



## THE BEST DECISION EVER

My name is Josh Gipson and I am 31 years old. I grew up in a Christian home but as a kid, didn't really pay attention to what was going on in church so I didn't know much about God.

When I was a young teenager, my friends were smoking pot and I tried it. Little did I know the road that I was going down. When I turned 18, I moved out of my mamma's house and moved in with my sister. There was a lot of drinking going on there. I wanted to fit in so I started drinking beer and smoking weed. Later on I was at work and a guy gave me some Xanax. My addiction turned for the worse and I ended up going to jail. My parents got me out of jail time after time. In 2009, the worst thing happened to me. My mom got sick and we found out she had bladder cancer. They removed her bladder, but the cancer spread and I lost her in two weeks. It took me a long time to begin to get over that. I finally got a job working for my Uncle Larry. It was the best thing that ever happened. He was a very good guy to work for. But by that time, I had a meth addiction and alcohol problem. I thought I could hide it but I was mistaken. My uncle found a needle under his seat one day while I was busting wood for him at his house. I lied about it and told him it was my sister's, and he continued to let me work for him. Then he found another one. This time I told him it was mine. He still found it in his heart to give me work, but I didn't care because all I wanted to do was to get high. I ended up getting arrested for driving on a suspended license.

About this time, my dad found out he had emphysema and he died last year. All my daddy wanted was to see me sober and I failed to do that.

My neighbor asked me if I would go to rehab if she would help me get in. At first I just said I would think about it. Afterwards, I was going through some old pictures and saw one where I weighed 195 pounds. At that moment I realized that I needed to get help. I told my neighbor I would go to rehab and by the grace of God, I was accepted into Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center.

I have been sober 7 months now and this has been the best decision I ever made. Coming here saved my life and I am very grateful for that.

*Genesis 50:20—"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives".*





### What's growing in the TC garden:

Corn, potatoes, green beans, long neck yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, bell peppers, jalapenos, and three types of tomatoes.

The men are doing a great job and we are looking forward to a great harvest!



### Relay for Life Firetruck Pull

The men at Teen Challenge of the Smokies were honored to be a part of the Relay for Life Firetruck Pull this month. The men also enjoyed the K9 demonstration. We want to thank our sponsor for the firetruck pull.



*Mike and Betty Barres*

**NEEDS:** welder (\$550, gutters(\$2500), cafeteria floor tiles(\$3500). Contact us if you would like to help towards these projects. 828-524-2157

#### TO MAKE A DONATION:

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