



Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center



DECEMBER 2022

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



My name is DyAngelo. I am 23 years old and I'm from Franklin, NC. I was raised by my mother, and had a lot of help from my grandparents as well. I had a great childhood growing up and have always been family oriented. We went to church often, which seemed that I was getting dragged more than me wanting to go. I was always pushed academically and athletically. After graduation from Rabin Gap, I went on to play college basketball for 3 years. Through high school, I stayed straight and was engulfed in basketball. It wasn't until I left for college and got away from my support system, when I started to experiment. I started partying and drinking and smoking pot. It took a while until I started noticing that school began to take a back seat to basketball and having a good time. My grades started to suffer, failed a few drug tests and wasted a few scholarships. Basketball began to not be so fun, because I was caught up in worrying about the world and I found myself losing my sense of direction in life. I was suffering from an identity crisis and looking for approval from peers. It wasn't until I came back to Franklin, I started hanging out with the wrong crowd and using opiates. Everything happened so fast. My second time buying pills, I was selling \$50 to \$100 daily just like that. I escalated to heroin use and then the use of fentanyl. I was dealing with disappointment, self-pity, depression, and I had no idea how to cope with things and became emotionless. I was battling addiction of fentanyl for the past 3 years. I hit rock bottom a few times, I thought. But one night I did too much, overdosed and wrecked my car into an apartment building. I woke up in the hospital and when I got straightened out, I was sent to jail. I sat in jail for a few weeks and upon me getting released I was homeless. This was my real rock bottom. Shortly after, all my decisions hit me like a ton of bricks. With a 4 year old daughter who needed her dad, a family who needed their son, and a God who has given me chance after chance, I was humbled by God himself. I battled coming here for a few years, and God spoke to me and told me, "You're ready to go home". I knew it was time to commit to doing longer than just 4 months, which I've done 3 times before. I'm finally at a place to where I've not giving myself any options other than to finish what I've started. I've settled for so long and I'm not settling for the bare minimum anymore. I have a new outlook on life. I used to say I wanted to get back to who I was before drugs. No. God is shaping me to be better than I've ever been. Galatians 6:9 "Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up". God has given me the strength to overcome! He's brought me, he's taught me and he's kept me. No matter how tough its been, I keep moving forward. I'm so thankful for God, Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center and very grateful for family and loved ones. I'm not where I want to be yet, but God is teaching me to be content with where I'm at.



YOU DID IT!
Congratulations



We celebrated the graduation of two more men, Logan and Bryan. Logan will be living in the Graduate Cabins, working locally. Bryan will be joining Sand Hills Adult & Teen Challenge, working as an Intern. We are so proud of these guys! Plan to join us **Saturday, December 17, 2022, at 10:00am for our next graduation.** These services last about an hour and are so moving. Graduations are held on our campus in the auditorium, followed by finger foods. It is such an encouragement to the men to see the community come out to celebrate this huge accomplishment in their lives.

Merry Christmas

VISIT OUR THRIFT STORE FOR YOUR SHOPPING NEEDS

Make sure to visit our **Thrift Store** at 4812 US 441 S, Sylva, NC for your **Christmas decorations** and **presents**. We also have **GIFT CARDS** available. **Santa Clause** will be at the store on **Saturday, December 10 from 1:00 to 4:00.** We will have candy for the children. Bring your camera for a pictures of your children with Santa.



The men getting our Christmas cards ready to mail to you



A cold but joyous baptism for Dakota this past November

TO MAKE A DONATION:

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

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

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