TEEN CHALLENGE
OF THE DAKOTAS

restoring broken lives

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November 5, 2017

Greg Sattizahn
State Court Administrator
State Court Administrator's Office
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

**Re: Alternative Care Grant Program Performance Report for the Period 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017**

Dear Greg,

Enclosed you will find the final performance report for Teen Challenge of the Dakotas' Alternative Care Grant, provided by the South Dakota Unified Judicial System. As you know, Teen Challenge of the Dakotas is proud to work with the state in helping young men whose lives have been altered by drugs, alcohol and other life-controlling problems.

At Teen Challenge of the Dakotas, we have a proven model for helping our men overcome their problems and re-enter society as responsible citizens, individuals, and workers. As you know, our program includes two phases. The first phase of the program, which spans a period of ten months, covers Personal Studies, Group Studies, Work Study, and Individualized Mentoring – services that are specifically designed to address their life-controlling issues. The six-month period that concludes the program is focused on preparing the men for re-entry into the community.

As we have shared in previous correspondence, Teen Challenge of the Dakotas contracted with Wilder Research to conduct a study of post-exit recidivism among our participants. The 2014 study found that only 10% of TCD participants (with at least 90 days in the program) returned to prison. This is remarkable when considering that the South Dakota's recidivism rate is 45% (Pew Center on the States, 2004-2007).

For the period covering July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, a total of 43 men have been served by our residential recovery program. This includes:

- A total of 21 men were actively participating in the program when the contract with the State began on July 1, 2016.
- Of these 21 men, 12 graduated from the program and a total of 19 were enrolled at the end of the program year.
- At the present time, there are 24 men participating in TCD's residential recovery program.

In keeping with the terms of the contract, each of the men described within the enclosed data have been residents of South Dakota who have been referred to the program though the legal system.

Greg, we are very proud of our work here at Teen Challenge of the Dakotas and its impact on the men we serve but also within the communities where they will work and live. I want to share with you a testimonial written by one of our recent graduates, Nicholas Cavegn, a Brooking native who is one of the many men who are supported by the Alternative Care Grant (see attached). When Nick came to us he was desperately struggling. Now, he set to graduate and has real hope for the future. He is wonderful example of how our program can help young men overcome their issues and make a positive impact in their communities. I do hope you share in our pride, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mike Gilmartin
Executive Director