

Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge, Inc.

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New Beginnings

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My name is Kevin and I am from Florida. My parents are devout Catholics and raised me as such, with Jesus at the center of our home. I had wonderful parents and I literally had about as perfect an upbringing as one can have. I graduated High School near the top of my class and was able to garner several

offers to play baseball at the college level. I attended Rhodes College where I played baseball and majored in Religious Studies. After school, I worked for a couple of years and then went back to school at FSU where I received my MBA. After this I helped start a Tissue Bank (Organ Harvesting) from the ground up into a thriving, multi-state business.

To all my friends and family, I seemed to have everything going for me as I kept following the path of prosperity. The truth was that I had fallen off the true path some years ago at 18 and had been struggling ever since. In my freshman year of college, I discovered alcohol and found that it would quiet my mind and relieve my anxiety. I did not start off as an alcoholic, as I did not abuse alcohol in my early years. The problem was that during times of depression or anxiety, I slowly started turning to alcohol more and more until one day I realized I could not deal with any bit of negativity without it. At about 26 I knew I had a problem, but it took until age 28 to finally go get help and talk to somebody about it. For the past three years I tried to deal with it in my own way, fighting against any true help, as secretly I wanted to keep drinking. Finally, it all became too much and I had my roommate call my parents to come and help me: I was done fighting alone.

I have an old family friend named Jacob that came through Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge almost ten years ago, and it was because of his story that I decided to come. At this point in my life, I have met many people with addiction problems, and Jacob is the only one I knew who truly seemed to be free of this affliction. Jacob actually talked to me a couple years ago about coming to Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen

Challenge, but I told him I would be ok. When I talked to Jacob in July of 2018 I told him that I am ready to be done with my addiction and that I want what he has. I thought that Jacob had some secret he learned while in the program that was unknown to all except those that came to Greensboro. At Teen Challenge, I found they did not have a secret, but instead they followed an old friend of mine who I had not talked to for some time, Jesus Christ.

During my years of struggling I found that I am a textbook case for OCD, although I am not a very tidy person, and I blamed that for all the anxiety and depression that was present in my life. The OCD definitely affected me, but I was able to trace all my problems back to a season in my life that I tried to forget about in an effort to exonerate myself from all blame. The simple answer was that I had willingly left God and the gift that Jesus gave for me. During all my childhood and teenage years, I had been very happy and the center of my life during these times was Christ. However, at 18, I decided chasing women was more important and one of the chief ways I found to do this was to enter the party scene. It was during this season of narcissism and lust that things began to unravel for me, and it is amazing that now I am back on the path of righteousness and that a decade's worth of fear and worries have seemingly vanished. I don't know what the future holds for me, but all I can say is that I will stay on the well-lit path lest I should fall into darkness again.

Kevin graduated in February of this year. He is now living in our re-entry program. Even though Kevin has a lot of talent and degrees behind his name, he shows no form of arrogance nor does he project a feeling of entitlement or being better than others. He was a good student and found his peace and happiness in having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. John 8:36 tells us if the Son (Jesus) sets us free we are free indeed. Kevin has been set free by the power of Christ's love and forgiveness. He now walks in the same love and power that he saw in his friend Jacob. Praise the Lord for His saving and delivering power. Keep Kevin and all our men in your prayers.

*Blessings,
Dr. Bob Harman*

**Did someone say golf? Oh yes!
Our Grandover Golf Tournament
will be Saturday, September 14th.
Cost is: \$250.00 per player and
team of four \$1,000.00.**



Greater Piedmont Teen Challenge is a
501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

8th Annual Iron Chariot Ride

Saturday, June 15th, 2019

Registration begins at 9:00, Kickstands up at 10:00 am

Ride begins at Riding High Harley Davidson

3036 NC 68

High Point, NC 27265

\$25.00 per rider, \$5.00 for passenger



Giving to Your Favorite Charity in the Most Tax Advantaged Way

By Chuck L. Furr CFP® AIF®
March 28, 2019

The IRS continues to allow tax advantaged giving to qualified charities. The current methods of giving are: cash, appreciated securities and post age 70½ direct contributions from IRA's.

The first method is pretty self-explanatory: cash is cash. You should check with your tax advisor about whether it will be deductible due to the levels of standard deductions under current tax law.

The second method is gifting appreciated securities. This enables you to gift to a charity while being able to avoid the capital gains as the charity will sell the security. In this instance, you get full gifting credit for the value on the date the charity receives it and do not have to pay capital gains on the value between what you paid for it and the value when it was sold. You did not sell the security; the charity did.

The third method is gifting directly to a charity from your IRA. There is an age restriction on this method: you must be age 70½ before this is applicable. This allows you to request up to \$100,000 per tax year to be directly transferred from your IRA to the charity of your choice. Since this gift is coming from a pre-tax account, you do not get a tax deduction for the contribution but you do get to count the gift against your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). At age 70½ distributions are mandated from IRA's, otherwise very large tax penalties (50%) are levied against the undistributed amounts. For those individuals who do not need their annual RMD's for lifestyle support and are charitably inclined, giving direct to their charity of choice makes great tax sense. The contribution goes directly to the charity and is not counted as taxable income to the individual but does count toward their annual RMD amount. This method of IRA distribution doesn't affect adjusted gross income and therefore doesn't factor into Social Security taxation. There are multiple benefits to using this method of gifting.

Take advantage of the tax law today because it is subject to congressional change at any time.



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