

2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER

“ICE epidemic leaves chronic shortage of beds at Victorian drug rehabilitation clinics”

VICTORIA is in the grip of a drug-rehab crisis with just 19 beds in private clinics available at a minimum cost of \$7000 a month. A *Herald Sun* investigation has revealed the desperate situation for thousands of addicts who can't afford the fees for private care, but are risking death while waiting four to six months for a public or charity-funded facility. As the public health system buckles under the strain of the ICE epidemic with all 208 public rehab beds now full, desperate parents of addicts are paying huge sums by re-mortgaging and cashing in super funds to avoid the wait. Severely addicted young people who can't afford help, or don't have family backing, are at risk of suffering psychosis, turning to crime, facing jail and even death, experts warn.

“Residential rehab is a safe, secure environment for an addict to have any real chance of recovery — outpatient services and counselling often just isn't enough.”

The only immediate option for addicts needing rehab is run by private clinics — with the most expensive yesterday quoting \$28,392 for a month's stay at The Melbourne Clinic in Richmond. The *Herald Sun* contacted all the state's main rehab facilities asking the waiting time for an ice addict in desperate need of residential rehabilitation, and was told there was not a single public bed immediately available. (taken from *Herald Sun* newspaper September 6, 2015)

At this time as I write this newsletter Teen Challenge Victoria has 24 beds in total, with all of them spoken for and a waiting list. Gaining entrance to the program requires a contact phone call from the person seeking help. We talk to many people on a daily basis seeking assistance for family members. My encouragement to family members is to continue to support their family member in seeking help, encourage them that they have the courage within to make that initial phone call.

Teen Challenge Victoria has provided residential rehabilitation services as a non- government funded organisation since 1974 and we have helped literally thousands of people in that time. As a faith based organisation we rely on the spirit of generosity that lives within the hearts of believers in the teachings of Jesus, motivated by a divine compassion to reach out and love the unlovable.....People like you! It is a fruit of your faith that makes it possible to continue providing a place of residence, for many that would be otherwise homeless, and food and clothing for many that would otherwise have very little. Teen Challenge provides those basic needs, but not only that, we provide the opportunity to experience love , forgiveness and begin a new life, to be changed from the inside out, healed from abuse, and restored relationships with family, friends and learn to live by faith in Jesus, their Saviour. As the world gets darker, this is our time to be the beacon on the hill and shine with the love of God in this most practical way. LOVE CONQUERS ALL!!



Thanks for your support and prayers.

Neil Meyer
Executive Director

Stories of Hope!!

Glen Wilson

Hi, I'm 42 and I was a bad drug addict for well over 20 years, I would take whatever drugs I could get just to be off my face. I was a violent man who loved to fight a lot and thought it was normal. In my dysfunctional life I somehow managed to find my beautiful wife and have 7 children together, but I still always wanted to be off my face, I didn't know how to face life straight. Then I found the drug ICE, I thought it was good, well I must have, as I walked away from my family to pump it up my arm, but it wasn't long until I had lost everything and ended up in the psych ward with no hope, the ICE had destroyed it all. I contacted Teen Challenge and became a student, now my life is pretty good. God is doing awesome things in my life, I am drug free and I feel great. TC has changed my way of thinking and God has changed my whole life, He is restoring all the things I lost including my wife and kids. God is great, He's better than any drug, so thanks God and thank you TC.



Shannon Boyack

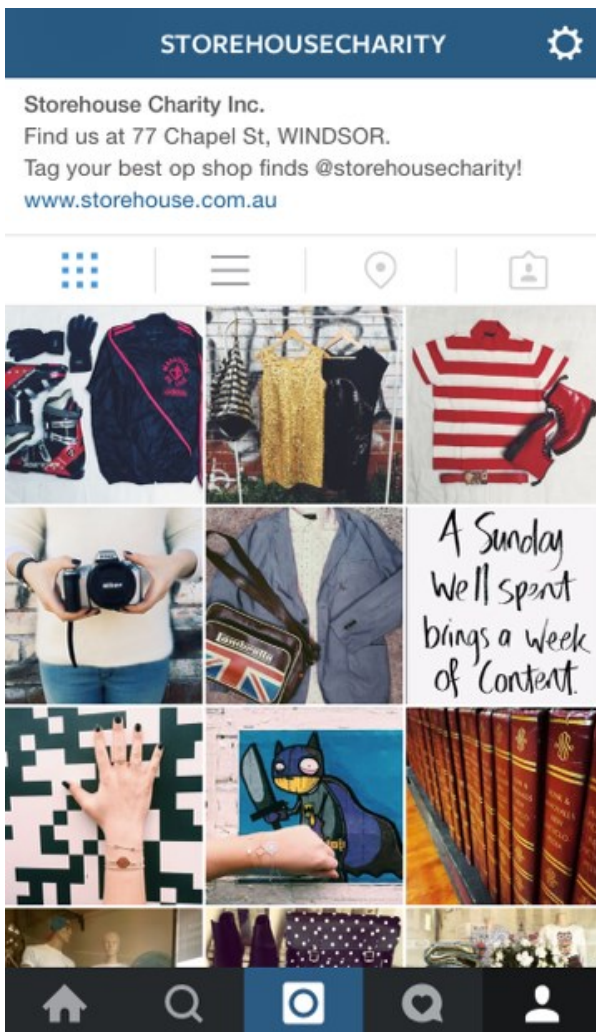
Hi, my name is Shannon and I am 19 years old. I came to Teen Challenge on the 2nd March 2015. I have battled with a porn addiction since I was 14 years old. I was watching it every chance I had, through this I lost my Mum's trust and also my Stepdad. I was losing jobs like it was nothing. The only reason that I was getting jobs was because I had no money to pay for porn. If it wasn't for Teen Challenge I would have been on the street homeless and without a family. Since I have been at Teen Challenge God has given me the strength to do anything. Like it says in Philippians 4:13 – Christ gives me the strength to face anything. This scripture has helped me face my fears and prevail in my struggles. So I thank you God for helping me overcome my addiction and I thank you Teen Challenge for saving my life.



COMING SOON!

Teen Challenge is going online!!...yes we are launching our new online store in October...that's right next month you will be able to browse and purchase items on our new online store at www.storehousecharity.com. You will also be able to donate and share us with family and friends. Please show your support by visiting us online.

WHERE THERE
IS HOPE,
THERE IS *faith.*
WHERE THERE
IS FAITH, *miracles*
HAPPEN.



**WELCOME TO A NEW STAFF MENTOR
.....this is his testimony:**



I remember sitting on a construction site having lunch and thinking that my life had nothing. I felt that I was living a life that was empty. My life was just ticking over. I'd go to work, go out on the weekend and hope to stay at someone's place so that I could get drunk. Eventually I could see

that this sort of life was getting me nowhere. After that I started hanging around a family that went to church and I realised they had something that I didn't have. The way they did life had another dimension to it. I found that they actually believed in Jesus. I wanted Him in my life too and I'll never forget the day when I went to the front of the church meeting I was in and asked Jesus to come in my life. There has been some ups and downs in life since then, but as I go to Jesus He gives me the power and the hope I need for life. He is my source. He has given me a passion for people and to know the truth of Gods word. That is what drives me in life and that is why I'm here at Teen Challenge.

I have a beautiful wife in Jasmine and an amazing 14 month old in Stephanie. At the start of this year I was working for Knights Building Supply's but felt that this year was going to be my last year there. As it turned out I had a phone call from Jim Stevens (Program Manager) who asked me to consider a job as a Phase 3 mentor at Teen challenge. I prayed and felt that it was the right thing to do and lined up more with my passion. Jasmine and I also Pastor the Christian Life Church at Rushworth Victoria and feel very honoured to be apart of peoples lives and be a Godly influence.

Peter Guerra



Mark your diary!!

Teen Challenge Open day and Graduation Ceremony.
BBQ - Jumping castle for kids - tours of the centre.
November 14th
510 South Boundary Rd, Kyabram
10.30am - 4pm
Graduation Service @ 2pm

Prayer Points:

- ⇒ Continuing financial provision
- ⇒ Continued transformation of the hearts & minds of our students
- ⇒ Called and committed staff for Teen Challenge
- ⇒ More monthly donors
- ⇒ Prayer for development of Home of Hope

Praise Points:

- ⇒ Funds donated for the House Renovation— work has begun!
- ⇒ More young men accepting Christ
- ⇒ Successful set-up of online Thrift store
- ⇒ Our dedicated staff and volunteers
- ⇒ Sacrificial giving of our donors
- ⇒ Opportunities to share in local schools

Cars 4 Recovery.....

Teen Challenge's unique Vehicle Donation Program allows individuals to donate their vehicles and change a life in our rehabilitation program. Proceeds from the sales of the donated vehicles directly fund our program. Vehicles not road-worthy are sold to recyclers and help fund our program. We accept:

- Cars
- Trucks
- Motorcycles
- Utes
- RV's
- Vans
- ATV's
- Caravans
- Trailers
- Watercraft
- Boats

*All donations receive a fair market value donation receipt.



Yes, we wish to make a gift and help rescue lives from homelessness, poverty and addiction

Donation of... \$50 \$100 \$250 \$_____ **OR**



One off donation of: \$ _____

BY CREDIT CARD

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ Card holder name: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

BY DIRECT DEBIT

Bank Account Name: Teen Challenge International Vic Inc. Acc #: 10007175 BSB: 063-516

Name: Mr / Mrs / Ms _____

Address: _____ P/C: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (M) _____

Email: _____