

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- >>> From *Men's Challenge To Challenge Ministries*
- >>> From Hopeless to Hopeful
- >>> 2023 Annual Dinner



>>> FROM MEN'S CHALLENGE TO CHALLENGE MINISTRIES

Men's Challenge began in 2012 and was born out of a vision to see men who are perceived to be unemployable, given the opportunity to succeed in the workplace.

As a Christian organization, Men's Challenge believes that all lasting change comes from Jesus and that He is the center of all that we do. Over the last 11 years, Men's Challenge has provided faith based Job Readiness classes to over 4,000 men. In 2021 we increased our outreach to women by delivering classes at Deliverance House, a women's residential treatment center. Each of you have played a part in the successes of Men's Challenge. From our beginnings in Alliance, to expansion of classes in Canton, Massillon, men and women have been transformed and able to obtain, maintain and advance in their work. We have provided incentives such as workboots, bus passes, food, wallets, and gift cards to many.

Today, in addition to our office spaces in Alliance, Canton and Massillon we deliver these valuable transformational services in Christian Recovery Housing Ministries, Residential Treatment Centers, and outpatient locations, meeting the needs of our many referral sources.

Most importantly, we have introduced our participants to the love, grace and kindness of a relationship with Jesus Christ. That transformational relationship changes hearts and lives. That transformational relationship with Christ changes not only individuals but also families and communities. Thank you for being part of that success.

Two years ago, as we began to expand our services to women and look to the future, we began to look at rebranding. Not leaving Men's Challenge as a program, but a rebrand that can be more inclusive for the work we do. A vision that advances God's Kingdom through the work we do. After much discussion we landed on Challenge Ministries.



Colossians 3:23 states, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for people.”

We are challenged by God to do our best in His name which includes the work we do in our community to serve and support individuals who have faced many challenges. Challenge Ministries wants to meet and exceed the expectations of those who are connected to us. This bold new vision includes the breaking of chains that have caused problems in men and women’s lives and to create new links in a relationship with Christ and with supportive mentors.

The Christ Foundation provided us a matching grant of \$27,500. Simply, we as an organization raise \$27,500 and they match it. Your contributions have allowed us to exceed that match! This funding allowed us to relaunch our mentoring program this month – working one on one with men and women to offer encouragement and support. This year we expect to reach close to 1,000 men and women. Many have had no relationship with Christ. By providing not only our Job Readiness services but also multiple wrap-around services, God will transform lives. Challenge Ministries is committed to working with individuals to prepare them for work and to meet the needs of a community who need dependable and coachable employees that can become leaders. Of greater significant, we will have the opportunity to share about the transformative love of Christ with almost 1,000 men and women.

FROM HOPELESS TO HOPEFUL

“Ms. C came into our program after completing her treatment services and moving to Akron with her daughter. Ms. C had challenges with getting employment because of a past criminal record. She would call our workforce development coordinator, Lisa, weekly and they would discuss any interviews she had and what she could do differently in the future. Ms. C said that at her next interview, she wanted to share her recovery story. A week later, Lisa received a call from Ms. C that she was offered the job; however, Ms. C was did not get a full clearance based on her background check. Ms. C was persistent and continued to look for employment, holding various part-time jobs until recently. She is now in a management position with benefits and has moved into her own apartment. A drastic change from a year ago. Ms. C continues to be active in the program, has a support group (homegroup) and a sponsor. She is chairing her home group and recently asked Lisa to help her identify a topic that would be important for them to focus on - balancing work, family and self-care. Ms. C is someone who faced many challenges, but today, she can be part of a group and talk about gaining financial stability, prioritizing family for a happier life and promoting mental, emotional and physical well-being.



»» 2023 ANNUAL DINNER

Reflecting on 2023, a highlight was our annual fundraising dinner. One first for us was that we held the event at The ONE Center for Leadership Development in Canton which also houses our Canton office. It was a terrific venue for the event. Another first was that we held an online auction that began a couple weeks prior and concluded that night. The online was the most we have ever raised in an auction. By night's end, between sponsorships, donations and pledges, over \$40,000 was raised! We praise God for the generosity exhibited by so many supporters of this ministry.

Thank you to all who support Challenge Ministries through your financial contributions, donations, prayers, and volunteering of time. The Lord's work being accomplished is truly a group effort.



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