

# BRINGING WHOLENESS TO THE HOPELESS



Adult & Teen Challenge

Pennsylvania



NAAMAN  
CENTER

AUGUST 2022

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

At PA Adult & Teen Challenge and Naaman Center, we focus on a holistic approach to treatment that inspires hope, healing and change in all areas of a person's life. Work is an important part of this process and one of our treatment goals is to prepare individuals to be contributing members of the workforce.

We believe that there is a purpose for every life and foundational biblical principles to follow that not only benefit the individual, but those around them as well. Work is more than simply earning a living. It is an opportunity to grow through many different circumstances, to build relationships with coworkers and others, and to make a difference in the world.

When people like you support this program, you are making a difference in the lives of each person who walks through our doors as well as every person they go on to influence, support and impact in their own unique way.

Many of our graduating students make the decision to continue investing in their own recovery and others, by serving in our Internship program and pouring back into this ministry. We then offer the opportunity for employment to every successful completed Intern and we have seen incredible stories of success within our own organization.

Yet, we do not stop there! We make every effort to ensure that all our

Graduates have the best chances of success wherever they go. The powerful message of hope that is heard here, continues to ripple across our state and beyond, reaching more and more people who are in need. Thank you for all that you do to make this possible!



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

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## WE LOVE HELPING FRIENDS

**When long-time donors Josh and Malorie Bender were asked why they decided to increase their monthly donations they stated, "We love helping friends!"**

Years ago, Josh and his wife Malorie first came to know Pennsylvania Adult & Teen Challenge through their church, Christ Evangelical Free Church (CEFC) in Bethel, PA. In time they grew relationships with PAATC staff members Nathan Scheffler and Eric Wasielewski.

On Monday nights Josh spent time playing volleyball at CEFC with Eric and some of the men in PAATC's Long-Term Program. Josh befriended many of the

men in the program who played, and he and his wife began giving to support them in their recovery. Josh shared that he will never forget some of the stories that the guys shared on the Monday night volleyball outings at his Church.

Those stories moved Josh and Malorie to embrace substance use disorder as a disease and to take action on behalf on those in need. Eric also recalled sharing his story at one of the Monday gatherings and was quick to say, "Josh and Malorie are two of the nicest individuals who truly show care and support to those who struggle with addiction."

The Bender's heart for those impacted by addiction also continued to grow when they decided to foster and adopt children of their own. They saw that many of the children who came through adoption agencies came from families that had been impacted by addiction. Today the Benders are in the process of adopting a sister for their daughter Gabriella named Gracie. Please keep them in your prayers!

Each day donors like you and the Benders are making an eternal impact in the lives of the men and women in our programs. Thank you for how you are faithfully partnering with PAATC to Bring Wholeness to the Hopeless.

## TESTIMONY - JOSHUA SIMS

Joshua was raised right outside of Philadelphia. From the outside, Joshua's family appeared stable and happy. However, his father struggled with addiction and that addiction was taking a heavy toll on his family.

*"My family took care of me, and I was a happy kid. But things were chaotic. In the end it got really messy, but it was something that we kept private."*

A natural athlete, Joshua played on his school's football team. After games he began drinking alcohol with his teammates. When his teammates had stopped drinking, Joshua was the one who would keep going, taking his drunkenness to the next level.

In his junior year of high school, Joshua suffered from a sports-related injury and was prescribed opiates. He quickly started mixing the pills with alcohol. After high school, Joshua was accepted into Penn State. It was there that addiction truly started to gain a foothold in his life. **It got so bad that Joshua couldn't attend classes unless he was using. However, just like his home life, Joshua was able to keep up appearances despite his growing addiction.**



*"After college, I got a job, and I was making good money. I was able to support my habit with the pills. But when the pills became difficult to find, I transitioned to heroin. That is when my habit became unmanageable, and things really spiraled out of control!"*

Throughout his childhood, Joshua's family would go to church on Christmas, but that was pretty much it. They never really talked about Jesus or read the Bible. However, as Joshua was struggling to hide his addiction, his father had entered treatment and started attending

a church in the Philadelphia area. During a particularly moving church service, Joshua's father heard testimonies shared by women from the PAATC Philadelphia Women's Program. Joshua's father encouraged his son to call PAATC, but Joshua wasn't interested.

**Years passed and Joshua went to a host of secular rehabs all over the country. Unfortunately, he was never able to maintain his sobriety for more than a few months.** Sometimes he would even leave a rehab and use that same night.

*"I couldn't function without opiates. I tried 100 times to kick it on my own, but I never could..."*

Eventually, Joshua hit a low point and truly began to give up hope.

*"I basically had two roads. I knew I could either call Teen Challenge and give myself a year to really try to get my life together, or I was ready to say I'm just going to be a drug addict and that's it. That's who I am. I was ready to stop fighting internally. It was either give it one last shot, or just accept that this was going to be my life. I'm just so grateful that I decided to come to Teen Challenge!"*

While Joshua's time at PAATC was not always easy, it was amazingly fruitful! There were days and nights of struggle, but the Lord was with him and provided him with some great mentors and friends in the program.

When asked about why his time at PAATC was different from the other places, and how he was able to continue to walk in sobriety, Joshua said:

***"What stuck about Pennsylvania Adult & Teen Challenge was that it was more of a lifestyle change than just getting sober. I accepted Christ there. I started living a different life. Now I want to live for Christ. I want to be a Christian. My values changed and it was really a transformation of who I was, not just changing one aspect of my life."***

Today Joshua is a completely different person from who he was when he first arrived at PAATC. Steadily growing



in his relationship with Christ, Joshua has nothing to hide. What you see on the outside is matched by the internal transformation that God has completed in his life. He is a new creation, no longer bound by drugs and alcohol. Joshua currently works in the mortgage industry and is an active member in his local church. Grateful for the role that each PAATC donor has also played in his redemptive story Joshua eagerly said:

***"Thank you so much. Your money has been put to good use and this is a great program! It certainly changed my life, and I know it has changed the lives of many friends who also went through the program with me."***



### WE'VE MADE IT EVEN EASIER TO BECOME A EVENT SPONSOR!

Check out our new event sponsorship packages! Your support of these events helps us to raise the funds needed to truly bring wholeness to the hopeless!



[PAATC.org/sponsorship](https://paatc.org/sponsorship)

BRINGING WHOLENESS FOR 60 YEARS  
**PAATC**  
**1962**

★ **CELEBRATE** ★  
**RECOVERY FESTIVAL**

Thank you to everyone who came out to Celebrate what God has done in and through this ministry for the past 60 years.

We had a great day of fun and fellowship, including a baptism service where 50 people publicly professed their faith and were baptized.

We also enjoyed an alumni dinner, food trucks, and activities for kids.

Eleven Graduates walked across the stage during our evening service, and we ended the night with worship and fireworks.



*Baptisms!*



*Fun for the kids*



*The alumni choir was amazing!*



*Our Graduates*



*Peter McMenamin helping out*



# Charity Gala 2022

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4



Featuring  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**KIRK CAMERON**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**



PAATC.org/gala



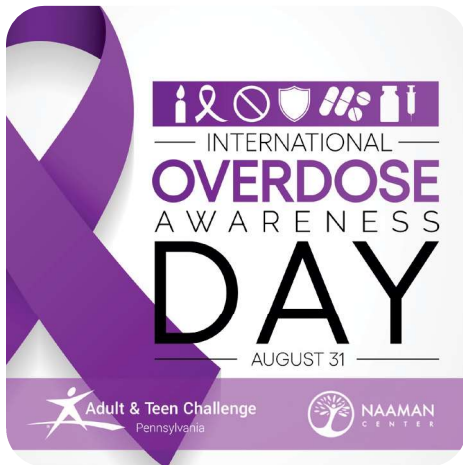
**EARLY BIRD PRICING**  
AVAILABLE NOW

**\$75 PER TICKET** REGULARLY \$85

**\$600 PER TABLE OF EIGHT** REGULARLY \$680

**\$750 PER TABLE OF TEN** REGULARLY \$850

## INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY



We encourage you to wear purple on Wednesday, August 31st in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day. On this day we REMEMBER those that lost their lives to a drug overdose, HONOR the loved ones who were left behind, and PROVIDE hope to those lost in addiction.

If you would like to make a special donation in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day, please do so at [PAATC.org/giving-day](https://PAATC.org/giving-day)

In the additional comments section add a note that says, "overdose awareness."

## WANT TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT OVERDOSE?

Take a picture of yourself wearing purple on **August 31** and post it on Social Media with the hashtags **#PAATCPurple #OverdoseAwarenessDay**

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

*"I recently celebrated being at PAATC for 6 years. I'm so thankful to the leadership team for believing in me. I just got my undergraduate degree and spent the next several years driving to Kutztown and back to Rehrersburg to get my Master's. I could not have done that without your support. I just wanted to thank you and God Bless." ~ Craig Tomlinson*

