



CAREER CONNECTIONS



**SUMMER JOBS.
INTERNSHIPS.
RELATIONSHIPS.
TO SPRINGBOARD A TEEN'S LIFE.**

SHOW THEM THEY MATTER
SHOW THEM HARD WORK PAYS OFF
\$1000 SPONSORS A YOUTH
FOR THE SUMMER

PUT OUR YOUTH TO WORK!

**SPONSOR A YOUTH JOB.
BE AN ALLY.**

How creating
summer jobs can be
the turning point for
youth in need of
direction...and how
you can help!

INSIDE:



Banquet Sep 15
What's been going on?
CC Plan...odd jobs

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Partners,

It's time to put our at-risk kids to work. In 2013 when ESCAPE started the summer jobs program, it helped drop the juvenile crime rate in Holland by 76%. We at ESCAPE have seen for 6 years, when you give a child a job, you can start to change the "at-risk" environment that youth live in and provide them with a choice to do something better. Look at their faces. These are the faces of change and HOPE. We want to give as many of them the best opportunities this summer.

Youth who are given a chance will do the right things with good leadership, and Career Connections is based on solid adult team leaders. Think about this: it costs \$475 day a to house a youth in Juvenile Detention. The cost for 3 months is \$42,000 (Justice Policy Institute). It only costs ESCAPE \$1000 to employ and keep that same youth busy and around positive role models for the same 3 months. **What's the better investment?** We want to put 50 to work in 2019 and we need your help! This is one part of our ministry that plays a direct part in our community, why not play a part in supporting ESCAPE's Career Connections and help sponsor one youth's first summer job. Also thank you very much to those of you who came out to our 2019 banquet. It was a wonderful night. Bless you and Thank you for your support.

-Pastor Willie James Watt Jr.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

WATCH THE 2018 VIDEO! >> ESCAPE-OUT.ORG/CAREERS

WE INVEST >>some work sites can pay for a youth team

>>donors help sponsor teams to work at non-profit sites.

THEY WORK >>3 days/week and get projects DONE! SO THAT...

>>learn life lessons & skills, earn money

THEY RELATE >>with leaders & allies as trusted role models

>>with peers from all backgrounds

GO DEEPER >>with music, workshops, mentors, trips, Bible studies, and boxing...safe and off the street!



Alycia gets to intern at Eighth Day Farms



Ivan gets to explore Tool & Die at MiCareerQuest!

THE PARENTS SAY:

Since being at ESCAPE...

"My daughter stopped hiding from the world and started to be herself...she laughs more now.

"My grandson walked away from the gangs, began making better choices, and is now working a job and buying a house!"

"[My stepdaughter] loves the people at Escape and has learned how to manage her schoolwork, her anger, and her drug problem!"

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Career Connections ALLIES help bring more relationships, resources, and opportunities into the summer jobs program.

What does that look like?

-Host a youth for a job shadow this summer.

-Sponsor a youth's summer job (\$1000)

-Hire a team to do manual labor or landscaping at your place.

-Donate rakes, shovels, pitchforks or gift cards for tools.

-Come visit for lunch! (Tue-Wed-Thu @1pm @Escape)



FEATURE SITE: URBAN YOUTH GROWERS

For two years, ESCAPE has put a Career Connections team at Eighth Day Farm, a non-profit with the best colorful beans, kale, and kohlrabi around. In the past, ESCAPE found private donors to pay 5 youth to work there, and they just worked. This year, we put our heads together with John and Andy at Eighth Day Farm to launch the Urban Youth Growers, which will feature a team of 7 Escape youth who will plant, harvest, and weed two days a week, and one day a week will engage in the science, social justice, spirituality, and business aspects of sustainable agriculture. The youth will also get to work at the Farmer's Market and CSA distribution. Escape and Eighth Day Farm's collaboration garnered support from Herman Miller Cares, Walters Gardens, and Holland United Church of Christ to fund this site, meaning your donations can go to forming new youth work teams at places like Blacktop Rec, Building Men For Life, Calvary Schools, Fell In Love Farm and more.

We've interviewed more than 65 youth so far. Their challenges are many: anger, expulsions, abuse, and criminal records. But their futures look bright: some want to be engineers; others, chefs, caretakers, or counselors. \$1000 allows us to give one more youth a job.

Can you help us provide them with that opportunity by sponsoring a youth for the summer?

YOU'RE INVITED!

AUGUST 01 >> Career Connections Cookout

@ Fell In Love Farm 12:30-2pm

AUGUST 03 >> First Ever Student Music Recital

@ ESCAPE 6-8pm

AUGUST 28 >> Don Middlebrook Benefit

Dinner Show@ Big E's 4-7pm

THE MUSIC STUDIO

WE NEED MORE MUSIC VOLUNTEERS!

We have 11 active students learning and/or recording bass, keys, rap, vocals and more...and 14 more students signed up for summer. We need 5 more volunteers to give lessons on any instrument, on your schedule!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE NOW :
WWW.ESCAPE-OUT.ORG/DONATIONS
 or mail a check.
 Consider becoming a MONTHLY DONOR!

