

"almost every day"  
headlines, yet

Almost Every day when I read the local paper, it seems there is another drug bust, another pot grower who claims to be saving humanity by growing hundreds of plants—of course all for personal medicinal purposes, another drug deal gone bad where someone gets shot. Other recent articles point to drug dens that foment environmental damage, polluting streams near the lab or pot grow. Fighting the illegal drug industry costs us all a boatload of money, namely <sup>the</sup> paying for law enforcement, in addition to the costs of the countless thousands who have been incarcerated. <sup>state & nation,</sup> Drug fuel tensions within our community, siphoning money away from legitimate businesses, and ultimately from state and local governments. <sup>And there are other costs!</sup>

Talk show host Michael Medved recently devoted part of his program to <sup>New</sup> recent studies showing that marijuana use by teens increases the risk for schizophrenia and bi-polar disorders. These are serious mental illnesses. Of course, <sup>a reality</sup> some listeners were calling in aplenty to claim the mental acuity attained by pot use. Most of them could not string together a coherent sentence, let alone, persuade me ~~that~~ they'd attained the genius they were claiming.

In Switzerland where I lived for a few 3 years, <sup>drug</sup> heroin addiction on a massive scale transformed Platspitz park in downtown Zürich from a virtual paradise, to a hell on earth; there I saw people shooting heroin directly into their jugular vein, and many times, being carted off to the hospital or morgue ~~a few~~ hours later. <sup>had</sup>

Our government has spent countless billions of dollars in the war on drugs and I am glad that Attorney General Holder, recently admitted, jailing druggies is not working. What can we do? ~~Is there a program that does work?~~

One program that works is called Teen Challenge.

Teen Challenge runs nearly 200 residential drug treatment centers across the USA providing care for people of all ages.

I'd like to read from Teen Challenge's Mission Statement:

"To provide youth, adults and families with an effective and comprehensive Christian faith-based solution to life-controlling drug and alcohol problems in order to become productive members of society. By applying biblical principles, Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally-sound, emotionally-balanced, socially-adjusted, physically-well, and spiritually-alive."

Happily, we do have a local Teen Challenge program. The 5: 17 Club is located at 2212 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Eurka. Teen Challenge's highly structured programs have been developed to encourage the students to cope with everyday life issues. <sup>their # 268-8727</sup>

Lives are transformed at Teen Challenge by the power of God that is stronger than the bonds of addiction. ~~Teen Challenge helps the total person with spiritual, emotional, physical, social and educational challenges to prepare them for their new life.~~

the Great Austrian poet/author  
Rainer Maria Rilke

once wrote: "the most visible joy can only reveal itself to us when we've transform[ed] it, within." Teen Challenge foments change where it counts, within the human heart, mind and will.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment