



MEN'S CHALLENGE CONNECTION

June 2026



Matthew 6:33

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and the rest shall be added to you"

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My name is Corey White and I am 33 years old. I was born in Hickory, NC. As a kid, I attended church regularly and was raised to have Christian values. Growing up, I lived with both parents and two brothers. We were taught to always look after one another. My mom's job caused me to go to four different elementary schools and we would end up moving to Belmont, NC after my freshman year in high school. As you can see, I bounced around a lot of schools. I was always the new kid and had a hard time fitting in. I was picked on in high school and would just go with it for the sake of "fitting in".

After graduating high school, I didn't have many friends. I planned to go to college and that's when we found out my mom had cancer. I decided to stay home and began going out and partying to fill the void in my life.

My identity started rooting in that lifestyle. I felt like I finally fit in somewhere. That's when things took a turn for the worse. At 19, I watched my mom take her last breath. It shattered me and my family. I started bottling up my emotions to be strong for my family because that's what I thought being strong was. I looked to the party life to cope with my negative emotions. That's when I found cocaine. It made me numb to anything I didn't want to feel. I started to like who I was when I was on cocaine. The devil had me believing it somehow enhanced my personality and made me more social. That's where my addiction began.

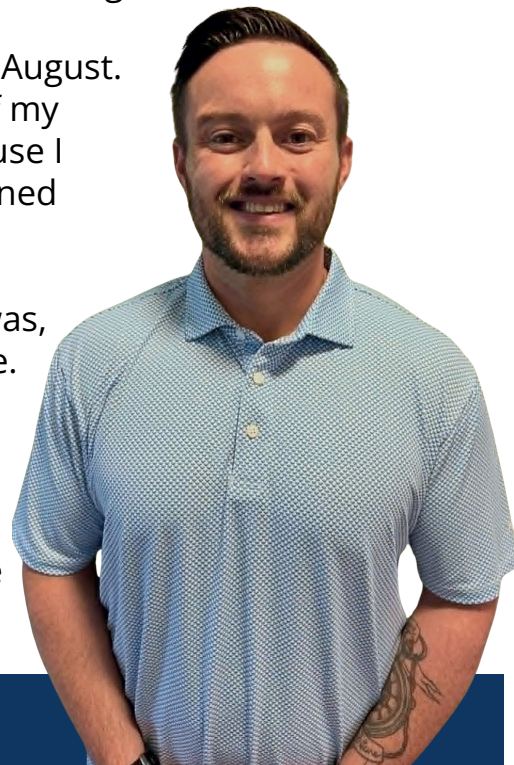
“***...my identity as a child of God has been restored.***”

At 24 years old, I'd try to run from my problems by joining the Air Force and getting married. Within 2 years, I'd find myself divorced and discharged for drugs. Once again, I was broken and went right back to what I knew. This time, it would be 2x worse.

I'd be arrested 3 more times with the last one being a DUI back in August.

I believe the Lord allowed this to happen to answer the prayers of my family pleading for my life, to finally get me to stop running; because I couldn't do it on my own and I needed help. That's when God opened the door for me to come to Men's Challenge. When I came here, I honestly didn't know who I was anymore. I was held down by the strongholds from the lies of the devil. God met me right where I was, replacing those lies with truth and breaking the chains of bondage.

My life verse is Matthew 6:33. Through seeking Him, my identity as a child of God has been restored. I am good enough! He has shown me I have a strength in talking to people and relating to people. He has given me confidence to walk boldly, knowing He will use this strength to bring glory and honor to His Mighty Name as I believe He is calling me to work in ministry when I graduate.



What's Happening

Here's a glimpse of what God has been doing at Men's Challenge of the Smokies

Congratulations to our most recent graduate, Adam!



HOPE
Gala

THANK YOU

HOPE
Gala

We cannot say thank you enough for making our 2026 Hope Gala such a huge success!

We were able to raise a total of \$115,897!

\$90,897 was our total cash giving, plus, a grant for \$25,000. We are giving God ALL the praise for this amazing blessing. You, our supporters through prayer and financial giving, are who make this ministry possible. From all of us to all of you,
THANK YOU!



Thank you to our 2026 Hope Gala Sponsors who have helped make it possible for our men to experience freedom, restoration & hope.



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