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**TEEN CHALLENGE'S HOPE GALA MARKS INAUGURAL YEAR NOVEMBER 4;
CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER STARTS NOVEMBER 20**

BILLINGS, MONTANA—Just a year after opening a men's addiction recovery center in Billings, Adult and Teen Challenge (ATC) is celebrating its successes with its first-ever Hope Gala, Thursday, November 4, 2021, at the Big Horn Resort. The event will include live music, live and silent auctions, and testimonials from some of the men Teen Challenge has helped.

The program has served more than 30 men in the past year, with one graduating so far and a second set to complete the one-year program in January. Several of the center's 10 current residents hail from Montana, including Shawn from Cut Bank. "Teen Challenge is changing my life in many ways," he says. "I'm growing in my faith, changing me from who I used to be, and becoming the father I need to be for my daughter."

The fundraiser will directly support Teen Challenge's efforts to help the growing number of men afflicted with drug and alcohol addiction, according to ATC Billings Executive Director, Randall Wilber, himself a recovered addict. "The Billings community recognizes the drug and alcohol problems we have and is enormously supportive of our efforts to improve lives," Wilber says.

ATC partners with local businesses as part of a required vocational training program the men undergo as part of their recovery process. Work sites include Alpha and Omega Disaster Restoration, Staley's Tire and Automotive, and McCall Homes. The start-up Billings campus is funded by area churches; individual donors and foundations, including the Gianforte Family Foundation; and fundraisers such as the Gala.

Current resident Ryne, of Johnson City, Tennessee, says, "Teen Challenge is the best decision for anyone who is broken and desires true change in their life. Through the residential, vocational, and outreach programs, it gives you the best opportunity to start a new journey in life."

The Billings Teen Challenge center is the organization's first men's program in Montana. Teen Challenge runs 240 faith-based, residential recovery programs across the U.S., including a women's campus in Missoula. The 12-month program is free of charge to students.

Both the Billings and Missoula campuses are expanding services this fall to include licensed substance abuse counselors for on-campus group therapy and outpatient therapy for community clients.

The two organizations are also kicking off a Christmas tree fundraising sale, November 20 through Christmas Eve. Locations are the Power for Abundant Recovery on Lewis Avenue and Faith Chapel on Shiloh Road in Billings, and the Christian Life Center on S. Russell Street in Missoula.

Doors to the Hope Gala open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each or \$400 for a reserved table of eight. For more information, call 877-302-7149 or email info.billings@teenchallengepnw.com.

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