

THE GOOD NEWS REPORT

SUMMER
2024



VANESSA



Adult & Teen Challenge
PacWest

VANESSA'S STORY

Vanessa Plata led a successful life by society's standards before addiction unfortunately took over and made her unrecognizable to friends and family. Living and working in Eastern Washington, she was a personal banker for 12 years and was able to purchase her first house solo before she was 30 years old. Although she seemed successful and thriving on the outside, Vanessa was deeply struggling on the inside.

"It looked like I had all my ducks in a row but I was really struggling. In a past relationship, I was offered an oxycodone and was casually drinking on the weekends. It became something I did every weekend until it really got away from me and became a full-blown addiction. I began using during the week and before I knew it my body was completely dependent on it and would go through withdrawals if I didn't have it."

Vanessa was no-longer able to continue her normal life outside of using. She lost her job and was put on unemployment and when that wasn't enough to support her habit, she cashed out her retirement to fund her addiction. She was soon unable to pay her mortgage and was forced to sell her home and quickly used up those funds as well. Her addiction escalated from pills to fentanyl, then to heroin and meth.

"I eventually depleted every cent I had and became homeless. I was in and out of jail numerous times and every time I told myself this would be the last time but it wasn't, I was in too deep and had no idea how to begin to get out. The last time I ever got arrested was on my birthday in 2021 and I finally fell on my knees in my cell and cried to God and asked him to please help me."



VANESSA & HER MOM

Things began changing for Vanessa before her eyes. Charges she had in numerous counties began to miraculously get dismissed and before she knew it she was on the last days of her sentence in Franklin County. Vanessa knew that she needed help and knew that she needed more than a 30 day program. Her mother got into contact with Kathy Rither, the director of the Tri-Cities Jail Outreach for Adult & Teen Challenge PacWest and together they made arrangements for Vanessa to

attend ATC in Graham, WA at the Women's Campus.

"The beginning of the program was really hard, I was constantly worried about my charges and if I was fulfilling everything I needed for my probation. It was a really big worry for me but I was learning how to give it to God and trust Him with my life. One day I got a call from my attorney and she told me that a new law had passed and she was going to be going before the judge to try to get

the felony charge I was on probation for completely taken off my record. She called me a few days later and she told me that my record was clean of any felonies I had committed. I broke down; God was physically showing me that He can make me clean.”

Vanessa continued with the program with a new pep in her step and was able to continue digging into why she began using and how to give that to God to heal. Tragically, Vanessa learned towards the end of her program that her brother had passed away unexpectedly in a car accident. This rattled her and her family deeply.

“I felt like God had put me in this safe bubble so that I could work through everything I needed to work through without using. If you would have told me that I would be grieving my brother while sober back in 2021 I wouldn’t believe you.”

Once she graduated her program, Vanessa stayed on as a ministry intern in the Teen Challenge Ministry Institute (TCMI) program. TCMI is designed to help students who are interested in working for ATC one day learn the tools and acquire the skills they need to disciple people and help them further their recovery in the program.

“God used the TCMI internship to really soften my heart and once again provided me a safe place to learn and grieve. I was able to find a confidence in me that I hadn’t realized I had lost when I lost my job. I was trusted and was proud of my work ethic and skills. I really enjoyed the modules because it gives you a whole new appreciation for what it takes to keep the campus operating on a day-to-day basis.”

Vanessa got the unique opportunity to finish her internship in Portland, OR at the Shared Services Office serving as the Student Sponsorship Coordinator. Here she assists donors with signing up for the sponsorship program and facilitates sending out all of the sponsorship materials to student sponsors so they can be involved with their student’s program.

“I am so grateful that God brought me to where I was so I could now be here. If I could tell myself anything in the back of that cop car as I was getting arrested for the last time I would tell myself to trust God because through Him it is possible. Just because you feel like you’re at the end of yourself doesn’t mean this is where He ends; this is your new beginning.” ✨



TEEN CHALLENGE MINISTRY INSTITUTE

TTCMI stands for Teen Challenge Ministry Institute and the mission statement is “equipping students today to become leaders tomorrow.”

TCMI is a 12-month internship program designed for graduating ATC students who wish to pursue ministry and employment within the Adult and Teen Challenge PacWest organization or other ministry outposts. The program aims to equip student interns with ministry and leadership training, provide mentorship and accountability, and prepare them for employment, whether within the ministry or in other endeavors.



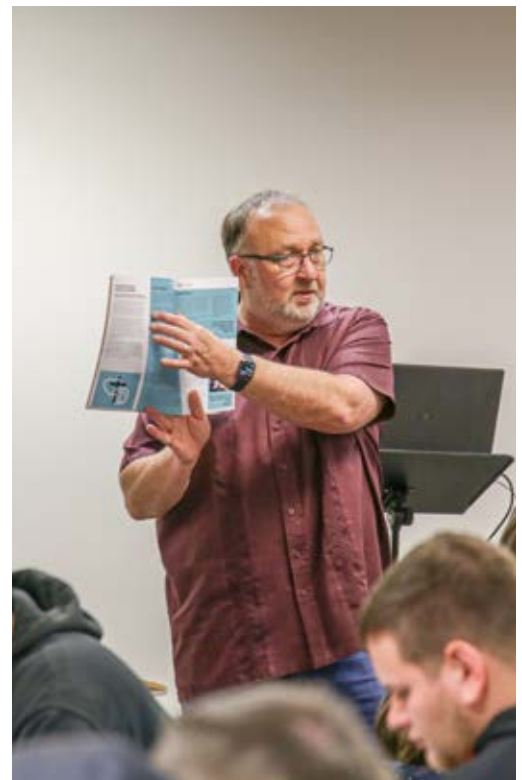
Here's a breakdown of the three main components of TCMI:

1. Ministry and Leadership Training:

This component consists of comprehensive training through 12 online courses, 7 hands-on modules, monthly virtual meetings, and 3 in-person intensives with leaders within ATC, and other guest speakers. The online courses cover various topics related to ministry and leadership and are conducted via Google Classroom. Hands-on modules include training in different facets of campus life (kitchen, fundraising, outreach, student services, etc). These are designed to help interns discover their skills and interests, serving as a foundation for further educational pursuits like Bible college.

2. Mentorship and Accountability:

Interns live onsite, typically at the campus where they completed their residential program. They receive regular mentorship from assigned staff, Life Renewal counselors, and volunteer mentors. This period aims to foster spiritual and emotional growth in a supportive environment, creating a space to develop leadership skills while remaining integrated into campus life. As interns progress through the program, they gain more responsibilities and privileges.



3. Eligibility for Employment:

The ultimate goal for many interns is to secure an entry-level position within PacWest Adult and Teen Challenge or related programs upon successful completion of the internship. The program prepares interns for their next steps, whether within or outside of the organization, focusing on solidifying their sobriety and relationship with God.

Overall, TCMI provides a structured pathway for interns to deepen their faith, develop leadership skills, and prepare for ministry or other opportunities, emphasizing personal and spiritual growth and servant leadership. Many students desire to stay and give back to the program that led them to Jesus, which ultimately changed their lives. It is not a decision made lightly and it is a privilege to walk alongside those who humbly make this choice. I am grateful to be a small part of their journey. Currently, we have 47 interns across the PacWest. Within the past year, we have witnessed 31 intern graduates! Out of these 31 interns, 23 were hired into our ministry's locations, and 8 continued their journey elsewhere.



Breanne Howard
TCMI Director



EXCITING NEWS FROM ATCPW!

Aloha from Adult & Teen Challenge PacWest!

We have some very exciting news to share with you. Hawaiian Island Teen Challenge and Adult & Teen Challenge Pacific Northwest have formally merged. This will allow the opportunity to implement new shared vision for the Hawaiian Islands as we endeavor to Put Hope Within Reach until all live free.

Our goals are to:

- Implement our Comprehensive Approach to Recovery in all four of the existing ministry campuses in Hawaii
- To provide a renewed vision for the Teen Challenge ministry in Hawaii
- To implement new processes and structures to increase community impact
- To increase funding for ministry operations and efforts

We are extremely grateful for all that the team has accomplished in Hawaii this past 17 years and look forward to building on what has been accomplished and expanding ministry impact across the State of Hawaii as we partner with the faithful team serving

in Hawaii. We have immediate needs that need to be addressed such as facility improvements, expanded enrollment, and increased operational funding and we need your help to make this new partnership a success.

We have an immediate fundraising goal of \$200,000 which will be utilized to bridge the funding gap while we work on implementing sustainable funding streams such as new vocational training programs, fundraising events and licensed counseling services. All gifts will make an impact regardless of their size and all gifts will go directly to the efforts in Hawaii. We are very thankful for your ongoing support of our ministry and am personally appealing to you for your support of this exciting opportunity. Thank you in advance for your prayers and financial consideration.

We will keep you updated as we progress forward and look forward to what the Lord will accomplish across our ministry as we seek His will for our ministry.



DONATE TODAY AT HAWAII.TCPNW.COM

SUMMER & FALL EVENTS



- Billings, MT - 09/20
- Eugene, OR - 09/20
- Missoula, MT - 09/26
- Twin Falls, ID - 10/05
- Spokane, WA - 10/19
- Wasilla, AK - 10/25
- Bend, OR - 11/01
- Portland, OR - 11/02



NIGHT OF HOPE!

The Night of Hope is our annual fundraising event that celebrates freedom from addiction and generates support for students in our residential programs. These events will include many regular attendees and newcomers who include local business professionals, community members, and leaders. Hope to see you there!

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU!



14TH ANNUAL
WESTERN SHINDIG

📍 Shedd, OR
📅 Oct 26th
Sign up at:
shindig.tcpnw.com

TESTIMONIES! ★ DESSERT & SILENT AUCTIONS! ★ BBQ DINNER



📍 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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

It has been a very busy summer across the Adult and Teen Challenge PacWest network of ministries, whether it be graduations, building projects, fundraisers, outreach events and so much more. Your support makes it possible for us to stay focused on the vision of Putting Hope Within Reach Until All Live Free.

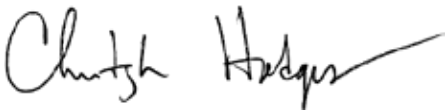
Vanessa's testimony is a great example of this year's theme "All Things New". Her past life is just that, her past. With the Lord's help she has found Hope through our ministry and Freedom through Christ. It has been a joy serving alongside her at our Shared Services office and I look forward to what will be accomplished through Vanessa at her new assignment at our Life Renewal Counseling Center.

Teen Challenge Ministry Institute is an effective resource for our graduates and gives them a great opportunity to be equipped through learning and service while living onsite at one of our campuses. Breanne is doing a great job leading this part of our ministry, a ministry that has a huge impact on the overall health and effectiveness of Adult and Teen Challenge PacWest. Many of our TCMI graduates become leaders within our ministry and are making a huge impact through their service.

We really need your financial support this summer. With so much taking place including our recent merger with Hawaii Teen Challenge our budgets are stretched thin and we need your support. I am asking you once again to stand with us as we strive to reach as many as possible with a message of Hope. All gifts made will go directly to helping us fulfill the vision of Putting Hope Within Reach Until All Live Free.

We all appreciate your support and look forward to connecting with you at one of our summer and fall events coming up soon.

May The Lord Richly Bless you and your family.



Chris Hodges
CEO/President



**ALL
THINGS
NEW**
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

GET HELP

877-302-7149

Are you or a loved one ready to take a step towards recovery from addiction?
Call an intake specialist,
we're here to help.

teenchallengepnw.com/get_help

