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BRINGING WHOLENESSTO THE HOPELESS



33 TEEN CHALLENGE ROAD, P.O. BOX 98, REHRERSBURG, PA, 19550 • 717.933.4181 • PAATC.ORG

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

At Pennsylvania Adult & Teen Challenge (PAATC) and the Naaman Center, our ministry vision is “Bringing Wholeness to the Hopeless”. When I think of these words I am often led to the Gospel of Matthew. The text in 11:28-30 states, *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

The beginning portion of these words highlight what might be defined as a feeling of hopelessness, but in the Lord there is a beautiful picture of wholeness. He says, *“...I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* As we combat the drug epidemic that continues to rage in our communities, we can rest assured that we

have hope and He is working on our behalf to unleash the power of the Spirit of God through his laborers at PAATC and the Naaman Center!

Many lives have been devastated by the ravaging effect of addiction not only in our communities, but even in a very personal way inside our own homes. We often say that addiction does not discriminate and shows up in the most conspicuous places.

We recently learned that over 93,000 individuals lost their battle to addiction through overdose deaths across our country in 2020. This is the very reason we continue to fight through further expansion of our services to meet the needs of our communities throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Our hope is that lives will be positively impacted through this ministry

and that many will come to know the Lord through this vital work.

We could not do this without you, our many supporters! **Your partnership, your prayers and investment make it possible** to serve the thousands of individuals and families who find themselves in the most desperate places of vulnerability and hopelessness. Thank you for your continued support of this life changing work and know that the Lord is alive and active in our everyday operations, leading and guiding our every decision as we strive to bring hope and wholeness to those we serve!



Kris J. McFadden, Sr., M.A.R.
President/CEO

THIS IS WHAT HOPE LOOKS LIKE →

“My hope is to restore my life with my kids. To be a practicing Christian and to live a better, clean life. There is a God, there is a way, there is a will. I truly think He’s going to change my life and I have faith that He’s going to do it.”



Michael

“WHAT WORKED FOR ME WAS GOD” | MIKE’S TESTIMONY

Michael grew up in Reading, PA where he was exposed to drugs and alcohol at a young age. At 10 years old he began smoking cigarettes and by the time he was 12 years old he was regularly smoking marijuana.

Despite his continued drug use, Michael excelled as a hands-on learner. He participated in his high school’s vocational program for electrical occupations and quickly secured an apprenticeship with an electrician upon graduating.

At 18 years old, Michael was making good money and had a passion for his work. However, upon hearing that his employer would be conducting random drug tests, Michael realized that he was going to have to stop using marijuana or be fired from his job. As a substitute, Michael began using K2/Spice, an addictive synthetic cannabinoid that was often found in gas stations and would not be discovered through a standard drug test.

“It only took about a year and a half for me to become incredibly unstable. Even as an electrician, I wasn’t making enough money to support my addiction. Eventually, I became too weak to continue working. I was nodding out during the job and needed to smoke again to get the next 20 or 30 minute high.”

To avoid the stigma of addiction and being labeled as a “drug addict” by his employer, Michael chose to quit his job and admit himself into a rehab.

When Michael got out of rehab, he met a girl. She and her family were Christians, and he was instantly attracted to her family, their church, and the joy that he saw in their godly lifestyle. Through them he saw true godliness and captured a vision for the type of man that he longed to be. However, even as he attended their church and began getting rooted in his faith, he was still struggling with addiction.

“When I came into the Long-Term Program it didn’t feel like just another rehab. God was there and He knew just what I needed. He surrounded me with a great group of guys like Ryan Deleon who challenged me and helped me grow. I started to feel like I was living the life that I saw in my girlfriend and her family. I had friends, was having fun, and we were living a godly life together even in the hard times without the drugs.”

When I came into the Long-Term Program it didn’t feel like just another rehab...

“Early out of rehab, I was still able to disguise my addiction, but eventually it got bad again.”

In time, Michael’s pastor began recognizing the signs of addiction and recommended that he seek help at PAATC. Sadly, the fear of being away for a year kept Michael from coming to PAATC at that time.

Over the course of the next couple of years Michael went through multiple secular rehab programs and then descended into heroin and cocaine usage.

Through it all, Michael’s mother was there for him, also steadily encouraging him towards treatment at PAATC. Michael eventually agreed.

Michael truly became a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) After graduation, Michael enrolled in PAATC’s internship

program and is now in his second year at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. He summed up his time at PAATC with this quote:

*“I tried to find help everywhere - rehabs, institutions, jail – none of them worked for me. But God can do it all. **What worked for me is God, and I know a place where you can go where He is the main focus and you can feel like you’ve found a family and a home.”***



“My hopes and dreams have never changed. They’ve always been the same ever since I was younger. I want to help someone, anyone, and make their life better. I’ve always dreamt of being a teacher but I know that whatever I do, I want to try to change people’s lives for the better.”



Ethan

“I’m going to stay on and intern and try to go for addiction counseling. I want to help other addicts. These guys here helped me a lot and I want to do the same for others.”

Bob



“To find a purpose. I’ve never had a purpose before but being here, I’ve found that relationship with God. I wish I knew it when I was younger, but it’s never too late. The most important thing for me is that relationship with God.”



Andrew

HELP MORE STUDENTS
FIND HOPE

MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN THEIR LIVES TODAY

When people are ready to take the first steps to recovery, cost should not stand in the way. Giving to the Sandy Wummer Memorial Scholarship Fund makes a huge difference in the lives of those who choose hope and seek help. Give today at PAATC.org/donate