

Sonrise Adult & Teen Challenge Graduate Testimony

FROM DRUGS AND GANGS TO JESUS

Mr. Jose Santiago *Phillipians 4:6*



Life before Adult & Teen Challenge was filled with constant anger and malice. The things I did to people, the life I was living caused me to become numb to feelings. I became addicted to the lifestyle of gang activity and selling drugs. This led to me to using the drugs that I was selling. God was not really a part of my life. I was consumed by the gang lifestyle, which taught me to hate anyone who wasn't us. All of this drove my loved ones away. Although they loved me, I was not allowed to be around my family. I remember my mom being sad, but she never stopped praying for me. My Dad gave up and didn't want anything to do with me. The mother of my child kept my daughter away from me, but this life had a hold of me. The people that were around, I don't know if they were my friends, but they seemed to be around when they wanted something from me.

I remember when my addiction was at my worst. I was arrested, and when I was released, the people that I was living with moved and would not tell me where. I was forced to live on the street, staying at various acquaintances' houses. To be able to survive and get high, I would rob, steal, and sell drugs. My mom and sister wouldn't let me back in the house, so I was living like that for some time. My self-worth was at an all-time low.

When I was in jail, I met an older man who had been living the gang life most of his life. He was into the Bible and didn't want anything to do with gangs anymore. He would get onto me about doing bad things, and he explained to me that there was more to life than what we were doing with this gang. When I came eye to eye with him, I felt a change.

Entering Sonrise Adult & Teen Challenge, I was able to walk this new perspective out and be transformed. I decided to give my life to God and began to see myself change. Being in jail, I was really shut off from the world and anti-social, but here I learned to open up. Once where I hated people, I have learned to love and appreciate others. I have developed Godly friendships with other students that are seeking the same life transformation as me. I remember when the program took us to an Elevation Worship Concert, just seeing all the community genuinely loving and worshipping God was so powerful. That was the best feeling that I have ever had and gave me a new perspective.

Adult & Teen Challenge gave me a reason to start loving, allowing me to open my heart. I now see that God loves me and has always been there for me. While in this program, God has restored my relationship with my family and my daughter. I have become a dependable and committed person. I plan to continue serving the Lord through Adult & Teen Challenge by interning with Sonrise. One day, I hope to work with troubled adolescent teenage boys at Brush Creek Ranch. I feel like my story can help kids and keep them from straying onto the wrong path. I want to be there for somebody like God was there for me.



NEWS AROUND OKLAHOMA

ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE

NEW CREATION
MARCH 2020 newsletter

SONRISE ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE PRESENTS:
THE HOPE GALA
HELP US PUT HOPE WITHIN
REACH OF EVERY ADDICT

APRIL 30, 2020

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
LAWTON FIRST ASSEMBLY
2201 NW 82ND STREET, LAWTON, OK 73505

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION
TICKETS ARE \$30 AND
INCLUDE A DELICIOUS CATERED MEAL

CALL TO DONATE OR
SPONSOR THIS EVENT
580-429-3940 EXT 115

REGISTER TODAY AT
SONRISHOP.COM/HOPE

Green Country

Adult & Teen Challenge



Once a men's center, the Green Country program in Sapulpa, Ok has been transformed into an 18+ ladies program to better fit the needs of the community. Pictured above, we are proud to give you a glimpse of the

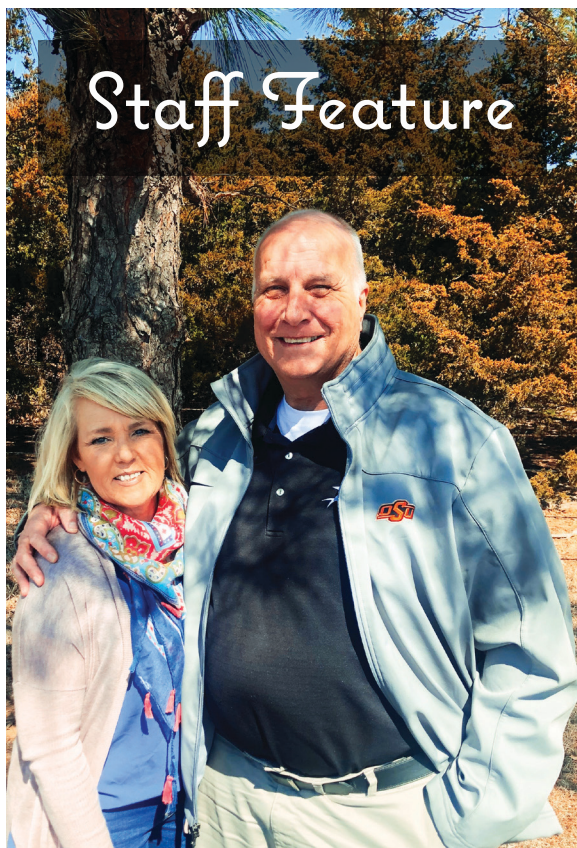
ladies within the program. Most of the staff and leadership within the program have graduated and been trained at the Freedom House Adult & Teen Challenge, including Director Stephanie Faulkner (top right) and Executive Administrator Megan Coe (top left).

We are grateful to have the opportunity to better serve the Oklahoma population. As you can see in the picture below, the Green Country



students have already started making an impact are already out in the community sharing their testimony and making connections in the community. If you would like to know more about supporting this new program, please give them a call at (918) 512-8110 and find out how you can get involved.

Staff Feature



Todd & Angie Adams - Stillwater, OK

Central Oklahoma Adult & Teen Challenge

Central Oklahoma Adult & Teen Challenge has been blessed with two great leaders in Todd and Angie Adams. They have taken on major leadership roles within this program, and their experience has begun to shine as they further develop the beautiful facility in Stillwater. Todd is the Executive Director for the program, and Angie is the Executive Administrator at the program, as well as the General Manager at the Super Thrift store in Stillwater. Todd has been with the Teen Challenge organization since 2001 and Angie since 2011. After working together at Pensacola Teen Challenge and getting married, they came to Adult & Teen Challenge of Oklahoma in September 2018. In Stillwater, they have used their testimony to relate with their students and pastor them into a more Godly life. They exemplify the love and grace of Christ, treating their students as if they were family.

Todd says, "the Lord really does restore what the enemy tries to steal. I have a loving wife, two beautiful daughters, and a cute little dog Paisley. We love having the opportunity to serve in the same program that saved both of our lives. If there's any encouragement that I can offer to someone battling addiction or a loved one that is struggling with it, it would be to not give up. There is hope, and that's Jesus Christ!"

We are so blessed and grateful to have them on staff in Oklahoma, and we look forward to seeing the continuous progress being made in Stillwater!



Yes! I want to help transform lives in Jesus Christ at Adult & Teen Challenge of Oklahoma. I'm enclosing my gift of:

☐ \$_____to help as much as possible.

☐ **Pledge to give \$_____ monthly**

☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number _____

Card Holder's Signature _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

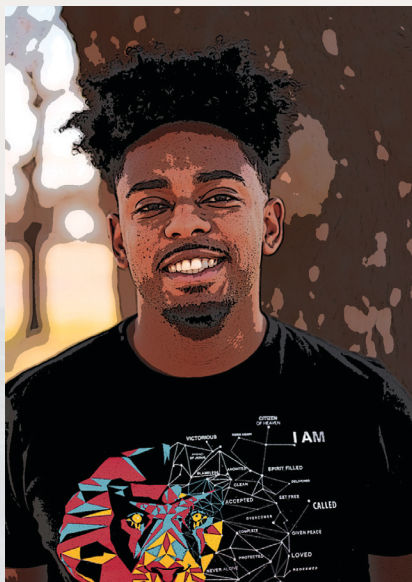
or visit OkTeenChallenge.com to donate securely online.

Please make checks payable to:

**Adult & Teen Challenge
of Oklahoma**

PO Box 270365

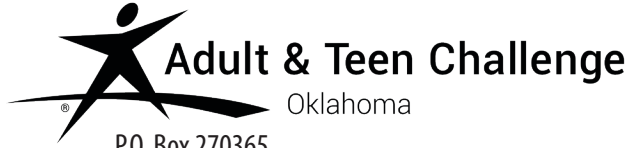
Oklahoma City, OK 73137



Consider a Gift To Help Make Stories Like These Possible in 2020!

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