

Minnesota Teen Challenge, Inc.

Also Known As:
1619 Portland Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Contact Information

Minnesota Teen Challenge, Inc.

Also Known As:

Physical Address: 1619 Portland Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55404 1598

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Facsimile: 612- 333-4111

Contact: Ms. Mary Kay Bensen
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Grants Manager
612- 238-6174 tel

At A Glance

Formerly Known As:

Category (NTEE): F Mental Health, Crisis Intervention /F20 Alcohol, Drug and Substance Abuse, Dependency Prevention and Treatment

P Human Services /P20 Human Service Organizations

F Mental Health, Crisis Intervention /F20 Alcohol, Drug and Substance Abuse, Dependency Prevention and Treatment

Areas Served: In a specific U.S. city, cities, state(s) and/or region.

Year Founded: 1984

Mission Statement

The mission of Minnesota Teen Challenge is to assist teens and adults in gaining freedom from chemical addictions and other life controlling problems by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Impact Statement

Minnesota Teen Challenge contracted with the Wilder Research Foundation to conduct an independent, scientifically valid, outcomes assessment of individuals that graduated its program between 2001 and 2005. Assessment Highlights:

- **74%** of the 2005 graduates reported being completely abstinent in the six months before follow-up contact.
- **80%** are either working 30 or more hours a week or a full-time student.
- **85%** said they were living in their own home or with relatives, friends or roommates.
- **87%** said "completely true" when asked if they think their circumstances today would be a lot worse if I hadn't gone through the Teen Challenge program.
- **86%** said that it was "completely true" that the spiritual aspect of Teen Challenge made a difference in their lives.
- **91%** said that the spiritual commitment definitely helped their sobriety.
- **81%** said that they made a connection to a church or ministry within 6 months after graduation.

Background Statement

For more than 25 years, Minnesota Teen Challenge has been restoring hope to **teens and adults** struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. We are one of the largest, most effective, and most affordable programs in the nation with campuses in Minneapolis, Brainerd, and Duluth, Minnesota. We utilize a comprehensive, **faith-based approach** in our short-term licensed treatment program and our long-term recovery program allowing us to effectively serve individuals with a broad spectrum of addiction issues; from those seeking treatment for the first time, to those who have been struggling with addiction for many years.

How This Organization Is Funded

- Individuals - \$3,544,620
- Corporations and Foundations - \$632,000
- Fundraisers and Events - \$1,728,500

Financial Data

[FAQs on Financial Data](#) | [Digitizing IRS Form 990 Data](#)

Financial Data For Fiscal Year Ending 2009

To see financial data from prior years, subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#).

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue

Contributions	\$5,758,479
Program Services	\$7,652,497
Membership Dues	\$0
Special Events	\$1,276,041
Interest – 41292, Rental income – 127191, Misc. – 66289	\$0

Expenses

Program Services	\$10,561,434
Administrative Costs	\$1,135,777
Payments To Affiliates	\$0
Total Expenses	\$12,675,578

Assets & Liabilities

Total Assets	\$17,835,465
Total Liabilities	\$739,525
Net Assets or Fund Balance at the end of year	\$17,095,940

Balance Sheet

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Forms 990 Received from the IRS

- [2009 Form 990](#)
- [2008 Form 990](#)
- [2007 Form 990](#)

Forms 990 Provided by the Nonprofit

Financial Statements

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Annual Reports

- [2010 Annual Report](#)
- [2009 Annual Report](#)

Formation Documents

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Program: Minnesota Teen Challenge Long-Term & Short-Term Programs

Budget:	\$13,466,150
Category:	Mental Health, Substance Abuse
Population Served:	Substance Abusers (Drug/Alcohol Abusers) Youth/Adolescents only (14 - 19 years) Homeless

Program Description:

We utilize a comprehensive, faith-based approach in our long-term recovery program. In our short-term program, we employ a traditional substance abuse disorder treatment approach based on best practices in the field and incorporate a faith based component.

Between 2006 and 2009, an estimated **3,200 men, women and teens were helped** by the Minnesota Teen Challenge program, and every day we receive numerous calls from people desperate for a new start. The generosity of private donors allows Minnesota Teen Challenge to be one of the most affordable programs in the country. We work with insurance providers and have generous scholarship programs that allow the vast majority of individuals to participate at no cost to them.

- Our short-term Licensed Care Program provides individualized care based on individual need.
- For those seeking a long-term recovery option, Minnesota Teen Challenge offers a 13-15 month recovery program.
- Daily classes teach discipline in the areas of speech, conduct, and time management.
- Our adult GED program as well as the Minnesota Teen Challenge Academy (our on-site Minneapolis alternative high school) provides teens and adults with a path to a high school diploma.
- From our Aftercare Department, graduates are given the opportunity to work with a mentor, guidance in finding employment, and assistance in securing stable housing.

These distinct offerings allow us to effectively serve individuals with a broad spectrum of addiction issues; from those seeking treatment for the first time, to those who have been struggling with addiction for many years.

The Teen Challenge model truly enables program participants to experience hope, healing, and freedom in their lives.

Program Long-Term Success:

The Minnesota Teen Challenge program model works as evidenced in an independent **Wilder Research Study, conducted in 2006**. Among recent graduates surveyed, including teens and adults:

- 74% reported no chemical use within the past six months of contact.

· 86% indicated that the spiritual aspect of Teen Challenge made a difference in their lives.

· 80% are either working 30 or more hours a week or a full-time student.

· 97% were living independent of government subsidies supporting the California Data Alcohol and Drug Research published in the Western Journal of Medicine indicating that **every dollar spent on recovery programs saves society seven dollars in subsidized housing, medical and justice system costs.**

Program Short-Term Success:

Minnesota Teen Challenge differs from other recovery programs in our emphasis on the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of participants, the length of our program (short term and/or long term) and our focus on providing support long after the individual leaves our care. The dedication of our staff shows unusual commitment and devotion, with a willingness to invest themselves in the lives of people with severe addictions.

2009 Statistics:

· In 2009, over 800 men, women and teens came through our Minnesota Teen Challenge program, and every day we received numerous calls from people desperate for a new start.

· We served over 1,125 meals a day.....410,625 meals per year.

· Our staff coordinated more than 3,800 doctor visits and a whole host of other appointments.

· Our Admissions Department answered dozens of calls every day from people in need of help, and when the doors closed at night, we knew the next day would be the same.

· Minnesota Teen Challenge worked hard to prevent drug use before it started. In 2009, our "Know the Truth" Prevention Program provided programming to 90 schools and reached over 40,000 Minnesota students.

· The generosity of private donors allowed Minnesota Teen Challenge to be one of the most affordable programs in the country, working with insurance companies and providing generous scholarships that allowed the vast majority of people to participate at no cost.

Program Success Monitored by:

The Wilder Research Foundation

Program Success Examples:

Assessment Highlights:

74% of the 2005 graduates reported being completely abstinent in the six months before follow-up contact.

80% are either working 30 or more hours a week or a full-time student.

85% said they were living in their own home or with relatives, friends or roommates; only 3% reported receiving government housing subsidies.

87% said "completely true" when asked if they think their circumstances today would be a lot worse if I hadn't gone through the Teen Challenge program.

86% said that it was "completely true" that the spiritual aspect of Teen Challenge made a difference in their lives.

83% rated the overall quality of Teen Challenge as "outstanding" or "very good."

84% of the graduates who responded said they had made a personal commitment to Christ while at Minnesota Teen Challenge. Another **13%** said they did so immediately prior to entering Teen Challenge.

91% said that this commitment definitely helped their sobriety.

81% (over three-fourths) said that they made a connection to a church or ministry within 6 months after graduation.

74% (after follow-up) reported attending church related activities at least once a week.

Program: "Know the Truth" Prevention Program

Budget:	\$169,670
Category:	Mental Health, Substance Abuse
Population Served:	Youth/Adolescents only (14 - 19 years)

Program Description:

Minnesota Teen Challenge's "Know the Truth" Prevention Program was specifically developed to educate junior and senior high school students in the Twin Cities Metro Area on addictions and the consequences of their choices and help them tackle their everyday struggles. "Know the Truth" presented educational sessions in over 100 Minnesota public high schools during the 2009-2019 school year and reached over 40,000 students. This program, which is secular-based and excludes religious components is completely free of charge and tailored to the needs of schools to address their most prevalent issues such as alcohol, meth, cocaine, date rape, depression, steroids and many others. All presentations are administered by trained professionals and accompanied by young adults who have struggled with these issues, who have walked in the students' shoes and are able to connect with them on a level that few others can.

"Know the Truth" contacts and works with the needs and expectations of school health class staff, developing a program that is custom made for their particular school. Schools can indicate their main concerns to be addressed (i.e. focus on alcoholism, marijuana, ecstasy, meth, cutting, depression or other areas of concern), the length of programming (most classes range from 45 minutes to 80 minutes in length, and the majority of schools provide one to two days of programming per quarter or semester), and students who will participate (i.e. all 7th and 8th graders or all students currently in health classes). We administer short-term and long-term surveys to determine results.

Program Long-Term Success:

The Results

Know the Truth is outcome based—today we administer both short and long-term surveys. Here are some of the results.

Minnesota Teen Challenge's "Know the Truth" Program was specifically developed to educate junior and senior high school students in Minnesota on addictions and the consequences of their choices and help them tackle their everyday struggles. "Know the Truth" presented educational sessions in more than 100 Minnesota public high schools last year and reached more than 40,000 students.

2008 Surveys conducted with our school partners indicated 78% of teens made a commitment to not use drugs in the future.

This program is a direct means of intervention in the area of teenage chemical dependency; it brings youth the information and resources necessary to fully educate them in the reality of substance abuse. **The benefits of this program are clear:** youth who are committed to living chemical-free lives; youth who are focused on their goals and objectives and are not hindering those goals with addiction; youth who learn their importance of making such decisions; and youth who grow to be responsible, law-abiding and successful young adults prepared to be proactive members of society.

Teachers declare how our program enhances curriculum. A Gordon Parks High School teacher said, "Great presentations! I think the message is perfect for our population here in St. Paul." A North St. Paul High School teacher said, "Your willingness to share such personal stories means a lot. Anyone can give stats and info, but your personal experiences make the students sit up and take notice!"

Teacher Quote:

*"Each of the speakers does a wonderful job of talking with my students at their level. We always get very good feedback about **Know the***

Truth from our students."

Health Teacher

Kennedy High School

Bloomington, MN

Student Quote:

"This presentation is very good because it made me very confident in myself of avoiding drugs. I will value this because it made a good impact to my life."

Student Participant

Program Short-Term Success:

In a three month quarter last year, there were several students from just one district who have gone into treatment as a result of hearing our message.

Student Quote:

"Their stories inspired me to change the way I am living."

Student Participant

Teacher Quote:

"This two day curriculum enhancement is an integral part of my drug/alcohol unit. The speakers get done in two class periods what I would never be able to accomplish in weeks of trying." **Health Teacher**

Farmington High School

Program Success Monitored by:

Know the Truth Prevention Staff

Program Success Examples:

"Know the Truth" presented educational sessions in over 100 Minnesota public schools during the 2009-2010 school year and reached over 40,000 students! Survey's conducted at these schools in 2008, indicated 78% of teens made a commitment to not use drugs in the future.

This program is a direct means of intervention in the area of teenage chemical dependency; it brings youth the information and resources necessary to fully educate them in the reality of substance abuse. **The benefits of this program are clear;** youth who are committed to living chemical-free lives; youth who are focused on their goals and objectives and are not hindering those goals with addiction; youth who learn their importance of making such decisions; and youth who grow to be responsible, law-abiding and successful young adults prepared to be proactive members of society.

Funding Needs

Over half our total annual income comes from private donations and gifts, individuals, corporations, foundations and civic groups. Hundreds of volunteers recruited from the community and local churches contribute valuable time and skills, thus making it possible for Minnesota Teen Challenge to operate with extremely low overhead. It costs Minnesota Teen Challenge approximately \$2,426 per month for each adult and teen resident. And while this amount is considerable, it is only 15-20% of the cost of traditional treatment programs. Minnesota Teen Challenge offers assistance to individuals and scholarships for many teens and their families who cannot afford the program. Many of the individuals that enter our program have no savings, medical insurance or family financial support.

Volunteer Needs

Volunteer drivers are needed to drive students to/from appointments in Teen Challenge vehicles.

Volunteers can provide one on one tutoring in high school subjects to teen program students.

Mature men and women who have a passion to be disciple makers are needed to mentor our residents and graduates.

Volunteers can help review self-study assignments, assist with scripture memorization, and build relationships with residents in the program.

Volunteers are welcome to help with photocopying, putting manuals together and other light clerical work in the administrative offices.

Volunteers can go on walks with residents or lead them in crafts such as sewing, art, scrap booking or other creative projects.

Request for In-Kind Contributions

Minnesota Teen Challenge receives in-kind contributions such as food, clothing, and equipment such as lawn mowers, snow blowers and mini vans.

Organizational Statistics

Number of Full-Time Employees:	200
Number of Part-Time Employees:	29
Number of Volunteers:	100

Chief Executive

Rev. Richard Scherber

Term:

Since Jan 1992

Chief Executive Profile:

Missionary to Africa; Senior Pastor for Virginia Assembly of God; Senior Pastor for Moose Lake Assembly of God; Drug rehabilitation counselor.

CEO/Executive Director Statement:

Established in 1984, Minnesota Teen Challenge serves residents in eight facilities including Minneapolis, Duluth and Brainerd and is accepted as a leader in the drug rehabilitation field. Our population includes men and women and teen boys and teen girls of diverse ethnic backgrounds and people from all walks of life. Many benefit from our program as they seek freedom from their addiction, which positively impacts many lives in our community as well. By developing self-esteem, providing hope and arming residents with skills applicable to life, Teen Challenge offers individuals a path for a healthier and more secure future.

Board Chair

Mr. Chuck Beske

Term:

Since Jan 2009

Institution Affiliation:

Chuck Beske Enterprises

Board Chair Statement:

In 2008, Minnesota Teen Challenge guided the board members and staff leaders through a strategic governance assessment in order to strengthen its effectiveness and accountability, while preserving soundness and integrity. The assessment tool allowed Minnesota Teen Challenge to assess their ability and performance against a comprehensive set of standards, principles, and benchmarks for operational excellence, good governance, and ethical practices; identify priorities for improvement; and, design and implement strategies based upon these benchmarks and best practices.

Board of Directors

Name	Institution Affiliation
Mr. Chuck Beske	Beske Flanigan & Associates
Mr. Bill Bojan	Integrated Governance Solutions
Ms. Carol DeOtis	Edina Realty
Mr. Paul Flower	Flower & Schutz, PLC
Chris Glascoe	Doxa Financial LLC
Mark Hanson	Seafoamsales
Ms. Jan Hawkins	John Henry Foster Company
Mr. Dave Henderson	Triple Tree
Mr. Jim Huseby	Becker Furniture World
Ms. Vicki Jefferis	Grace Manor
Mr. Jason Korstange	TCF Bank
Mr. Joe Miller	Country Joe Farms
Mr. Peter Murlowski	Timber Craft Enterprises, Inc.
Mr. Daniel Mus	Brooklyn Park Printing
Ms. Cammy Oren	No Affiliation
Mr. Steve Poppen	Minnesota Vikings
Mr. John Roise	Lindsey Windows
Rev. Rich Scherber	Minnesota Teen Challenge
Rev. Michael D. Smith	Redeeming Love Church
Rev. Clarence St. John	MN District Council A/G
Mr. Craig Sulentic	Egan Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Officers for Fiscal Year

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News

Foundation Grant Award

June 01, 202010

MINNEAPOLIS, June 1, 2010 – Minnesota Teen Challenge received a \$100,000 contribution to help fund its “Aftercare/Self-Sufficiency Jobs Project.” The grant – which was given to Minnesota Teen Challenge through the Walmart Foundation’s State Giving Program – will provide job training, counseling, and support services to help individuals improve their work-related skills before they graduate from the nonprofit’s year-long recovery program.