

WINTER 2024



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### Adult & Teen Challenge Northeastern Wisconsin

Freedom from addiction starts here.

The Mission of Adult & Teen Challenge of Northeastern Wisconsin is to help individuals attain freedom from chemical addictions and other life controlling problems by addressing their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.

# PROGRAM UPDATES



Winter is a season of giving and connection here at **ATCNEW**! Our clients have been making a meaningful impact by participating in community service projects, sharing joy during choir trips, and reflecting on the many blessings in their lives. They've also embraced the holiday spirit by preparing to celebrate Christmas and decorating our facility to make it beautifully festive.



Scan Here for a special Christmas message from ATCNEW

# ATCNEW First Program Graduate



  
**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

We are overjoyed to announce a monumental moment at **ATCNEW**: our very first Program Graduation Ceremony!

Our inaugural graduate, Kyle, has been with us since the very beginning of this journey. Through dedication and faith, he has discovered his identity in Christ, worked to restore broken family relationships, and drawn closer to God in incredible ways.

This milestone is more than just a ceremony—it's a testament to the power of transformation, hope, and grace.

Our staff and residents will celebrate Kyle's inspiring journey of hope and redemption on January 29th, alongside Kyle's family. We at **ATCNEW** are grateful to witness the fruits of all that God has accomplished in Kyle's life!



# Scott's Story of Hope



*Since joining the program, "The stress that used to suffocate me has lifted I'm no longer depressed or hopeless."*

I grew up in a Christian home with my mom and dad. Nine years later, my younger brother Michael was born. My father had been married before, so I also had an older brother, Corey, six years older than me, and a sister, Christine, nine years older. Summers were special because my grandmother from California would stay with us. I was raised by hardworking, middle-class parents who instilled in me the importance of a strong work ethic.

Growing up, my relationship with my dad was often strained and full of arguments. Despite this, our home was stable. My parents weren't substance users, though they'd have the occasional wine or mixed drink at a restaurant or holiday gathering. I had a small group of close friends, and we were like little explorers running around the Duck Creek area. Family vacations were regular, and I spent much time up north at my grandparents' place, where my grandfather taught me how to hunt and fish. I had a lot of freedom and was always around older relatives who drank around the campfire, but I never saw conflict in those moments. They were retired, peaceful, and always happy to see me.

When I was 16, we moved, and I had to change schools. It was a tough adjustment. By the time I was 17, I started drinking alcohol. But things took a darker turn when I was 25. My first love, who didn't drink or use drugs, tragically committed suicide. That year, I was introduced to cocaine, and my spiral into addiction deepened.

Less than a year after my first love's suicide, I started dating my ex-wife. I was trying to get clean and sober on my own, but I kept struggling and failing.

During those years, I felt lost, hopeless, and overwhelmed by depression and suicidal thoughts. I tried to get sober twice, going through treatment, but each time I relapsed after about a year. I didn't know how to handle the growing strain in my marriage. We rarely talked about our problems or sought help together. We had two kids who were the joy of our lives, but I missed so many important moments—either because of my mental health struggles, using drugs, or the overwhelming shame and guilt I carried. Even when I was sober, the arguments and accusations in my marriage didn't stop. I selfishly believed that everything else would fall into place if I changed for my family. But when it didn't, I grew more bitter. Denial kept me trapped, and my lack of faith in God kept me sick.

My turning point came after my fifth OWI when I found myself in jail. That's when I was introduced to **Adult & Teen Challenge Northeastern Wisconsin**. I had hit rock bottom, feeling utterly hopeless and unable to go on alone. My life was filled with divorce, loneliness, depression, separation anxiety, and losses, including the deaths of old friends and colleagues in recovery.

At **Adult & Teen Challenge Northeastern Wisconsin**, I began to find hope again. My goals were simple but profound: I didn't want to go to prison, and I wanted to rebuild my life with God at the center. I longed to be valued by my community, to help others struggling like I was, and to be a better father to my kids. I wanted to raise them in a positive, faith-filled

BEFORE



AFTER



environment and teach them about God and hope. I even began to dream of working in a church or a recovery center, using my experience to help others overcome addiction.

Since joining the program, I've come to know God as my Lord and Savior. I've been able to confront the trauma, guilt, and shame of my past. The stress that used to suffocate me has lifted. I'm no longer depressed or hopeless. While every day isn't perfect, I have far more good days than bad. I've learned so much about myself, and I feel hopeful for the first time in a long time.



# Thank You Volunteers and Donors



A heartfelt labor of love! Some of our clients had the special opportunity to sew teddy bears as holiday gifts for their children. A big thank you to Nancy Tomcek who generously shared her time and talent to make this meaningful experience possible!

**ATCNEW** is overflowing with gratitude this holiday season! One Way Church generously provided Christmas presents for all of our client's children, while New Life Church ensured that our clients had gifts to unwrap under the tree. We are deeply thankful to both organizations for their incredible kindness and the blessings they have brought to our community.

*Joy to the World!*

# From Our Executive Director



## Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

As we reflect on our journey since **ATCNEW** opened its doors in January, we are filled with gratitude for all that God has accomplished through this ministry. Because of your steadfast prayers, generous donations, and unwavering faith, we have witnessed His transformative power in changing lives.



Since welcoming our first residents, we have been amazed by the work God is doing. Our clients are discovering their identity in Christ and finding hope for a brighter future through our engagement with them, serving our community, crafting and creating through therapy in our newly launched woodshop, and many moments of spiritual and character growth. From joyous family picnics and baptisms to heartwarming stories of redemption, each success story serves as a reminder that no life is beyond God's reach and no heart is too broken to be made whole again.

Our mission is to break the cycle of addiction and restore lives, families, and communities in Northeast Wisconsin, a task that would not be possible without you. Volunteers and donors have been instrumental in this effort, providing meals, creating gifts, supporting our clients' families, and ensuring that every need is met. Your generosity has transformed our center into a place of refuge, healing, and transformation.

As we approach Christmas, we rejoice in the hope that Christ brings. Together, we celebrate the renewed lives and look forward in faith to those yet to be touched by His grace through our organization. Thank you for being a vital part of this ministry. Your support is not only saving lives but also paving the way for an eternal impact.

One of our most incredible upcoming milestones is the graduation ceremony of our first **ATCNEW** program participant on January 29th. We celebrate this moment with all of our supporters with tremendous gratitude. May God bless you and your families richly this Christmas. We anticipate greater success in 2025 as we continue this journey together.



In His love,  
Vaushawn Johnson  
Executive Director



# ATCNEW Upcoming Events

Our First Annual Christmas Concert: *Carols, Cookies, and Cocoa*, was a memorable evening full of Christmas spirit and fellowship. If you missed it, be sure to mark your calendars for December 2025 and join us for the **ATCNEW Men's Choir Christmas Concert** —*you won't want to miss it!*

## 2025 Upcoming Events

January (29th) Client Graduation

February Client Graduation

March Client Graduation

Spring **ATCNEW** Fishing Tournament

Summer **ATCNEW** 'Run for Recovery' 5K Run/Walk

**ATCNEW** First Annual Fall Gala

December **ATCNEW** Christmas Concert

We have an incredible year ahead, filled with opportunities you won't want to miss.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected with all of **ATCNEW's** exciting events



# OUR VISION

Our vision is to help  
struggling individuals break  
the addiction cycle to see..  
**Lives Transformed**  
**Families Restored**  
**Communities Strengthened**



*"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior."*

*Titus 3:4-6*

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LEARN MORE:  
www.atcnew.com



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**Adult & Teen Challenge**  
Northeastern Wisconsin

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