2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Meet

Teen Challenge of Southern California

Core Values:
• The Holy Spirit began and sustains this work.
• Life transformation is the reason for our existence.
• No one is beyond Christ’s redemption.
• We rely on a peer-to-peer discipleship model.
• We guard our integrity.
• We highly value our supporter’s trust.

Statement of our Corporate Culture:
Ours is a missional movement that unashamedly follows Christ, embraces servant leadership, and shares transforming grace.

Philosophy of Ministry:
• We serve our students, churches, volunteers, supporters, and communities.
• We are ambassadors of a ministry of reconciliation.
• Personal growth and constant improvement are essential.
• Our lives teach more than our words.
• We are committed to Excellence.

Our Values

Our Mission Statement:
We provide youth, adults and families with an effective and comprehensive Christian faith-based solution to life-controlling drug and alcohol problems in order to become productive members of society. By applying biblical principles, Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally-sound, emotionally-balanced, socially-adjusted, physically-well, and spiritually-alive.

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Teen Challenge of Southern California (TCSC) has eight residential centers with a bed capacity of more than 330. Not all centers are the same. When students enter TCSC they do so at one of their three centers or two other facilities. Ministry induction centers are located in Shafter, Santa Ana and San Diego. Women’s induction centers are located in Bakersfield and Los Angeles. Normally, students remain in an induction center for approximately four months, after which they move to the Men’s Christian Life School in Riverside or the Women’s Christian Life School in Ventura.

Students in the Induction Phase of TCSC are introduced to the spiritual and life disciplines that are at the heart of the TCSC mission. Church services occur times each week to provide opportunities for students to choose to accept Christ as Savior or rededicate their lives to Him during the early stages of the Induction Phase. Allowing Jesus to become the central focus of their lives is the single greatest reason why Teen Challenge is successful. Students also participate choruses around the center such as laundry, kitchen duty or grounds maintenance as well as involvement with work activities away from the center. Community service projects and fundraising events. Successfully completing the Induction Phase prepares students for the Christian Life School Phase.

Students in the Christian Life School Phase have similar daily and weekly activities as they experienced at their induction center. This phase generally lasts eight months with Bible classes that focus increasingly on deeper levels of spiritual maturity. GED classes are offered and the final month emphasizes skills needed for the work environment. While in Christian Life School, students choose to become interns at centers across the TCSC network. The internship last four months and allows student/interns to gain experience restoring something to its original condition. We believe that rehabilitation is not enough, that “rehab” is insufficient for living a life free from the recovering patients’ daily drug addiction. That is one reason why we do not reference our ministry as one of rehabilitation. Another reason is that secular rehabilitation programs are governed by rules and vocabularies established by state and federal agencies. TCSC is a ministry that functions as part of the Body of Christ and is governed by Biblical principles. Unlike rehab programs our residential recovery ministry is not subject to the spiritual restrictions and licensing requirements of secular programs.

We believe that the Teen Challenge model, and the transformed lives that it has produced in 50 years of ministry, is the world’s most effective method of bringing permanent change to those with addiction and life controlling problems. TCSC leadership is aware that this phase last no more than 2 years. The Center’s hope is to make an 86% success rate for Teen Challenge. We do not believe that the 86% figure is an accurate measurement of our success. It is not a percentage of those who have not been able to complete more than 30 years ago – to generalize results and claim such a high success rate for all Teen Challenge centers in America. One of the most important functions of the Christian Life School is to assist students in establishing personal identity. Integrity does not permit us to claim a success rate of 86%, but we can say with confidence that the students who have graduated and remain in Teen Challenge and that Teen Challenge offers the most successful ministry or program of its type in the world.

Our SCOPE
While the Residential Recovery ministry of Teen Challenge is the most well known aspect of our work, TCSC has many vital programs as well. Our SOmE outreach components of ministry that are also part of who we are. These include:

- After School Learning Centers. This activity targets at-risk children, and youth, and provides them with tutoring assistance in a safe and caring Christ-centered environment.
- Vacation Bible Schools. TCSC hosts our staff and volunteers to communicate the Gospel in an extended Christian Education environment during the summer vacation.
- Winter Camp. This activity permits inner-city youth to experience the beauty of a Christian camping environment.