

616.396.4481 | 202 E 32nd St | Holland MI 49423



### POP CANS

ESCAPE MINISTRIES HAS RAISED OVER \$60,000 THROUGH POPCANS



Please consider dropping off your returnable pop cans and bottles to Escape Ministries. Returnables can be put in the white trailer in the white trailer in the back parking lot.



Follow us @escapeyfgk

### OUR MISSION:

To inspire, equip and empower children of promise, young adults and their families in at-risk environments, through faith in Jesus Christ, to be tomorrow's positive leaders in our community.

HELP US SUPPORT THEIR DREAMS through your generous financial support and prayers

HOPE LIVES HERE



Holland Civic Center  
Doors Open at 6:00p  
FREE TICKETS AT  
escape-out.org/banquet

SEPT 14 2021

ESCAPE MINISTRIES BANQUET

COME JOIN US.



# Director's Note

Perseverance ...

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.... Hebrews 12:1

I love the Olympics. Athletes persevered through a global pandemic that pushed the Olympics back a full year. Many athletes who had qualified in 2019 didn't qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics held in 2021. Yet, many of the Olympic athletes overcame obstacles and persevered only to face more obstacles. Performing in stadiums with no fans, family members left back home because of covid convictions, covid restrictions while in Japan and so many more hurdles to jump over.

The defining moment of the Olympics for me came in one of preliminary heats of the women's 1500 Meter race. Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands teaches us what perseverance is all about – falling down and getting back up. In the first turn of the last lap she and another runner got tangled up and they both fell. It looked like Hassan's dreams of medaling in the 1500M were dashed. Nope. Hassan got back up and not only finished the race in the top 5-6 but won the heat! That is perseverance.

As I watched Sifan get up and turn on the jets, I thought of the students we walk with and do life with. They often get tripped up, knocked down, fall, face obstacles, and hurdles. They could just give up. Yet, they show up for their summer Career Connections job, come for tutoring, finish their assignments, work in the heat and humidity, do life with us and kick it in to finish the race. I thought of, Joe (not real name) a young man in our Career Connections program who had fallen down but showed up faithfully every day of the program. He demonstrated a good attitude even in the heat and humidity. He was often selected by team leaders as the employee of the day or week. That is perseverance!

It's through your support and prayers we get the opportunity to race with our students and encourage each other to get back up and keep running after we fall down or life trips us up. You are investing in the Hassan's and Joe's of this generation who keep getting back up and running through Escape Ministries.

Blessings,

Jodd Kuypheld

## SUMMER BRIDGE

This Summer, Escape teamed up with the Community Foundation to support an amazing program to help challenge, engage and prepare students going into 9th grade. During these tutoring sessions these students were able to practice and learn new mathematical and english concepts. All students were able to practice material they will be experiencing within the first few weeks of 9th grade. We are grateful to the Community Foundation for making this program possible this summer.



## A.S.A.P. 2021-22

As the summer is coming to a close, the Education team is preparing for a new academic school year. ASAP provides an opportunity for students who have been suspended or expelled from school to continue in their education and coached towards restoration. Suspensions are often transformed into life-changing seasons of growth as ASAP students are reinstated to their schools, are more on track to graduate, gain trusting relationships with Escape staff, have access to academic and personal support after their suspension.

## ESCAPE ZONE TUTORING COMING IN SEPTEMBER

The new and improved tutoring program at Escape is launching this September. "Escape Zone" will be a study zone where students can come and get assistance on course material on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tutoring is offered to Middle School and High School students. For more information regarding "Escape Zone" check out our website at [Escape-out.org](http://Escape-out.org) or call the office at 616-396-4481.



## CAREER CONNECTIONS

This summer 48 students had the opportunity to earn money, learn valuable job skills, and build life-changing relationships at Escape. Their first summer job plays a big part in determining their work habits for the rest of their life, so every day, we focused on a different SUPERPOWER, and gave prizes to the team member who best showed that superpower. What's a superpower? Timeliness, Attention To Detail, Initiative, Respect, Gratitude, Delight and more. Our youth grew in so many superpowers this summer, which will continue to change their life at school, at home, and in their future jobs.

One worker who really **stood out** this summer was Trentin. "I wanted a job to help my mom out with bills, but my self-confidence was really low," he said. In the first weeks, Trentin became a reliable leader on his team, weeding, harvesting vegetables, washing busses, or returning pop cans – he can do it all! He gained a strong sense of purpose, helped out other team members, and logged 140 hours over the summer. Most of all, he became a part of the Escape family, where we belong to each other.

Thanks to the work sites, donors, pop cans, lunch providers, and volunteers who made this program great success again!



**DONATE ONLINE AT: [WWW.ESCAPE-OUT.ORG/GIVE](http://WWW.ESCAPE-OUT.ORG/GIVE)**