

THE GOOD NEWS REPORT

SPRING
2024



RYAN



Adult & Teen Challenge
Pacific Northwest

RYAN'S STORY

Being born and raised in Guam, Ryan Mendiola was introduced to meth at a young age. Meth use and distribution on the island is among some of the worst in the world with its open oceans. Ryan occasionally attended church with his mom as a child but never had experienced a true relationship with Christ.

"I got caught up with the bad crowd as a teenager so my mom moved my brother and I to Alaska when I was 16. We were doing well for a while but our upstairs neighbor in our apartment was selling meth and soon after my brother and I started using again."

While partying and using meth recreationally, Ryan met a girl when he was 17 and she became pregnant soon after. She quickly quit using and Ryan tried as well but was unable to and continued using behind her back. After keeping his use secret for months, she found out and left him, taking his newborn son. This devastated Ryan and sent him into a deeper depression.

"I lost my job and soon after lost everything else. I fell into a deep depression and I remember not knowing how to process everything that was going on. I decided rather than getting through it in a healthy way that I would medicate myself and I got deeper into my addiction. I told myself I was a loser, I had failed as a partner, as a dad, and as a man."

Ryan began going down a darker road that led to him selling drugs and using meth intravenously for years. He quickly turned to crime to support his lifestyle and became stuck in the system after he was arrested for vehicle theft. This



became a vicious cycle of using while being in and out of jail.

"I knew I was dying. When I thought of the future I knew I was either going to die soon or be in jail for the rest of my life. One day I messaged a drug dealer friend of mine on Facebook. He replied and said that he was actually 6 months clean, was doing good and was

on a pass from a program called Teen Challenge. This stuck with me because I knew who this guy was; he was a drug-using loser like me but he had all of this clean time and was doing good. It made me think that if he could do it maybe I could do it."

Soon after this, Ryan got arrested again in November

of 2017. As he was sitting in the intake cell, he prayed a different prayer than he normally prayed in this situation. He prayed "God I need your help." He called the Adult & Teen Challenge Men's Campus in Wasilla, Alaska and after being bailed out later that day, he entered through the doors of the campus at age 33.

"The first 3-4 months in the program were really difficult. But one day we went to a church service and that is when the lights finally turned on for me. I felt like the pastor was talking directly to me and he did a prayer call at the end of his sermon. Normally I would never go up to receive prayer with everyone watching but this time I did. I prayed that God would make Himself real to me and let me know I was doing the right thing. These people from the church laid their hands on me and began praying and I felt this crazy energy enter my body and it was unlike any feeling or high I had ever experienced. I knew then and there that God had touched me and that He had answered my prayer."

Later that day when Ryan arrived back at the campus, he grabbed his Bible and began writing about his experience. He wrote that today God had answered his prayer and that he was giving his life to Him and was going to serve Him for the rest of his life.

"The program became easier after that happened. I actually wanted to be there and was grateful to be there. Things like reading my Bible went from being a chore to a treasure. When my 12 months in the program ended I knew it wasn't time for me to leave so I became an intern. After my internship, I joined the campus staff as an education coordinator for 2 years then took some time off and came back as the student life coordinator and now I am the program coordinator."

Ryan married his wife Carly in 2021 and they have welcomed their first baby together. Ryan now has a thriving relationship with his son from his previous relationship and is a father to his two stepchildren. He lives by Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

"I am so grateful for how everything in my life happened the way that it did and how God used it to make me desperate for Him. If things hadn't turned out the way that they did, I would still be stuck in my stubbornness or dead. But God made things happen that made me need Him and made me cry out to him. The deeper I draw closer to Him the more I need him. If things didn't happen the way they happened, I wouldn't have called out to God and I wouldn't be here now." ✠



RYAN'S PROGRAM COMPLETION

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART; DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. SEEK HIS WILL IN ALL YOU DO, AND HE WILL SHOW YOU WHICH PATH TO TAKE."

- PROVERBS 3:5-6



RYAN'S FAMILY



The Alaska Adult & Teen Challenge HUB consists of the Men's program in Wasilla, AK and the Women and Childrens program in Houston, AK. Both ministries are in the Mat-Su Valley, which boasts views of the beautiful Talkeetna, Chugach and Alaska Range mountains. Unfortunately, in a place with such physical beauty, there is also a lot of brokenness and addiction here as well. That's why we're proud to be doing ministry in Alaska. Jesus told his disciples, "You are the light of the world", and that's exactly what Adult & Teen Challenge is doing here in Alaska, bringing light to people who have been in dark places! Between our two current campuses, we are serving and meeting the needs of almost 50 students, children, and student interns every day.

We are so thankful for the current impact we are making in the lives of the students and families we get to serve right now. But we believe there is more we can and should be doing. We have a vision to expand our services at both of our current locations making room for more people, as well as seeing new programs started in places of Alaska that we aren't currently operating in.

This includes at the Women and Children Campus:

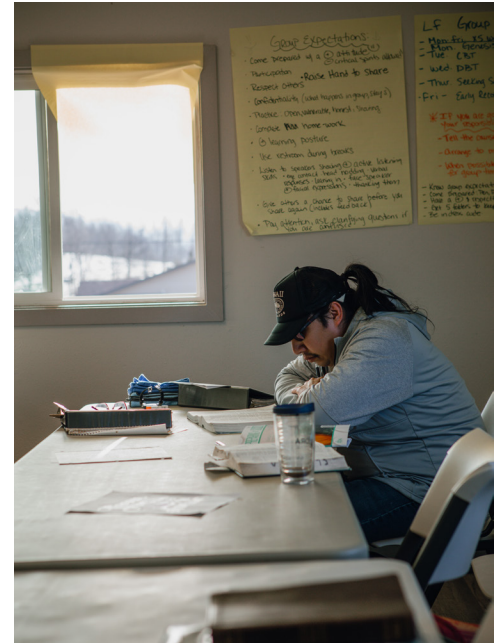
- Finishing the mothers with children's cabins. We currently have 4 beautiful cabins completed that are being utilized to serve women and children. We want to build 6 more to complete the plans that are drawn up.
- Having a multipurpose building built that would include office space, a larger classroom, a chapel, kitchen and dining, and a visitation area for family visits. All these things are currently being done in the house, making things extremely tight.

At the Men's Campus we want to see:

- An increase in the ability to serve more students. We have outgrown the housing capacity of our current location. The dormitory area consists of two larger rooms filled with bunk beds, limiting us to only having 18 students in the program at any given time. That means we need to build an additional dormitory at the current location or find a different location that has the capacity to house and serve more than we currently can. We are praying for God to open doors and show us what He would have us do.

In the State of Alaska at large we want to:

- Quickly open a program for men and women in Anchorage. It is the largest population in the state, with arguably the greatest need in the state and we want to see Adult & Teen Challenge be a part of the solution in meeting the needs there. When you drive around town, you can visibly see the brokenness. Would you believe in prayer that God would open the doors to open an Adult & Teen Challenge program in Anchorage?
- Expand to see Native Alaskans served in greater ways. The statistics and stories of suicide, abuse, addiction, and isolation that they experience are heartbreaking. We must figure out how to proactively be a part of seeing healing come to them as individuals and their communities. Please pray for us as we seek Gods guidance on what that looks like.
- Eventually see every major area of Alaska with a men's and women's program: Fairbanks, Mat-su Valley(existing), Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula, Southeast, and an Alaska Native program.



OUTREACH Since starting in the early 1960's in Brooklyn, NY, outreach has been a core component of the Adult & Teen Challenge DNA from day one, and it is no different now here in Alaska. We believe giving back to our communities through evangelism, compassion ministry, school prevention presentations, the sharing of our testimonies and partnering with other ministries and programs to help further their missions is important. We currently partner with Frontline Mission on a weekly basis helping them serve the homeless and provide food for the hungry.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Life Renewal is our evidence-based Christ centered treatment provided by state-licensed, substance abuse counselors that offers our students healthy coping skills and life skills they can put into practice as they are engaging in community living and set them up for success after the discipleship program. Both men and women in our programs in Alaska participate in group and individual counseling that our Life Renewal services provide. Our counselors are pivotal to the work that God is doing in the lives of our students. We are so thankful to be able to offer these services to our students, but we would like to expand these resources and make them available to the community through outpatient counseling soon as well.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING Vocational training is a huge part of not only our programs, but also discipleship and life. Our students do a variety of things including but not limited to commercial and residential cleaning, light construction projects, and general manual labor that pays by the hour. We are excited to be partnered with a wonderful up and coming business called Alaska Food Co. We are currently the exclusive labor providers for them, and they've hired a graduate of the women's program to be a shift supervisor! It's a wonderful partnership that our students enjoy while feeling productive and contributing to a good work! We are also open to exploring seeing a SuperThrift location open in Alaska as well. Be in prayer with us as we seek the right building, area, and God's will.



SLED FOR HOPE 2024

This past March, our Alaska Campuses hosted Sled for Hope 2024, an 80-mile snowmachine rally and fundraiser to Put Hope Within Reach in Alaska. It was a resounding success, and they raised a record amount of money for this event! It was amazing to witness all that God is doing, and we're so excited to see what He has in store for us next.





SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS



- 📍 Twin Falls, ID - 6/22
- 📍 Missoula, MT - 7/28

Join us for a Cornhole Event that's fun for the whole family! Sign up in teams of two for a tournament that supports the women at our Twin Falls, Idaho and Missoula, Montana Campuses! Can't wait to see you there!

CORNHOLE.TCPNW.COM



- 📍 Bend, OR - 6/22
- 📍 Spokane, WA - 6/28
- 📍 Seattle, WA - 7/20
- 📍 Willamette Valley, OR - 9/6

Every year, several of our campuses host our annual Swing for Hope Golf Tournament and Fundraiser. Join the fun as a team or as a sponsor of the event. For more information about campus specific golf events, visit the link below. We would love to see you this year!

SIGN UP AT GOLF.TCPNW.COM

MISSOULA WOMEN'S SPRING SOCIAL LUNCHEON

📅 May 11th

Join Us For:

- Lunch
- Curated Silent Auction
- Bingo
- A Live Paddle Auction
- A Rowdy Good Time!



All proceeds go to support local women in addiction recovery through the Missoula Campus of Adult & Teen Challenge PNW!

SIGN UP AT LUNCHEON.TCPNW.COM



ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE PACIFIC NORTHWEST WORSHIP NIGHT & BENEFIT FUNDRAISER

Join us at the 2nd annual Worship Night & Benefit to raise support for the Portland Men's Campus of Adult & Teen Challenge. This will be a night to encounter the presence of God, hear powerful testimonies, and come together to worship our Creator!

- 📅 July 21st
- 📍 Portland, OR
- 🌐 worship.tcpnw.com



NIGHT OF HOPE 2024

The first of our annual Night of Hope Galas is happening soon! More events to come this fall

- 📍 Eugene, OR - 5/31
- 🌐 nightofhope.tcpnw.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Our ministries in Alaska are a great example of a vision becoming a reality. Thank you so much to all of you who have financially partnered with us as we have endeavored to Put Hope Within Reach. Today, we have two campuses operating at full enrollment capacity and a team that is dedicated to offering hope across the entire state of Alaska and a dynamic vision to expand our ministry around the state.

"I prayed that God would make Himself real to me" is what Ryan said in his testimony and while he was in the program the Lord did just that. Today Ryan is serving others and providing leadership at our men's campus in Wasilla. Ryan is a powerful example of this year's theme, "All Things New", a new life and opportunity found through Christ.

By now you all should have received this year's Annual Report, and I hope you enjoyed seeing an overview of what the Lord has accomplished through our ministry this past year. Last year over 1000 individuals entered into one of our residential programs and 528 individuals accepted Christ and are now standing on our theme verse in 2 Corinthians 5:17 " Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here! These individuals represent countless more that are still searching for hope, and your financial partnership affords us the opportunity to stay focused on the Mission.

As you can see there many events planned this and I hope to you see you at one of these events this summer. In the meantime, thank you again for your financial support, volunteerism, and prayers; our efforts are only possible with your partnership.

Blessings to all,



Chris Hodges
CEO/President



Adult & Teen Challenge

Pacific Northwest



 **GET MORE UPDATES AND PHOTOS FROM OUR CAMPUSES EVERY MONTH BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW!**

