



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

BRADLEY D. ROGERS, SHERIFF



S E R V I N G E L K H A R T C O U N T Y

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Former resident begins with fresh start after Teen Challenge

Raymond Steadman officially started a new path in life Friday night, reversing course after years spent in corrections facilities on alcohol-related charges.

The man with ties to Elkhart graduated from Teen Challenge International of Mid-America on Friday in Cape Girardeau, Mo. The graduation ceremony for Steadman and 16 others was attended by Pastor Michael Johnson of Trinity Holiness Tabernacle of Goshen and Sheriff Brad Rogers.

“It was significant to see the results of what these types of organizations can do in lieu of incarceration,” Sheriff Rogers said. “This shows that real solutions exist within the community partnerships we have fostered, and it confirms that the traditional ways of the criminal justice system and government don’t always provide all the answers. Raymond is someone who, quite frankly, went from ‘death’ to life.”

Steadman, who will stay on with Teen Challenge as a full-time counselor, was brought to the Elkhart County jail on seven different occasions between September 2005 and February 2009. While at another facility after leaving Indiana, the 24-year-old learned about Teen Challenge, embraced the concepts, and agreed to participate after serving his time.

Last fall, North Central Indiana Teen Challenge opened in Elkhart with similar programming as the Missouri chapter from which Steadman graduated. The Elkhart group has 20 full-time students, with 37 more enrolled in classes at the Elkhart County corrections facility — the first step in the process.

Friday’s graduation of the first North Central Indiana student will be at the Teen Challenge center, 1111 W. Bristol St., Elkhart. The event, which begins at 7 p.m., is open to the public, according to co-director Joni Moser.

In all, dozens of faith-based and traditional teaching and counseling programs are offered at the Elkhart County corrections facility each month. At times, as many as 450 inmates have participated in some sort of programming while incarcerated.

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