



## Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center



AUGUST 2022

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



My name is Matthew and I'm 38 years old. I am from Clinton, TN, a small town near Knoxville. I had a good childhood and was raised in a Christian home. My parents made sure my needs were met. I attended church regularly all my life up until I graduated from high school.

I experimented with alcohol and marijuana in high school, but it never became a problem. It did, however, lead me to trying pain pills at the age of 18. At the time, I didn't understand what addiction was, but by age 19, I had become addicted to Oxycotin. This led to a long struggle with substance abuse and addiction. It also led me away from God. There were periods of sobriety in my life, but I never fully committed to Jesus Christ and recovery never lasted. After each period of sobriety, my addiction got worse, leading to new lows. Eventually I began using meth and heroin.

I was arrested in August 2021, and because of God's grace and mercy, I was able to come to Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. Since coming to this program, I have re-committed my life to Jesus Christ. God has shown me how much He continues to love me by giving me yet another chance and hope for the future.

The program has taken away all the outside distractions of the world and allowed me to focus on the Living Word of God and how I can apply it to my life. Through the leadership and staff here, I get to see daily examples of what living a Godly life looks like. I am grateful God has given me the opportunity to lay down in a green pasture, as it says in Psalms 23. He rescued me from my own self created prison and I am learning how to live free from the chains of addiction. I am incredibly thankful for my family, for their prayers and support. Like Jesus, they have never given up on me.

My favorite Bible verses are Philippians 3:13— "No dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead"

Philippians 1:6—"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

I am not yet exactly sure what God's plan for my life is, but I do know this: God knew exactly what it would take to make me the man He created me to be, Praise God!

hello  
august

## Congratulations Hunter and Clint



Hunter and Clint graduated on July 16. Hunter will be living in the graduate housing on campus and working locally. Clint will be working in Western NC. You are invited to join us for our next graduation at 10:00am, Saturday, August 20 in our auditorium.



Chamber



Rotary

This past month Mike spoke to Franklin, NC Chamber of Commerce about Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. Mathew and Hunter accompanied him, sharing their stories of addiction and their road to recovery since being in the program. Kyle Adams and Nick Fox spoke to The Rotary Club of Franklin, NC. Kyle graduated from Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center several years ago and is now on staff. Nick recently graduated from the program and is serving as an Intern for this next year.



Hiking outing



Our Garden

### TO MAKE A DONATION:

P.O. BOX 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 /OR GIVE ONLINE at our website: [www.livinghopeway.com](http://www.livinghopeway.com)

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157/Thrift Store: 828-586-9966

Like us on Facebook "Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies" and share our page