

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.*

- Kern County
- Orange County
- San Diego
- Los Angeles County
- Inland Empire

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.



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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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Meet TEEN CHALLENGE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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.

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 STRUCTURE

Teen Challenge of Southern California (TCSC) has eight residential centers with a bed capacity of more than 530. Not all centers are the same. When students enter TCSC they do so at one of our three men's or two women's Induction Centers. Men's 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 principles and life disciplines that are at the heart of the TCSC ministry. Church attendance, chapel services, prayer times, Bible-oriented classes, personal devotions and Bible study, and meetings with TCSC staff teacher/advisers are all vital elements of the students' daily or weekly schedule. Many students 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 perform chores 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 fund-raising 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 courses are offered and the final month emphasizes skills needed for a successful transition back into society. With the completion of the Christian Life School Phase a high percentage of students choose to become interns at centers across the TCSC network. The internship last four months and allows student/interns to gain practical experience while continuing to strengthen their Christian walk within the nurturing environment of TCSC.

The **Teen Challenge Ministry Institute (TCMI)** is an intensive one year Bible School specifically designed to prepare its students for ministry. Admission is by application and waiting lists for acceptance are not unusual. Unlike the Induction Phase and the Christian Life School Phase, TCMI charges tuition fees to its students, but permits them to pay by providing fund-raising opportunities. Coursework is combined with practical training in church and related ministries and takes place largely in inner-city communities. Upon graduation from TCMI many students have completed virtually all educational requirements and elect to become credentialed ministers.

The **Re-entry Phase** is an important and necessary step for some students who need interim housing while transitioning back into the work force. Through the generous donations of our supporters TCSC has more than a dozen apartments available for rent to students at little or no cost while they become re-established in their work and community. This housing is intended to be short-term and also gives the students emotional and spiritual support during this crucial transition phase.

OUR MODEL

Unlike secular programs that seek to rehabilitate their clients using a variety of methods, TCSC believes that redemption through the person and sacrifice of Jesus Christ is foundational to everything we do. We do not believe that addiction is a life-long condition, and that addicts must accept occasional relapses into using drugs or bingeing on alcohol. When a person accepts Jesus as Savior they become a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). Empowered by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit they are able to lead a new life, clean and sober, with the promise that living "in Christ" brings with it a hope and a future (Jer. 29:11). For more than 50 years the power of God has demonstrated in the lives of thousands of graduates that the "New Creation Model" works.

Secular models seek to rehabilitate, which means restoring something to its original condition. We believe that rehabilitation is not enough, that "rehab" is insufficient for living a life free from the bondage of 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 addictions and life controlling problems. TCSC leadership is aware that a study conducted in the mid 1970s has been used to promote 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 possible, on the basis of the study cited – which was conducted 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 Core Values of TCSC is that we guard our integrity. Integrity does not permit us to claim a success rate of 86%, but we can say with integrity that God's blessings have rested and remain on 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 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.** This activity permits 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 experience. For many, it is the first such experience and snow is an added bonus!

- **Back-to-School outreach.** Most of our centers are located in lower income neighborhoods. These activities are held prior to the start of the school year and provide backpacks and school supplies to students.
- **Youth.** Our centers reach out to youth through a number of focused ministries such as God's Gang and Kid's Club.
- **Jail & Juvenile Hall ministry.** For more than 30 years our staff and student teams have visited jails and juvenile halls with a message of hope and salvation. Frequently we hear that the message shared by these teams is the reason some of our residential students come to Teen Challenge.
- **Convalescent Homes.** Our students training for ministry volunteer on a weekly basis to visit a convalescent home where they share and sing with the elderly.
- **School Teams.** Our staff and students conduct anti-drug and anti-violence themed school assemblies. The impact of their personal testimonies lends added weight to the drug abuse prevention message.
- **Church Teams.** Our teams are also available to share with church youth groups. In addition, TCSC students training for ministry are involved with nearly a dozen inner-city churches, assisting them with children's, youth, and other aspects of church ministry.
- **Skid Row & Missions Teams.** TCSC staff and students are frequently found ministering to those on Skid Row. Our staff also coordinates inner-city ministry with youth pastors that desire to have their young people experience urban ministry first-hand. Youth missions teams annually come from Southern California, Texas, and elsewhere for training and ministry.
- **Food Distribution.** Each year our centers work with food banks and other food suppliers to conduct regular food distribution events. Annually more than 100 tons of food are distributed.
- **Family Support Groups.** Drug and alcohol abuse impacts entire families. Many of our centers hold regularly scheduled Living Free or Turning Point meetings to help friends and family members cope with their loved ones' life-controlling issues.
- **World Missions.** Teen Challenge centers are located in more than 80 countries around the world. TCSC has played an integral role in the establishment of new centers in the eastern European countries of Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. We have also provided construction team and staff development assistance for these and other countries in Europe and Africa.
- **Leadership Training.** Related to our missions focus, TCSC staff participates in leadership development and pastors conferences in selected countries including Russia, Romania, El Salvador and the Netherlands. Fulfilling the Great Commission is the central focus of these activities.

OUR FUNDING

TCSC is one of an increasingly smaller minority of Teen Challenge centers in the U.S. that does not charge for its services. We recognize that by the time most students enter our doors they have lost all of their financial and relational resources, and that a fee of any amount would deny them access to our ministry. On average, it costs TCSC nearly \$15,000 to provide a one year scholarship for each student.

TCSC does not receive government funding because that would require eliminating "The Jesus Factor" which is the reason for our success. We depend on a combination of activities to generate the funds needed for our ministry operations. These include monthly pledge support from individuals and churches; offerings from church services that feature the ministry of TCSC; special fund-raising and awareness-raising events such as fashion shows, auctions, golf tournaments, barbecues, and banquets. In addition to the support we receive from individuals, churches and community organizations our students are also involved in work-related activities such as catering, maintenance and other projects. Students are also involved in fundraising activities that provide them with the opportunity to share their testimonies in various venues.

OUR STAFF

The overwhelming majority of TCSC staff are graduates of Teen Challenge, including almost all of our currently serving center directors. This allows us to minister to our residential students utilizing a peer-to-peer model, a key factor in our success. TCSC has approximately 100 full and part-time staff members.

It would not be possible to fulfill our mission and ministry without the faithful support of hundreds of volunteers who love Teen Challenge. Many of these men and women serve on local center Advisory Boards, Women's Guilds and committees for special events. Others participate more directly in various outreach activities by serving as mentors, tutors, GED instructors and other roles. Simply stated, TCSC would not be possible without volunteer assistance.

OUR ROOTS

David Wilkerson went to New York City in 1958 in response to God's call. His goal was to share the Gospel and help seven teenagers on trial for murder. When we look back to that event with the benefit of more than 50 years of history, it is clear that God had much more in mind. Seeds sown then are now producing fruit all over the world. A ministry first called Teen Age Evangelism became Teen Challenge, and in 1963 it was established in Los Angeles. Today TCSC has eight residential centers. Today Teen Challenge USA has more than 220. And today Teen Challenge centers are in more than 80 countries worldwide. Teen Challenge remains rooted in our original call to help and share the message of redemption and restoration.

If you, a friend or a loved one need help please call the Teen Challenge Center closest to you using the phone numbers on the back of this brochure. God bless you.