



Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center



JULY 2022

THE FAITH BASED SOLUTION TO THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC



My name is Micah. I'm 25 and I was born here in Franklin, NC. Growing up I had two of the best parents that you could of asked for and they always let me know that they loved me and supported me. I had a great childhood full of responsibility and discipline and I have no excuses for any of my actions.

Around the end of middle school, I started hanging around the wrong crowd and got introduced to marijuana and alcohol. By the time I was in high school, I was skipping school and partying as much as I could. I was introduced to opiates and pain killers and honestly I fell in love with them. It numbed everything so that whatever I was going through, it just went away. Any issues I faced, I would use and escape reality for a little while. All that progressed to a down hill spiral. I have lost countless good jobs and have burned so many bridges with family and friends. I have tried to get help in the past but never really wanted it. It was more to make my family happy or to get them off my back.

Eventually, pain killers weren't doing the trick anymore. I found heroin and getting it became an everyday struggle. When I ran out, I would turn to meth and, honestly, anything I could get my hands on. I got to where smoking it wasn't enough so I started IV use. I got a big abscess on my arm and had to have surgery and almost lost my arm. I have had several overdoses and have seen a lot of people who were close to me die. I was also with a girl for a couple of years and we were using together when she passed away in my arms. I didn't know how to handle it. My heart became cold and I wanted nothing to do with anyone. I was blaming myself and trying to harm myself. I pushed everyone away. I became homeless and a full-time junkie. Deep down I hated myself.

I had to hit rock bottom and I guess stay down there for a little while before realizing I needed help or actually wanting help. That's when I told my parents I needed to get help and I was introduced to Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. Since being here, I have grown closer to God and have rebuilt relationships with my family. I am so thankful for a program like this. I am also very thankful for God giving me chance after chance even though I didn't deserve it. I have plenty of verses I like but this one kind of stuck out to me and its Job 22:21-23. "Submit to God and you will have peace; then things will go well for you. Listen to His instructions and store them in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored, so clean up your life". I know I'm not where I want to be, but I know God has me where He wants me to be and for that I'm beyond grateful and blessed.





Congratulations Corey



Congratulations to Corey on his graduation last month.

Corey will be living on campus in a graduate cabin and is working locally.



Demolition has been done and the work is in progress on our dorm bathrooms and showers. This work is made possible by a state capital infrastructure fund grant. Thank you Senator Kevin Corbin. Also a big thanks to contractor Mike Giamo for leading the effort.



Our guys recently hiked out to Secret Falls in Highlands, NC.

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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