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Dear Pastors, Churches, concerned individuals, and supporters,

My name is Dallas Block, president of a ministry called **Rock Solid Refuge** that is endeavoring to bring God's help and victory into the lives of addicted and struggling teen boys. You may or may not be familiar with us so we want to let you know who we are and what we have done up to this point.

Rock Solid Refuge was established as a nonprofit corporation in the fall of 2005 in the reality that many of our young people and their families are struggling through the crisis of teen addictions with little or no real help available to them. As far as I know, Saskatchewan is still the worst province per capita for addiction related issues among adolescents. We recognized through one of our board members own son's struggle with addictions, that what is needed is a long term residential program that is Christ centered to bring freedom from the addictions and abundant life in every area of life. They need a refuge away from their present environment and into a place removed from the temptations of their addictive lifestyles. They need a long term program because it takes time for the mind and body to heal from the affects of drugs, the dependency on drugs, and the reality of relearning some basic life skills and developing new beneficial way of life. We also recognize that those caught up in addictions have bought into a wrong philosophy of life, and it takes time to tell them, and show them that there is an all powerful God who by his grace, through faith can give us a victorious, and full life .

In addition we believe that it is important to work with the parents and families, to help them in the challenges that they face as a family dealing with addictions in their home. We have 4 days of camp for the families to come on site for us to work with them through workshops (parent to parent), chapels, conversations, and fun activities. This is an amazing opportunity to share the gospel with those who maybe have never been introduced to Christ before.

We are working from this perspective also because of having seen the results that Christ centered programs such as teen challenge and many others have.

How do we facilitate the opportunity for change in a young person's life? We do this with Christian discipleship and character building through mentoring, work projects, daily chores, workshops, special speakers, assignments, workbooks, classes, worship and chapels. We believe it is important to also do fun activities with them such as swimming, out trips (horse trip, and canoe trip), evening games, workout equipment, and sauna. We also believe that discipline is an important part of shaping their character, so extra work projects are assigned when attitudes, speech and behavior is needing to be confronted and corrected. Through all these things we strive for a family feeling culture with the campers for the summer.

Summer 2008 we ran 12 weeks of camp for 8 first year campers and 3 returning campers starting June 1 and finishing Aug 22 here at Simmie Lutheran Bible Camp. We did have more that were in our program for short amounts of time, but didn't stay to finish the program.

What are some of the things we experienced while working with the campers.

The campers are not necessarily wanting to be at camp, as most of them have been in real trouble, and want to continue to do there own thing, but those who care about them most, have stepped in and done what it takes to help them see they are headed down a terrible path. We deal with lots of disrespect, and stubbornness, but also kids that have not had the chance to be kids. Some getting into drugs in their own homes, others coming from nice stable homes. It was a very difficult work that we asked our staff to do, and not something for someone to do that is stuck in selfishness. Some of the teens attitudes seemed to change early on, while others seemed to struggle against our efforts till the last week when we saw incredible attitude changes. It was very exciting as we presented numerous of them with their own Bibles during the last week that they had asked for, and to see the excitement in their eyes, and asking all the staff to sign their Bibles.

So what are we asking of you?

We need individuals and churches to partner with us in prayer. The teens we worked with last summer are back home now where temptations are strong, and they need the Holy Spirit's help and strength to live a new life. We need individuals who will mentor and encourage the teens and families, inviting them to be a part of the church, youth group, etc. We also need people that will pray with us for the future of Rock Solid Refuge as we prepare for this summer and some of the changes we need to make and the staff we will need to have and train.

We need individuals, churches, and businesses to partner with us financially. We do not charge a fee, but have a suggested donation for parents which is still far below the cost per teen that we incur. Right now we are needing financial support in order to keep our spiritual director, Orly Rodriguez, on staff part time as well as his wife Rose, and our administrative director to keep in touch with the campers, and continue to encourage them in their faith, and to be ready for this summer's program. We are also needing **strong financial support** for us to continue moving towards our long term goal of a one year program in the next few years. We hope to secure the land for that permanent location by this summer, and have our permanent facility begun to be built the summer of 2010. Please let us know if God is leading you or your church to partner with us in some way,. You can mail cheques to the address above or inquire about monthly sponsorship and pre-authorized payments. God Bless.

Dallas Block,

President 