

Welcome New Board Members!

Escape Ministries is excited to welcome Kristina Sage and Chad Overbeek as the newest members of the Escape Ministries Board of Directors.

Their stellar track records of committed service to our Holland community impressed us. We are very excited to have them as such an important part of our organization. We greatly appreciate their willingness to contribute to the mission of Escape Ministries.

We are confident that their contributions, as well as yours, will help greatly with the success and impact of our organization as our Board helps Escape move towards our vision: A community where youth are understood regardless of their stories and equipped with the tools to flourish and thrive. Thanks for joining us in that!



Kristina Sage

Program Manager
My House Ministries



Chad Overbeek

Vice President of Commercial Banking
West Michigan Community Bank



Donor Spotlight

When you give to Escape Ministries, you are joining forces with people, like Jeff and Nancy, who share a commitment to invest in the lives of young heroes in the Holland community.

Jeff first caught the vision of Escape in its early days, and the work of equity and empowerment resonated with him. Soon after, he and his wife Nancy would begin to invest in the ministry and have been consistent donors since 2014.

For Jeff & Nancy, their faith is a big reason behind their giving:

"We have been blessed in many ways, and it was taught to us early on to give."

Jeff and Nancy have also stepped in as volunteers on occasion – helping paint during building renovations, riding along on van routes, providing meals, and hiring Escape teams for projects in their yard. "Rubbing shoulders with youth has a way of softening one's heart. Volunteering really helps me understand the people and need that is there," says Jeff.

Escape is unique; It's a picture of total acceptance of people,"

adds Nancy, "Helping youth in that way is something we want to be a part of."

We're so grateful for Jeff, Nancy, and each of our 400+ donors who keep Escape going!

Would you join our team of recurring donors on a monthly or yearly basis? **Start now at escape-out.org/give**

Support Escape Today!

- **\$100-** sponsor 15 weekly van routes to pick up & drop off students to our location
- **\$500-** sponsor all student meals for a month
- **\$1000-** sponsor a student for one semester at ASAP

**Give online at escape-out.org/give
Checks payable to Escape Ministries
202 E 32nd St Holland MI 49423**

Coming Up. . .



Finalists Chosen, Save The Date!

Come and cheer on three young heroes from Escape as they share their stories of overcoming odds to pursue their dreams. You don't want to miss it!

This years finalists are: **Micah Faga, Yani Marin, and Allen Payne, Jr.!**

We want to hear from you!

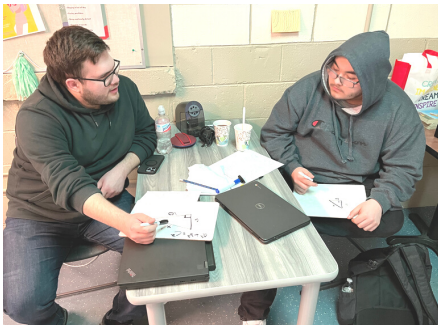
Please take five minutes to fill out our donor survey today!

escape-out.org/survey



SCAN ME





A Whole New Mindset

Isreal's Story

Thinking back to when he first joined Escape Ministries, Isreal G. says, "I started seeing what great things I could accomplish." After getting suspended from Holland High School, he joined the Alternative Suspension Accountability Program (A.S.A.P.) at Escape Ministries for one school year. When he was reinstated this past fall and his grades began to slip, he joined Escape's tutoring program.

He didn't want to lose the growth and new mindset he'd gained...and neither did we.



"I wanted my grades to be better and Escape helped motivate me and helped me believe in myself, so, why not come back for that?"
-Isreal

Isreal is one of 25 students who consistently get tutoring at Escape after school on Tuesdays & Thursdays, and the need for tutoring keeps growing.

Isreal's story represents the heart of Escape – to create and continue helpful mentoring relationships with our students so they see themselves and their opportunities differently. Once students go back to school, we stay connected and committed to their journey.

"My grades used to be all D's and E's, but now I've been getting my assignments done on time and my grades are definitely better." Isreal is pursuing his goals of graduating and becoming a certified auto mechanic, supporting himself and helping his family. He is embraced in understanding, his mind is determined, and his heart is full.

Determined to Succeed

Marcos' hard work inspires others.

Marcos Saucedo Jr. first stepped into the Westside Boxing ring when he was 10 years old, and he hasn't looked back since. He was once ranked 2nd in the United States as a junior amateur fighter and advanced as far as the semi-finals in international tournaments. Last November, Marcos won the Golden Gloves tournament, and was presented his Power Glove belt by one of the greatest professional boxers of all time, Mani Pacquiao!

This year, Westside Boxing celebrates ten years of ministry to the community. In that time, it has grown to become a place of refuge for youth in the Holland community. About 20 athletes come through Westside each week, and Marcos' story begins right here.



Westside Boxing Director Ruben Silvas has assumed the role of mentor to many of his athletes over the years:

"For me, boxing is a tool for training mindsets so these young athletes can get ready for the 'big fight' that is life. That's what it's all about."

-Coach Ruben

Westside athletes keep coming back, not just for boxing but for the community and belonging that Westside creates.

Ruben regularly travels with athletes to local and regional boxing matches. He hopes that by exposing his fighters to new environments, they will be challenged to grow in their skill and appreciation of the sport. "It's only because of the support of donors that Marcos and the guys can have opportunities and community like this," says Coach Ruben "Is really something special."



Join Our Summer Jobs Teams!

We need **adult team leaders, lunch providers, and work projects** to help make this summer happen. Contact Escape if you can help!

Snapshots

Follow us @EscapeYFGK on Facebook and Instagram to see more!



HPD visit to celebrate ASAP students



Bianca (Hero In Me) on the radio



New fridge from Community Action House! Thank you!



Life talks at The Fam with the theme "A Hope That Lasts"