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**GO PAPERLESS!**

Our newsletter is now digital!  
Email [info@escape-out.org](mailto:info@escape-out.org) to start receiving our newsletter via EMAIL, or to unsubscribe!

**DONATE!**

Invest in Escape's work with amazing youth in difficult places. Send a check or visit [escape-out.org/donations](http://escape-out.org/donations)



**CAREER CONNECTIONS SUMMER JOBS**

In the last 8 years, Escape has created over 450 summer jobs for youth, in partnership with local organizations and supporters like you. Youth earn money, learn skills, build Gospel-rooted relationships, and make lasting memories. Here's how you can be part of this amazing initiative:

- 1) Hire a team to mow, rake, or mulch your yard, or even clean your house,
- 2) Send a donation with "Career Connections" in the memo, to sponsor a youth to work.
- 3) Volunteer as a driver, lunch duty, or trips!

**TUNE IN ONLINE!  
"THE HERO IN ME" 2021**

Our most heroic youth from the last year share their stories of overcoming incredible challenges and their dreams to change the world. It's the inaugural event, and our chance to recognize them for the heroes they are. The winner will be presented with a \$1000 scholarship and ALL will be celebrated! The event will be streamed live on our Facebook—you don't want to miss it!



**...AND YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

We want to recognize the outstanding support we've received recently, starting with **YOU**. Your donations, prayers, pop cans, volunteering, and more have helped us go Deeper & Wider impacting youth. Additionally,  
-The **CFHZ Community Stabilization Grant** has helped Escape launch tutoring for virtual students, a mental health initiative and a 8th/9th Bridge Program this year!  
-The **Optimist Club** sponsored skiing for 18 Escape kids.  
-**Holland Junior Welfare League** helped Escape purchase new laptops for student use!  
-**Haworth, Inc.** is an Escape work site for the 8th year!

"I Thought I Messed It Up"



What is "The Hero in Me"?



Meet Escape's New Director



**WHAT'S INSIDE**



# DEEPER & WIDER

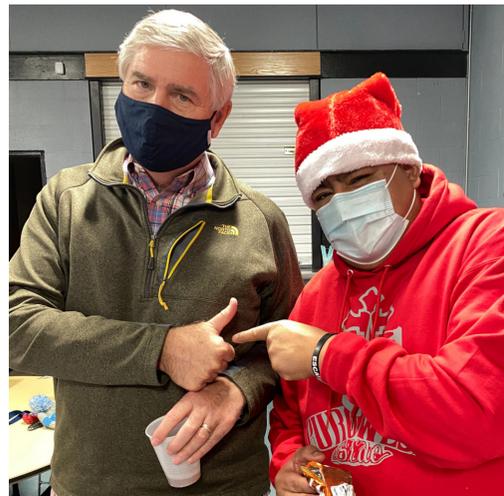
STORIES FROM ESCAPE MINISTRIES

SPRING 2021



## MEET TODD KRYGSHELD, ESCAPE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On March 1, Todd Krygsheld began serving as the new executive director of Escape Ministries. We are excited to have Todd lead our team, love our students, and share Escape with our community! He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a ministry leader and pastor in West Michigan: He has previously served at Ottawa County Jail, The Rock Urban Youth Ministry, Holland Rescue Mission, and Ebenezer Reformed Church. Todd has a deep love for Jesus, a genuine heart for youth, and a servant leadership that make him an excellent fit at Escape. In his first few weeks, Todd has been incredibly active and intentional, investing in staff, connecting with youth, and navigating difficult situations wisely. "It would be my prayer that everyone at Escape encounters the love of Jesus," says Todd. "I hope to see students engage deeply in their schooling, and that relationships at Escape help youth discover and develop their gifts. I am humbled to be a part of that." Join us in welcoming Todd to the Escape family! Stop by Escape or email [pastortodd@escape-out.org](mailto:pastortodd@escape-out.org)



## THANK YOU BOB!

A big thank you to Bob Ellis, who served as our interim executive director from August til March. His guidance, direction and stability will be missed. His laughter, encouragement, and french fry deliveries will not be forgotten. THANK YOU!!!

## WHAT DOES "DEEPER & WIDER?" MEAN?

- More tutoring, focus on middle school and virtual students
- Add a Mental Health Life Coach
- Increase staff:student ratio in ASAP
- Building improvements to update our space, furniture, and message.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Volunteer as a **tutor, van driver, receptionist, or pop can returner!**
- Donate, advocate, & pray with us!



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE: COMPASSION LIKE JESUS

*"When the days were approaching for [Jesus'] ascension, He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem." Luke 9:51*

During Passion Week, Jesus purposefully and steadfastly went to the cross. It wasn't an accident. Knowing what was waiting for Him (injustice, betrayal, torture, and the cross), Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem. He set His face resolutely towards harm to demonstrate His love. Having this kind of Savior comforts us.

These same verses challenge us to be purposeful and steadfast in our love. When we know difficulty and challenges are waiting for us, we will still enter those spaces with purpose and love?

I have loved seeing how we, the Escape Ministries community have purposefully and strategically set our faces towards the "Jerusalem's" in our community. Knowing there will be significant challenges and trials, we have said, "We will love right there!"

As I reflect on Jesus' compassion towards us, I am thankful to be part of a team that "Chooses Compassion" (one of Escape's Core Values) daily and "sets their faces like flint" to love students and families at Escape with the love of Jesus, no matter the difficulty! Please consider how you might be a part of the valuable work at Escape!

**-Todd**

## GET INVOLVED!

- Visit** >> [escape-out.org/getinvolved](https://escape-out.org/getinvolved)
- Pray** >> email us to receive the prayer newsletter
- Tutor** >> virtual students need help!
- Drive** >> transporting students is a BIG need!
- Support** >> your donations empower us to serve



## "I WAS SO NERVOUS"

Bryce\* had recovered from serious drug addiction, gotten out of juvie and off of probation. He was thriving in his restaurant job, finishing classes in Escape's ASAP program, and even survived a case of COVID. But then another roadblock came. Bryce found himself in jail for a DUI-his second in just three months. "I was doing so good, I just got caught up with the wrong people and let my guard down."

He was disappointed and embarrassed to the point of tears. But his resilient spirit didn't give up. After his first DUI, he had gotten help from an Escape staff, who, himself having previous DUI charges, connected him with a virtual AA group. "That was a wake-up call," said Bryce. In December, just days after getting out of jail, Bryce had a reinstatement hearing for West Ottawa High School. He was terrified they wouldn't let him return to school because of his recent offenses.

"I was so nervous I had messed everything up." A year ago, at his last hearing, he had been denied reinstatement, and he had been out of public school for two full years. The hearing proceeded, and after a tense few days, Bryce was told he would be able to return to West Ottawa for the last semester of his senior year! "They let me back in because they saw me as a person, saw how much I had grown at Escape, that I was taking it seriously and because I was honest with them. I wouldn't have been able to do that before," said Bryce. "Now I get to graduate with my class of 2021. And I learned some important lessons, too." Bryce is one of THREE seniors at Escape to graduate this year. We are so proud!