

WHEN PEOPLE CARE

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023

Escape Ministries Welcomes New Executive Director!



Kevin Denton
Executive Director
ESCAPE MINISTRIES

Our community is excited to welcome Kevin Denton as the new Executive Director of Escape Ministries. Kevin has an extensive background as an educator and leader, exhibiting innovation and a passion for Christ, our youth, and their families.

He has served as an educational leader and school designer, who has led, founded, and built schools of innovation in both the U.S. and Africa.

Additionally, Kevin has served as a Family Pastor, working to improve the relationships and faith of young people through the holistic discipleship of the entire family.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity to join this team of board members, staff, countless volunteers and financial partners to ensure that the young people we serve in west Michigan understand who they really are in the eyes of their Creator."

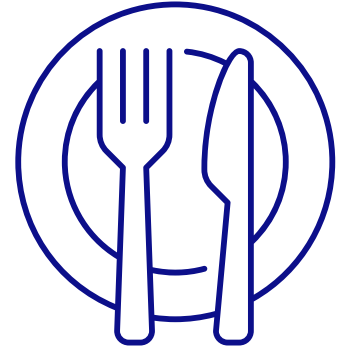
We are excited to have Kevin leading Escape Ministries as he will be collaborating with our donors, local churches, and community partners to sustain and grow our programs and ministries.

Stay tuned for opportunities to meet Kevin in the coming weeks! In the mean time, feel free to send him a note at kevin@escape-out.org or call our office at (616) 396-4481.

SAVE THE DATE!

ESCAPE'S ANNUAL
FUNDRAISING DINNER

09.19.2023



Please Join us on September 19th at the Holland Civic Center for a night of celebration and fundraising for a mission worth supporting!
Save the date!



**CELEBRATE
OUR
2023
GRADS.**

Joseph (above) is one of this year's nineteen graduates who have come through our doors! Their success is a testament to their own determination. We hold up their potential only until they can hold it up for themselves. Joseph graduated from Holland High School and plans to attend GRCC this fall. We support all our students like Joseph who are continuing to live up to their potential after Escape!



Please consider purchasing new items or donating used items from our official Amazon Wishlist. We need items like markers, notebooks, basketballs, and more. Scan the code to see our list!

PARTNER WITH US!

Here at Escape, we can only do the work we do because of the generosity of people like you!

-GIVE ONLINE

escape-out.org/give

-GIVE BY CHECK

payable to Escape Ministries
202 E 32nd St Holland MI 49423

-GIVE YOUR TIME

escape-out.org/volunteer



GRAND

total.
**210,880
CANS**

Our youth have recycled over 200,000 donated cans so far this year. We are helping our youth help our community every day at Escape!

For more information about our cans program, please e-mail us at operations@escape-out.org.

The Hope Showcase
A Hope That Lasts



Lamontae was having trouble brainstorming for his final project for Escape's Hope Showcase - project that would capture what hope means to him. It was the year-end event for our youth group called "THE FAM." They'd focused on fostering a "Hope That Lasts" throughout the semester, were invited to create something that showed what hope looked like to them. When he got the idea of making a video, his face lit up, and the plan came flooding out faster than it could be written.

Two weeks later, he presented the final product. He watched himself on screen becoming an artist who shares a motivational message, and providing for others' needs. He saw himself, a person he could be proud of, full of God-given life, and a future worth pursuing. The group of 20 clapped and cheered. Immense kinship. A Hope That Lasts.

Joseph's Story
Because Someone Cared

Joseph's story is one of many that inspired us here at ESCAPE. He first walked into our doors as an applicant for our Career Connections summer employment program. During his tour of our building, the Westside Boxing ring caught his eye. After an initial meeting with Westside Boxing Director Ruben Silvas, he asked, "How do I get started?" and the rest is history.



Things took a turn when after the first 2 weeks Coach Ruben noticed a drop in Joseph's attendance. Home life was tough. Coach Ruben has always believed that "some kids are worth it." As with many of his athletes before Joseph, he began investing time. The result was a blessing to both. Joseph came back to the ring, and he came back strong! In early July, he won his first ever officiated match. We celebrated him and, in his story, we remember that it was possible only because someone cared. Coach Ruben and the rest of the ESCAPE Ministries staff invite you to care - for our youth and our community.

Joseph continues to work with our Career Connections program this summer.

GIVE YOUR SUPPORT!

Here at Escape, we can only do the work we do because of your generosity.

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Thank you to our Summer Employers!



Laketown Township



POWER LOVE FOCUS

Our youth are also employed by various condo associations and many local residents. If you have a job opportunity in the Holland area, call us today at (616) 396-4481.

connections@eescape-out.org



Josiah's connection with Jerry, his Learning Coach, brings him something even more valuable. . .

"I heard Jerry was a pastor & I thought that was really cool, so I decided to visit his church. When I was there, everyone was so welcoming — they didn't know me, but they made an effort to say hello. Jerry prayed over me and I feel like I'm two steps closer to God than I was before. There is definitely a God in my life now where there wasn't before."

