



# Escape Ministries

*Keep Going... Keep Growing*

Spring 2022

**TODD**



**TALKS!**

**“I don't know what we would do without Escape.”**

What makes your heart sing? The ministry we are in together at Escape makes my heart sing. Recently, I asked some community leaders to answer this question: “If Escape did not exist any longer, would the community notice?”

Nick Cassidy, Superintendent for Holland Public Schools replied, “Escape is providing an essential service in the community that I feel is overlooked by many. Suspending/expelling students is the toughest thing I have had to do as an administrator. I never want to give up on kids and I know that they deserve a 2nd chance. Escape has been there to work with students and get them ready so that they have that 2nd chance.”

I read these words and my heart sings.

Amy\* got that second chance through Escape. She was expelled in middle school and chose to utilize our programs to help her get back on track. She has not been suspended or expelled since. She graduates high school this year and has been accepted to two colleges. Amy\* will be headed to college this fall!

Escape IS here because of your support. You are giving students second chances. We ARE here for students and families to know that we and their community will not give up on them. Every child can succeed – no exceptions. Superintendent Cassidy's words, Amy's\* story and your support make my heart sing. Thank you for being a part of lives coming to life and being eternally and daily transformed through the love of Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate reason any heart sings and sharing in what He is doing in the lives of the Escape family makes me sing even louder. Join me in singing this spring for all that God has done, is doing and will do! We are better and stronger together (It's also more fun to sing with others 😊) Blessings – Pastor Todd



*“Escape makes me feel at home. They are like family. They make me smile & laugh.”*

*-Izzy, Escape student & youth worker*

616.396.4481 | 202 E 32nd St | Holland MI 49423



Follow us  
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## OUR MISSION:

*To intervene in the lives of those  
who fall between the cracks of  
society and help them successfully  
navigate to a positive life  
experience through meaningful,  
Gospel-rooted relationships.*



come join us at:

# THE HERO IN ME



celebrating and storytelling with  
ESCAPE's most heroic youth

## THU MAY 19/6:30P

IN-PERSON EVENT: Maranatha Church

FACEBOOK LIVE: Escape Ministries



# INTRODUCING OUR NEW EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Taylor Dolan has been a part of Escape since 2014 when she joined us as a Psychology intern from Hope College. Following her internship and graduation, she was hired as a Behavioral Learning Coach. Taylor has a Bachelors in Psychology and Sociology and is currently working on her Master of Education in Trauma and Resiliency. Taylor is passionate about being a trauma-sensitive educator - one that is able to help young learners build resiliency and work through personal trauma that effects classroom behavior and performance. She has equipped herself with the knowledge and skills necessary to best serve this population.

Within the education program, Taylor hopes to continue to help students recognize their worth. "When energy & love are poured into them, they flourish. I have seen it!"



*Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.*

*- Ronald E. Osborn*



## CAREER CONNECTIONS

A job can improve your life & relationships can change lives. Career Connections enters its 10th summer, employing around 40 youth aged 14-17 each summer. Incredible connections happen between youth, team leaders, career presenters, and businesses that can propel them to thrive in school and in a career! Last summer, Lauren\* not only earned \$120/week for her work clearing trails and cleaning parks, she also gained relationships with Escape staff & volunteers - caring adults who have walked with her through English papers, housing instability, and emotional breakdowns, while celebrating victories along the way.

### How Can you Help?

1. We need more Adult Team Leaders for the summer, working alongside youth at our work sites:  
June 15-August 19, 15-21 hours/week, Tue-Thu.  
Find out more at [escape-out.org/jobs](http://escape-out.org/jobs)
2. Sponsor Youth Jobs: \$1000 sponsors one youth to work the whole summer at one of our donated sites, such as Eighth Day Farm, Calvary Schools, or Holland Rescue Mission.
3. Donate today at [escape-out.org/give](http://escape-out.org/give)



# EVERY WAY YOU GIVE MATTERS



## AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). The donation will be made at no extra cost to you.

"I already shop through Amazon all the time. I LOVE being able to get things I am already going to buy and bless Escape at the same time!" It's a win - win!!  
- Tony, Escape Supporter



To sign up for AMAZON SMILE:

1. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Log in to your Amazon account as you normally would
3. Choose **Escape Ministries** to support
4. Each time you shop at Amazon go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for Escape to receive the donation



Escape reaches a unique group of teens who need acceptance, support, mentoring, encouragement, skills, and to feel and know they are valued within relationships and a healthy community.

Sue Hemmeke, Counselor  
Holland Public Schools

## BROTHERHOOD & SISTERHOOD

Our Brotherhood and Sisterhood groups help students to connect and grow as they learn to embody kindness and respect through meaningful relationships, and to fully embrace their God-given purpose. In 2022, we're exploring "What It Means to Be Great." Brotherhood went out to bless local cashiers with flowers and gift cards, because



Greatness Means Serving Others. We've been learning from local mechanics, artists, policemen, the book of Esther, as well as engaging in small groups and journaling to discover together what it means to be great in our own lives. As one student put it, "To me, greatness means being a kind, genuine, good-hearted, open-minded person."

Growth is never by mere chance;  
it is the result of forces working together."  
-James Cash Penney

