

In This Newsletter

It's been six months since we announced our name change from **Men's Challenge** to **Challenge Ministries**. While our name may have changed, we continue to provide unwavering support and tailored resources so others can discover their God-given potential, overcome adversity and gain confidence to be successful in the workplace and life. This quarter, we are thrilled to share some exciting updates that highlight the incredible impact we are making together, thanks to your generous support.

Mentoring Program Kicks Off

We are excited to announce the launch of our new mentorship program. Our mentors play a vital role in providing invaluable guidance and support to those reintegrating into society and the workplace. Guided by the biblical principles found in Titus 2, our spiritually mature mentors are taking participants under their wing, fostering trust, offering practical advice and instilling hope for a brighter future. Titus 2 reiterates how important it is to teach others how to love their spouses and children, be self-controlled and to walk alongside others and encourage them.

15 mentors have been trained and in just a short time, we have 9 mentor/participant relationships. Men and women mentors are praying regularly for our participants, meeting once a week to discuss challenges they may be facing, connecting them to resources and helping them set short and long-term goals with a plan to accomplish them. For many participants, the need for support is immediate and pressing. While most of us take for granted that water will flow out from our faucets, imagine the disruption and inconvenience of being unable to use the bathroom or take a shower, yet still need to get to work. A similar scenario happened just last week for one of our participants, a harsh reality for some and our mentors are prepared to help participants through these hurdles.

Please reach out to Gil Goodwin at 330-206-5050 or ggoodwin@challengeministriesohio.org if you would like to serve as a mentor to our participants.

Participant Spotlight: Meet Ryan

At one point, Ryan D. was employed as a union worker and had custody of both of children. Life was good. But as he acknowledges, "Stuff happened," and he lost everything. Although he possessed a good work ethic, losing his kids crushed him and years passed when he was out of work. He ended up homeless. It was while at the Refuge of Hope that Ryan came across information on Challenge Ministries. He remembered hearing about the program in court and now that he was in a shelter across the street, he decided to check it out.

Ryan expressed that going through our program, "Helped me gain confidence and gave me the information that I needed to get back to work after having been out for years." A month after completing our Job Readiness classes, Ryan found employment as a production worker with one of our partner employers. In just a short time, he has earned three raises and two promotions, now serving as a supervisor. An active member of Faith Family Church as well as being deeply involved with Celebrate Recovery, Ryan continues to grow. When asked what has brought about the growth that he's experiencing, he attributes it to one thing - "I am a child of God."

Mentor Spotlight: Meet Jill

Have you asked yourself, "How can I do anything about all that is wrong in the world?" We can be light to others. Did you know that the human eye can see the light from a single candle from as far as 1.6 miles away? In the Gospel of John the writer says; "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John: 1:5)

Recently, Jill and her husband Stan became mentors for Challenge Ministries. She agreed to walk alongside a female newly out of prison or rehabilitation, possibly both, and Stan agreed to walk alongside a male in similar circumstances. She says they possess no special skills aside from a love for the LORD and a belief that they were called by Jesus to be light, a city on a hill. "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in whom they have never heard?" (Romans 10:14) The world is our mission field and this includes the block next door, the city down the street. Jill's encouragement to you is, "I use you to be the hands and feet of Jesus for lost and hurting people. All that is required of you is a little of your time. Be accepting, non-judgmental and encouraging. Live out your faith and watch the Holy Spirit do the work."

Connecting People to Opportunities

We will be hosting a job fair at the One Center in Canton on May 16. Participants will connect directly with employers to learn about their job openings and with various community organizations that provide valuable resources.

Get Involved

Refer someone to our program. Whether you know someone or work with another organization whose participants can benefit from our program, refer them to Challenge Ministries which provides assistance to individuals to help them stabilize their daily challenges so they are better positioned to compete for in-demand jobs.

Become a mentor. Gil Goodwin is available to speak to you about becoming a mentor to participants. He can be reached at 330-206-5050 or ggoodwin@challengeministriesohio.org.

Follow Challenge Ministries on Facebook.

Donate to support our program. Last year, we served over 800 program participants. This is all made possible by the generous support of individuals, churches and grants. Together, we can continue to transform lives. Thank you for considering a donation to Challenge Ministries.



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JOHN 1:5

Generous Support

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of donors and partners! Thank you to **The Christ Foundation** who made our mentorship program a reality in 2024!

Challenge Ministries' staff and Board members were gifted tickets to the **ForeverLawn Faith Leadership Event** hosted by the Hall of Fame Village featuring pastor and author **Craig Groeschel** and football star **Tim Tebow**. What a night of worship and inspiration! We appreciate this generous gift!

Both Craig Groeschel and Tim Tebow had messages that left lasting impressions.

Tim Tebow shared he wants to enter heaven exhausted, not well rested, to give his all for the Kingdom in the limited time he's been given.

Craig Groeschel, "Stop trying which lends itself to excuses and start training for what it is God has called you to."