

Happy Easter!

MEN'S CHALLENGE CONNECTION APRIL 2025



Thank you



Men's Challenge of the Smokies celebrated our ten-year anniversary on Monday, March 31st by hosting our Decade of Hope Gala. The event began with a catered meal followed by a fun time of auctioning off various items, including a chocolate layer cake for a final bid of \$1,000. WOW! The men sang inspirational songs followed by a time of history and heritage given by Founding Director, Mike Barres. Rick Shays, one of the first graduates of Men's Challenge of the Smokies, offered encouraging words of how his time in the program enabled him to become the man he was created to be. Pastor Michael Stephens, the current Executive Director, shared with the audience the vision to grow the program in the future by launching weekly outreach efforts in all of the jails in the eight counties of Western North Carolina. The highlight of the night was the story of hope from Oscar Mercer, who found freedom from over thirty years of addiction when he entered and completed the program.

We are grateful to every church, business, or individual who supported the Hope Gala as a sponsor, underwriter or volunteer. Lastly, we will be hosting the Hope Gala in the future as an annual event which will take place in late March or early April. Thank you for your care and support for Men's Challenge of the Smokies.



We are appreciative to our staff and spouses, men, and the Hope Gala Committee for all of their support and hard work in making the Hope Gala a huge success.



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MEN'S CHALLENGE HAPPENINGS



Hayden



George



**Congratulations to
our
March Graduates**



Thankful for the recent opportunity to share testimonies and worship with the wonderful congregation of Swannanoa Church of God.

Save the Date



**Our next graduation:
Saturday, June 21st 10am
336 Living Hope Way
Reception immediately following
Everyone is invited to attend**



**Join us Saturday, April 12th from 8am until 2pm
Spring Yard Sale
Adult and Teen Challenge Thrift Store
4812 US-441, Sylva
Furniture, Glassware, Clothing, Electronics,
Baked Goods & a lot more**



TO MAKE A DONATION:

PO Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 or 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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