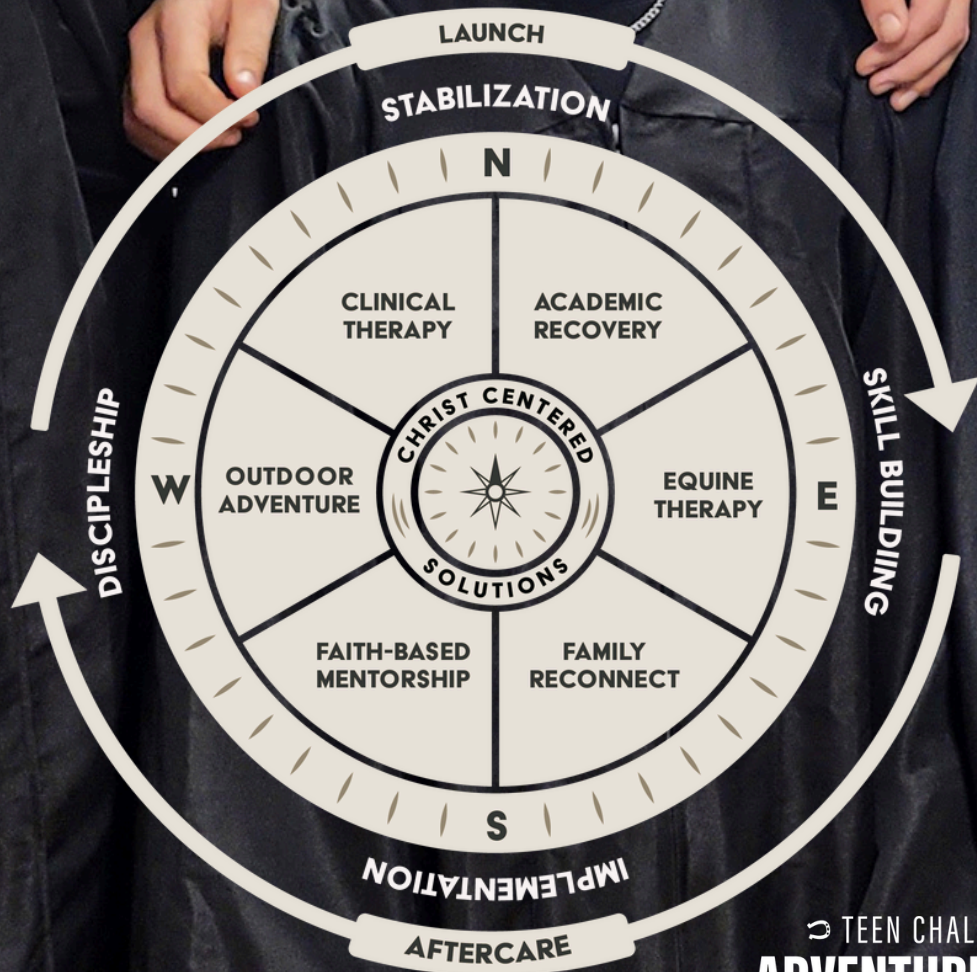
Justin Smith

CEO and Executive Director



transforming lives through Christ

Christ-centered Trauma-based Intervention



ABOUT US

Founded in 1973, Teen Challenge Adventure Ranch has a 50-year history of helping teens in crisis. Our Christ-centered therapeutic program blends trauma-based clinical therapy with horsemanship, outdoor adventure, academics, and so much more.

We help teen boys struggling with life controlling issues like substance abuse, addiction, mental health, and uncontrolled behavior through a 9-month residential therapy program.

Its our goal to help these teens find their identities in Christ by providing opportunities to build their personal relationship with the Lord.

Our program provides structure and exposure to a variety of opportunities for healthy personal growth while intentionally rebuilding confidence and trust.

We're not your typical rehab program...we're not even your typical Teen Challenge rehab program," director Justin Smith says.

Justin and his team have remained consistent in their relentless pursuit of excellence, creating an effective rehab program with a 78% success rate.

The program blends a proven, science-backed approach from a clinical perspective with innovative modalities like horsemanship and outdoor



adventure to appeal to the interests of teen boys and their social-emotional development.

“ How many of these teens that are struggling with substance abuse or video game addictions can honestly say that they've had an opportunity to climb a 200-foot rock wall or take a raft down a river? New experiences are the best way to challenge ourselves and encourage healthy growth.



At Teen Challenge Adventure Ranch, we believe in the power of a Christ-centered community to transform lives. We encourage families to be involved in the therapeutic process and will facilitate opportunities for family discussions, structured visits, and support services to help the entire family find renewal.

As the world continues to change, we remain committed to providing effective, Christ-centered solutions for every teen struggling to cope.

Projects

What we accomplished in 2023

Equestrian Center

The big project for 2023 was building a facility to house our equine program. As we end the year, construction is nearly complete. Our crew is completing some finish work as they build stalls and install windows. Our equine team will begin using the new facility in Q1 2024.

Rec Room Renovation

In the Fall of 2023, the Renegade RV Giving Back Group volunteers began work on a major renovation project, turning extra space in “Old Main” into a new rec room for the students. The project was completed at the end of the year, turning out better than we had ever imagined. The rec room features several large-screen TVs, theater a pool table, and theater-style seating and will be utilized as a reward for students in their free time.

50th Anniversary

In May 2023, we celebrated 50 years of success with a large community event on the ranch. Guests were invited to participate in facility tours, listen to a live concert, explore a TCAR museum exhibit, and enjoy themselves with an elaborate set up of food and fun.

ATC Adolescent Leaders Summit

With the help of two other centers, we hosted the first-ever ATC Adolescent Summit focused on equipping and empowering leadership at ATC youth centers with proven tools and methods.

Rebranding

In 2023, Teen Challenge Adventure Ranch adopted a new logo, new colors, and a new mission, vision, and values which will guide our marketing efforts as we work to attract new clients, donors, and employees. Together, our new branding helps create a strong visual identity that differentiates our facility from the many other Teen Challenge centers across the country.

Staff Housing

We built two sets of duplexes to provide affordable family housing for staff members serving our ministry. With a rural location in an area where the cost of living is comparatively high, this helps us attract and retain quality talent.

Strategic initiatives

What We're Planning for 2024

Expanding Our Program

In 2024, we will break ground on the third and final dorm on our current campus. This facility will increase our student capacity by up to 50%, enabling our program to serve more families every year. We are also in the early stages of planning a girls center to be located on a separate campus that will utilize our successful program model.

Foundation

In an effort to make high-quality therapeutic care available to more families, TCAR will establish a foundation to provide need-based scholarships. In addition to funding the foundation, we plan to establish an independent committee to select recipients.

Living Our Mission, Vision, and Values

It's our goal to embrace our new mission, vision, and values as a beacon guiding our direction day in and day out. As we plan family reconnect weekends, community events, camp retreats, and daily activities on the ranch, we aim to connect our actions and initiatives to our mission, vision, and values.

Data-Driven Decision Making

All areas of our program will benefit from focused attention on identifying, tracking, and reporting on key performance indicators that will help us measure the effectiveness of our program and make relevant changes that serve the best interests of our clients.

Administrative Building Remodel

As we continue to grow, our need for office space also continues to grow. This year, we will remodel an existing building on campus to serve as an administrative building. This will help centralize support staff while maintaining classroom and therapeutic spaces for client services.



Community

“The staff there have such a commitment to help people. They’re not competing with each other, they just care like I have never been cared for before.”

Every life changed in our program impacts 2.8 million lives around the world.



One doesn't sound like a big number, but that's all it takes to make a big difference. When we transform one life, we impact more than 2.8 million lives in ways both big and small.

It starts with one. By helping one teen find their purpose, build their confidence, and heal their past trauma, we help the world. Every interaction that individual will have will be better because they know themselves and they know Christ.

Every component from therapy to academics to planning for the future is approached with the individual in mind. Our staff use a variety of methods to encourage participation from both

students and parents every step of the way. This means, we will begin talking about creating aftercare plans and building a future outside our program right from the beginning.

Your community of support makes all the difference.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Innovation

“We work hard to continually beat the odds, fighting back against recidivism with adaptive treatment plans, skill building, and one of the most comprehensive aftercare programs in the industry.”



From meth cook to Christian family man, Drew's life was radically changed.



Memoirs of Transformation by Steve Williams

If you were to meet Drew Morrison today, you would be impressed with him as a great dad to his four children and a devoted husband to his wife, Sarah.

You would see his passion for the Lord. You would hear stories of praying for the sick and street evangelism. Then, you would hear his excitement about his work for various ministries, like The Chosen.

"I cooked meth with my dad when I was a kid" is the last thing you would expect to hear him say. But that's exactly where his story begins.

Meet Drew.

"I grew up in a small town outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma. I came from a broken home. My dad was an addict. My mom mainly took care of me, but since she was at work and in school, I had a lot of unsupervised free time. My brother and I took advantage of our free time, and we hung out with the wrong crowd, which introduced us to drugs at a young age. We started with marijuana and soon progressed to pills (narcotics). As we got older, the rebellion and drugs got stronger. I stumbled onto meth, and that's when things got really bad. By 16, I dropped out of school and ran away to live alone. I did a lot of couch surfing in those days."

Around 14, Drew started going to his dad's house to party. There, Drew was allowed to drink alcohol and smoke weed and cigarettes with his dad. Drew remembers his dad saying, "If you're going to be a real man, let's smoke a joint together."

Dad would help Drew lie to his mom so that Drew could sell drugs for him. Dad would get high on crack with his girlfriend regularly around Drew.

But Dad started getting nervous when Drew began using meth and then cooking meth. Dad moved to Houston to get himself clean. Four weeks later, he had Drew put on a bus to come to Houston to get him sober, too.

However, instead of getting sober, Drew caused Dad to relapse and got Dad into meth as well. That's when they started cooking meth together. By this time, Dad was struggling with paranoia.

His girlfriend was a Wiccan, and she would pray in Latin to the devil. Drew remembers some very demonic things happening in those days. Drew says the details are inappropriate for this article, but it left a mark on him concerning how real spiritual things are.

At one point, when Dad's girlfriend was manifesting a demon, Drew's dad broke out a Bible and introduced Drew to the book of Psalms. Father and son read and prayed Psalms together until the demon subsided. Drew's dad gave his life to the Lord when Drew was eight years old, and a pastor gave that Bible to him. It comforts Drew to know that even though his dad was an addict until the day he died, he held onto that Bible all these years.

After two nights in a row with severe demonic manifestations, Drew's dad made him get rid of the meth lab. Drew ran away, still in Houston, wandering the streets. He called his mom, and she learned enough about what was going on to call the police and get Drew and his dad arrested so Drew could get help.

“Six police cars pulled us over. I had 18 holes in my arm from shooting up and was all bruised so they took me to the hospital.”

“Two police officers sat with me in the hospital room, and later, I was taken to juvenile detention, where I began to detox. I was nearly 17 when my mom found Teen Challenge. I was honestly excited. I knew I needed a change, and rehab would be more fun than juvie. But I wanted to get high one more time before going, so when we got back to Oklahoma, I called up an addict friend, and we cooked some meth, and I showed up at TCAR high the next day. Brother Russell was among the first people I met; he knew I was high. We went camping right after I got there, and I realized this wasn't what I was expecting, and I wanted out.”

Arriving at TCAR

Drew found himself camping in the beautiful Ozarks by the Buffalo River, but he was still detoxing and struggling with paranoia, so instead of enjoying the great outdoors, he spent his time looking for cigarette butts on the bank of the river – it's the only way an addict knows how to feel better.

They must learn how to soothe their anxiety and other hard emotions without drugs. Justin and Russell were his intake leaders, and they could see how much Drew struggled. Drew says he remembers asking them if they had a nicotine patch he could use, and Justin said, “No, but we can pray for you.” Drew laughs now as he recalls how shocked and confused he was at that response.

He thought, “Pray for me? Are you stupid? I need drugs.” Drew also remembers Justin asking him what he does for fun, and Drew said, “Fun? What do you mean? I cook meth!” The drug becomes the focus of life and robs kids of their childhood. One thing Drew learned at TCAR is how to have fun in healthy ways.

The staff was firm but patient, and Drew says his talk with Russell that first night at the river is a special memory for him. When Drew got back to TCAR and started the schedule, he fought it. He tried to get kicked out. “I tried to push the staff to their limit. I broke into the medicine cabinet, tried to find mushrooms in the horse pasture, and tried running away. I even made a game of how much discipline I could rack up. And even though I was scared of spiritual stuff because of the demonic things I saw before, I prayed to the devil to get me out of there.”

I remember the day we had a staff meeting, and we nearly decided Drew couldn't stay. After weeks of his constant disruptive behavior, he had worn down the staff, and it didn't seem like we could keep this up with him. Our director at the time said he felt like the Lord wanted us to give Drew one more week. I remember being cautiously optimistic.

Drew meets Jesus.

Drew began to have encounters with God. One staff member, Seth Drewry, prayed for him, and his night terrors stopped. He saw two demons at one point, and he says they made him choose between them and God, and Drew says he had this deep internal cry that said, “God! I choose God!”

After that, the demons went away. Eventually, we took a group of guys to a youth conference called Ramp. Drew says that at Ramp, he opened up to God. “Steve took us to Ramp, and I felt the presence of God for the first time. When I realized how good God is, I thought, why has no one told me this!? I kept saying, ‘God, you're so good!’ Why did the church make Christianity look boring or fake? God is so real and so good!”

After Ramp, Drew started being disciplined in his new faith. “I kept hearing people say God told me this or led me to do that. I was like, why doesn't God speak to me?”

One staff, Mark Welbourn, told me to read a chapter of the Bible every night, and when I got to Matthew 7, where Jesus said to the wicked servant, ‘Depart from me, I never knew you,’ I said to God, ‘God, you need to know me. My name is Drew. My favorite color is orange. I've screwed up my life...’ At one church the Ranch took us to, they said God is a counselor, and I realized he's listening to me like a counselor, so I started recapping my day with him every day. It was sort of like a confession.”

A short while after Drew gave his life to Jesus, I had the privilege of baptizing him in Neal Reed's pool. He says a lot of things changed then. His desires started changing. He lost interest in porn, for example, and instead of picking on people in the dorm, he became interested in how he could help a kid in trouble or help the staff. He realized it felt good to serve. Drew wrestled with God about giving up his girlfriend, but when he finally surrendered that relationship to God, he said things got good with the Lord.

"We went to Ramp again a few months later, and it was a powerful experience. I got baptized in the Spirit and spoke in tongues. After that, a lot of breakthroughs came. I started taking communion every day in my room. I went from getting alternate meals and sneaking candy to sneaking crackers and juice to my room so I could take communion! I think having secret communion in my room symbolized owning my faith apart from staff or other students. Even after TC, I kept communion elements in my car for years. It's a very special time between me and the Lord."

relapse isn't the end of recovery

Drew relapsed on every pass at TCAR. On his 10-day pass, Drew started well until one of his dad's atheist friends argued with him and caused Drew to question all the experiences he'd had with God.

"I questioned it all. I ran from Jesus and ran to alcohol. I drank so much until my face was numb. Alcohol was my first drink in the mornings. Then, one night, I got a dream from the Lord that I was being crucified. That scared me but also let me know Jesus would not give up on me. I had got a job on that pass bussing tables so I could buy more beer.

This lady at the restaurant followed me around, telling me about Jesus. I couldn't get away from Him! I got back to the Ranch, and Steve was preaching about how a righteous man falls but gets back up, and I knew I had to get back up. It was VERY hard. I was mad at Steve for making it sound so easy, but I was determined. I knew that if I failed again, it'd be too hard, so I decided no secular music, no alcohol, no nothing. That's when I went completely sober. I also decided not to go back home."

He realized it felt good to serve.

Drew finished TC four weeks later and enrolled in Youth With A Mission in Ozark, Arkansas. There, Drew's spark grew into a wildfire. His hunger for God was insatiable. Drew became a man led by the Spirit, fasting, praying, and using his developing gifts to bring people to Jesus. Drew met his wife, Sarah, at YWAM. Sarah has her own crazy story, and Drew mused about the goodness of God, who can take two people from different kinds of crazy lifestyles, and somehow, by the grace of God, it works.

After nearly four years in YWAM, Drew heard God say, "In 3 days, I'm going to open a door, and I want you to walk through it." Three days later, Kyle Tate, a staff at TCAR, texted Drew and said to work at TCAR. His wife, Sarah, also had read there was a new position open at TCAR, and they both knew they were supposed to come minister with us here at TCAR—and they did! Drew was on staff for over three years and did an amazing job! He made a tremendous impact on many young men. It's always a blessing to the boys at TCAR when one of the staff is a former student, especially one as sold out as Drew Morrison. It gives them hope, and former students understand our boys at a deeper level and have more patience with them than I ever could.

A life transformed by Christ

Drew and Sarah live in Minnesota, near Sarah's family, where they raise their four kids: Rose, Noah, Luke, and Samuel. Drew works at a Christian tech company that serves major companies like The Chosen, The Five Love Languages, Wild at Heart, etc. The family enjoys ice fishing and camping. Drew says he doesn't evangelize as much as he used to, "It's a different season. I'm career and family-focused now. I'm still close to the Lord and carry His heart, but the expression of my love for the Lord is different."

I couldn't be more proud of Drew! He has stayed the course, never had a relapse since finishing TC, and has seen God work miracles in and through him. Just look at the contrast in those pictures – Drew's story is proof that God changes lives!

Read more at teenchallengerranch.com/blog/



Adventure

“There’s just something about being three miles into a hike winding around a mountain that gets kids to open up. It’s a lot different than being in a traditional clinical setting, it doesn’t feel like therapy.”

Outdoors^{therapy}

Life on a ranch provides unique opportunities to get outdoors. At Teen Challenge Adventure Ranch, we lean into the opportunities that the Ozarks offer with a concentrated outdoor adventure therapy program designed to engage teens in self-growth through new experiences.

what this looks like

Students participate in a variety of activities, beginning on intake day:

- » Camping Trips
- » Rock Climbing Expeditions
- » Cave Exploration
- » Float Trips
- » Ziplining
- » Fishing & Swimming

"Sometimes the best thing that we can do to get teens to open up and participate in their therapy is to make it not look like therapy at all."

The type of outdoor adventure activities that we use requires communication and trust. We use a combination of peer groups and debriefs led by licensed therapists to connect the dots between the thrill of a new experience and the confidence gained from that experience.

In addition to an active outdoor adventure therapy program, we also utilize equine-assisted therapy.

In our equine program, students get regular opportunities to work with horses. Depending on skill and comfort level, this might include observing, handling, caring for, or riding a horse.

why this works

Horses are known for mirroring humans, so they help teens who might struggle to identify their emotions see feedback in real-time. Working with horses is also one of the first places that students begin to see progress, empowering them to engage with all of their therapeutic activities on a deeper level.

adventure + equine therapy works

78%

**are in active recovery
12 months after
leaving Teen Challenge**

For many teens, spending more time outdoors, engaging in non-traditional therapeutic activities is a great way to supplement a trauma-based clinical treatment approach.



Faith

“At TCAR, I found out what it meant to follow Christ, how Christianity is supposed to look, and how to completely surrender. A lot took place, but something in my mind changed. The way I thought, what I was interested in, and my appetites changed.”

We Believe.



There is redemptive power in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

45
students

The number of students that **made a decision for Christ** in 2023. That's 3 out of 4 in the program. These commitments included 30 water baptisms and 21 spiritual baptisms.

78
percent

Students who graduated from TCAR in the previous 12 months agree or strongly agree that the spiritual resources offered in the program helped them **grow in their faith**.

99
percent

Graduates agree that they **get along better with their families** 12 months after leaving TCAR. Their renewed commitment to Christ plays a big part in providing that renewal.

Our Beliefs

Did you know that research shows a strong link between faith and recovery? Faith-based programs like TCAR save **20,693 lives** and more than **\$316B** every year.



Learn more at teenchallengeranch.com/beliefs-values/

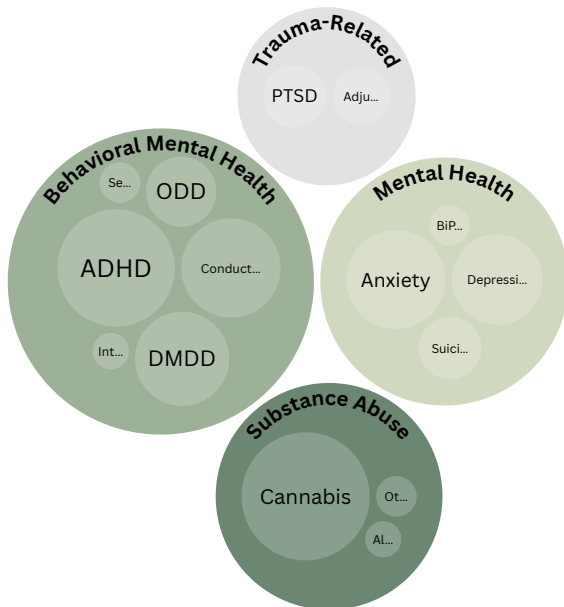
Who We Serve

Teen Challenge Adventure Ranch is a dual-diagnosis treatment facility serving teen boys ages 14-17.

The majority of clients at TCAR have substance abuse issues with co-occurring mental health disorders that range from general conduct and behavioral-oriented disorders to mood and other serious mental health disorders.

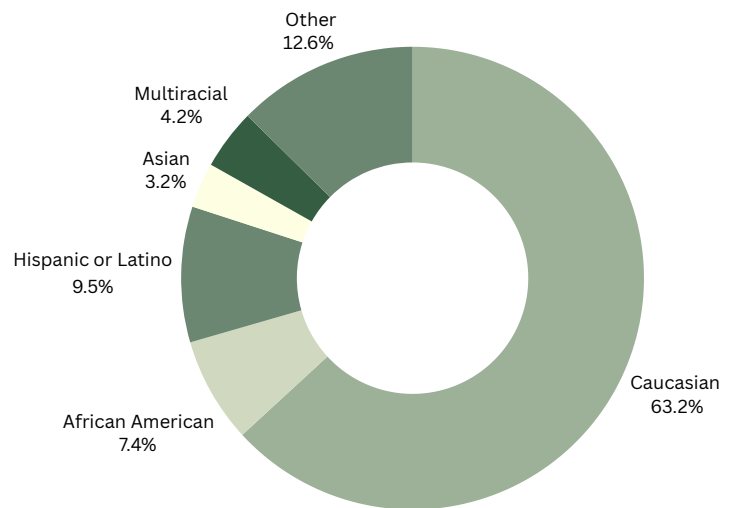
Parents often seek placement in our program as the result of out-of-control behavior and drug use.

The most common diagnoses include:



TCAR's trauma-based interventions are designed to treat a wide range of co-occurring conditions including challenging and defiant behaviors, drug use, and mental health needs.

Population Served



Specifically, our psychiatrist and team of licensed therapists work with conditions like cannabis-related disorders, depression, anxiety, ADHD, conduct disorders, mood-related disorders, reactive attachment disorders, bipolar, PTSD, oppositional defiant disorder, alcohol and substance abuse, sexual dysfunction, suicidal ideation, and parent/family conflict.

Serving Families Across the US

In 2023, TCAR served clients from 26 different states with the largest concentration of placements from Texas, California, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri.

From drug addict to devoted husband, father, and music director



“Being a father is the single most important thing I’ll do in life. There’s no greater calling for me than to be a good father to my kids and lead them to Christ. They are my disciples. When I first held my son was the first moment I’ve ever felt truly content. It is still the greatest moment of my life.”

“God has done a miracle in my son’s life, and this mother who used to cry every night is now filled with pride and joy over her son.”

Meet Vlad.

Growing up as an immigrant in the United States, Vlad felt like an outsider. Struggling to fit in and find his place, he turned to drugs and alcohol to connect with others.

Pot led to drinking and drinking led to pills and he felt powerless to stop the slide. His school suspended him when he was caught with substances on campus.

Vlad’s football coach convinced him to try a local rehab program, but Vlad says he was high the whole time he was there.

He needed a stronger intervention, which led him to TCAR. Initially skeptical, Vladimir found himself surrounded by individuals who genuinely cared about him and supported him.

The walls he had built around his heart crumbled, and he embraced a renewed relationship with God. This newfound faith provided him with the strength to overcome addiction and face the challenges that lay ahead.

Recovery isn’t always linear. Vlad would relapse after leaving our program. But because of the experience that he had here, he voluntarily entered another long-term Christian program as an adult.

Today, Vlad is healthy, married, and raising a family. He serves in his church as a deacon and an overseas missionary, continuing to grow in his faith as he navigates life with his wife, Inna.



How You Can Help

19856 Boys Home Rd.
Morrow, Arkansas 72749
teenchallengeranch.com



Christ-centered
Residential Therapeutic
Treatment Program for
Teen Boys

Connect with Us



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Become a Part of the TCAR Community

We need your help to spread our impact. Discover opportunities to support our mission.

join our mailing list



Support our mission to transform lives

It takes a village to change lives. Help us bring redemption to youth and renewal to families.

make a donation



Help us grow our team of extraordinary talent

Are you looking for a meaningful career? Work for our ministry, helping us bring redemption to every youth.

apply for a job

thank you

to our Community of Support

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And Many More