



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Growing Demand for Women's Drug and Alcohol Program Spurs Non-Profit to Seek New Facility

*Waitlists up to 8 months for admission to Teen Challenge of St. Louis' Diane's House
compel organization to expand*

ST. LOUIS March 2016. - Women 18-and-older in the St. Louis metropolitan area who suffer from prescription drug or heroin addictions now have an additional hurdle to overcome. With the rise of these addictions in St. Louis, one of the pre-eminent facilities in the region, Diane's House, finds that it cannot satisfy the urgent demand for spots at its 10-bed center. Diane's House is the women's center of Teen Challenge of St. Louis, a faith-based drug, alcohol and behavioral addiction rehabilitation program located in Mt. Pleasant neighborhood of South City, Mo. Teen Challenge of St. Louis' Board of Directors and Executive Director have begun a dedicated search to find property upon which to build to serve females in the St. Louis addict population.

In the 5 years since Diane's House opened its doors in May 2011, the center has admitted 103 women into the program. Limited by space and city zoning laws, the center's Program Director is frequently finding it necessary to help place candidates in other residential programs that do not offer the holistic approach that makes the Teen Challenge program successful and unique. Testimonies from Diane's House graduates have inspired many local women who are battling addiction to apply to the program. This soaring need has created an agonizing wait for a spot at the center where admitted students learn the skills necessary to return to society as productive citizens.

To meet this growing demand, Teen Challenge of St. Louis' Executive Director, C.R. Kersten, is determined to provide a facility for women that is similar in size and scope to their men's center that is located on twelve rolling acres in High Ridge, Mo. "Having spent over 37 years working with individuals struggling with addiction, I know how important it is for our centers to be located in a calm, safe and cloister-like setting. We want to offer the women the same facility advantages that we offer the men during their journey to sobriety," says C.R. Kersten.

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About Teen Challenge of St. Louis

Operating autonomously for 50 years as part of the expansive Teen Challenge network, Teen Challenge of St. Louis is a drug, alcohol and behavioral addiction residential rehabilitation program based on Christian principles. Teen Challenge of St. Louis is dedicated to restoring broken lives of individuals, ages 18 to 35, at the men's center in High Ridge, Mo. and the women's center, Diane's House, in South City, Mo. Since 1966, the non-profit organization has provided care to over 4,000 individuals. To learn more about Teen Challenge, visit **teenchallengestl.com or dianeshousestl.com**

About Teen Challenge

Established in 1958 by the late Pastor David Wilkerson in New York City, Teen Challenge began as a street ministry for gang members. Known worldwide as "The Faith-Based Solution to the Drug Epidemic," the program has expanded to include over 220 national centers and more than 1,000 ministries in 8 countries with a success rate of 86%. More at **teenchallengeusa.com**

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