



My name is Amy, and I was born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. My mom and dad divorced when I was six years old and so we moved from P.R. to N.Y. I was a little girl who needed her daddy, and he wasn't there. My mom raised me, and she did the best that she could with the help of my grandparents and aunt. But **there was something missing inside of me**; there was something wrong with me. I was quiet, shy and didn't really know how to communicate what I was feeling inside. There was a loss, and that loss was turning into anger. As I grew older, so did my issues. I became insecure, rebellious, deceitful, jealous, among other things.

I started smoking at age 14, drinking at age 15, and by age 19 I was an alcoholic. At age 21, I was a regular cocaine user. I found myself going from one abusive relationship to another, and I tried to kill myself several times. I have also been shot at which left 5 bullet holes in my car. I lost custody of my daughter to her father because of my drug use.

I KNOW I SHOULD BE DEAD!!! BUT GOD!! I KNOW THERE IS A GOD, because He spared not only my life, but the lives of the people I put in danger so many times. I have never known Jesus like I know Him, or like I am getting to know Him at Youth Challenge Mission for Women. He has healed me from depression, anxiety and violence which I struggled with for many years. Controlling my emotions wasn't something I aspired to because it protected me from being hurt by people, but it also kept my family away from me.

Growing up, my mother told me that before I was born, it was prophesied to her that I would belong to the Lord and that He had a plan for my life. I found out at YCMW about Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) which says *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,"* and it all came together for me.

YCMW changed my life, and it has given me a future with God. I've had my struggles going through the program. I even had a set back just before completing my 18 months due to a serious violation of the rules. I had to enter the restoration phase of the program. It was the hardest thing that I ever had to do, but it was the best thing that happened to me. **It gave me a chance to work harder on my issues.** I am just grateful to this ministry for not giving up on me. I thank God for YCMW, because no one else could have done it, and no other place could have done it for me. Gen. 50:20 (NIV) *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."* **Thanks YCMW!! Amen**

Yc HELPING THE HURTING

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Fall 2009

DR. RAÚL GONZÁLEZ, LEGEND AND LEADER P.O. BOX 763, Hartford, CT 06142 www.youthchallenge.org

A TRIBUTE TO OUR LEGEND AND LEADER, DR. REV. RAÚL GONZÁLEZ A GREAT MAN - 1941 - 2009

William Shakespeare in his poem of Twelfth Night states: *"Be not afraid of greatness; some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."* Truly, Dr. González, was not afraid of greatness. He achieved greatness and had greatness thrust upon him because of the outstanding missionary work he did in the United States and around the world. Dr. González was inspired by the MOTTO, *"there's a treasure in the addict."* Dr. González joined the Rev. Frank Collazo who pioneered the formation of Youth Challenge in Hartford, CT. Later, Dr. González assumed the position of Executive Director and Overseer of Christian substance abuse programs established in Connecticut, Florida, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Africa, Peru, and most recently, the Dominican Republic. Because of Dr. González' personal testimony of overcoming drug addiction in a residential Christian Program, **he had the faith to believe that Jesus Christ could do the same for every drug addict who would give him or herself a chance to go through a similar program.**

In 1981, when there was a "pressing" need for a substance abuse program for women in Connecticut, Dr. González arose to the challenge. With the donation of a home given by a man whom he had previously helped with life controlling problems, with much faith, and the sales of homemade pies, Youth Challenge Mission for Women (YCMW) was opened for broken and hurting women. Dr. González' greatest



Dr. Raúl González, Legend Executive Director



Shari (Jamon's mom) YCMW Supervisor



Dr. Raúl González (center) Andrea (left) and Jamon (right)

desire was for women with substance abuse problems to receive the necessary care that would heal their mental, emotional and spiritual wounds and restore their identity and self esteem. **Dr. González' goal was for the women and their children to be made whole and become a healthy, functioning family unit in their communities.**

Hundreds of women have come through the doors of the Youth Challenge Mission for Women over the past 28 years without finances or support of any kind. **Dr. González' instruction to the staff was not to turn anyone away who was seriously seeking help as long as there was a bed available. YCMW has practiced that principle, and we have seen good results.** Through Dr. González' efforts, we have been privileged to see some of the graduates' children on their way to college and drug free, some are married and have children of their own, which is the 3rd generation.

In March of 2009, Dr. González was honored to be the officiating minister at the wedding of Jamon, the son of one of the YCMW Graduates, Shari Jennings. No one could imagine the personal satisfaction that Dr. González felt in joining his "spiritual" grandson, Jamon, "drug free," in holy matrimony to his lovely wife, Andrea. **Dr. González has made an "impressive mark" on society and those who have been trained by him must pick up the torch and run with it. There are still millions of women to be restored from substance abuse (continue on page two)**

Looking Ahead...

Annual Guatemala Missionary Trip on October 28 - November 4, 2009

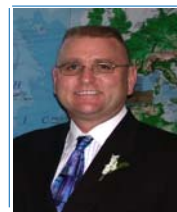
The Rev. Guillermina González, wife of the late Dr. Raúl González will receive a Special Recognition in his honor. Rev. González will be accompanied by a missionary team. **For information on the next Guatemala Missionary Trip, please call the Rev. Mary Hanson at 860 547-1561.**



YC Alumni Service
November 27, 2009
221-225 Greenfield Street
Hartford, CT 06112

YC Alumni Homecoming Banquet
February 2010
For reservations call 860 728-5199

YC Graduation Banquet
October 17, 2009
Plainfield, CT
For tickets please call 860 728-5199



Speaker:
DR. RODNEY B. HART,
PRESIDENT
TEEN CHALLENGE
NEW ENGLAND, INC.

DR. PAUL ECHTENKAMP - The New YC Executive Director and wife Vilma, YC Business Office Administrator



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DR. PAUL ECHTENKAMP, EXEC. DIR.

YOUTH CHALLENGE BIBLE TRAINING CENTER
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(860) 564-8400 - FAX (860) 230-0851
EMAIL: ranchyc@youthchallenge.org
THE REV. TYRONE GLASPIE, DIRECTOR

and the numbers may grow in the future. Will there be people like Dr. González, with a heart of compassion and mercy, who will make great personal sacrifices for the lives of the less fortunate to become better?



The Reverend Marva Downes

IN THE MEMORY OF DR. RAÚL GONZÁLEZ, we are challenging all YC alumni to step forward and make a serious effort to send a reasonable contribution monthly to keep Dr. González' legacy alive. Please don't let the doors of the programs ever be closed for lack of sufficient funds. Dr. González was there to meet your needs, and now it is your turn to meet the needs of others.

YCMW Partners, although you may not have known Dr. González in a personal way, we believe that he has touched your lives by the great work that he has done. We are urging you to continue sending your monthly contributions or your special donations to Dr. Raúl González Legacy Fund to keep Dr. González' legacy alive.

YCMW Newcomers, we invite you to "get on board" and help us to fulfill Dr. González' Vision which is found in Luke 4:18,19 *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."* You will be giving to a good cause!

YCMW staff, students and all of the YC ministries, friends and family of Dr.

González will miss him tremendously. His work will forever live on and impact our lives and the lives of future generations. **Dr. Raúl González Was A Great Man!!**

Enclosed is a pledge card and an envelope for your convenience. Please make your check payable to: **Dr. Raúl González Legacy Fund, Inc.** Thanks for sowing financial seed into the lives of future generations to make a better America and a better World. May it be said at the end of your time here on earth, like Dr. Raúl González, "you served your generation well!"

God Bless,

The Reverend Marva Downes
Director

"Keep The Doors Of YC Open"

A TRIBUTE TO OUR LEGEND AND LEADER

YES, I WANT TO KEEP DR. RAÚL GONZÁLEZ' LEGACY ALIVE AND KEEP THE DOORS OF YC OPEN!!

Enclosed is my () one-time, () monthly, () annual pledge of:
() \$10 () \$25 () \$50 () \$100 () \$250 () Other _____
() Legacy Fund Donation _____

My name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ email: _____



* All gifts are tax-deductible.
* Please make checks payable to:
Dr. Raúl González Legacy Fund

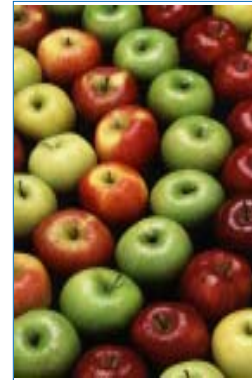
PO Box 763 Htfd, CT 06142-0763 - Ph: 860-728-5199 - www.youthchallenge.org



LEGACY FUND PLEDGE CARD



"Woody" and wife JoAnn



Volunteers Of The Year
A SPECIAL THANKS!

A special thanks to "Woody" and JoAnn from Scotts Farm for donating flowers every year to make YCMW's garden beautiful. Also, thanks for providing hundreds of crates of apples for YCMW to make delicious pies for our annual Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser. We need more generous supporters like you. May God Bless You, Your Business And Your Family!!



Thanksgiving Pie Sale!
HURRY UP AND ORDER YOUR PIES BEFORE NOVEMBER 20, 2009

DELICIOUS FLAVORS: Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Cheesecake, Chocolate Creme, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato

Deadline for pickups 11/25/2009
Cost Of Pies - \$10

Call us at (860) 527-2000 or email your Financial donations or ingredients order at mfwyc@youthchallenge.org are welcomed!

YC Staff, Students and Alumni



FOREVER YOUR MEMORY WILL LIVE IN OUR HEARTS!!



Reverend Tyrone Glaspie, Director and wife Jennifer - YC Bible Training Center



Reverend Victor Rodriguez, President of The Alumni Association