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"Every time someone gives of themselves, it is an opportunity to be salt and light, to dig into our purpose and live out the Great Commission. Every interaction here is an opportunity for spiritual and personal growth and development."

-Kathleen Weller, Board Vice President



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kevin Denton

As I approach my 10th month here at ESCAPE, I'm reflecting on what a unique place this is. I mean, what other organization has a boxing gym right down the hall from a classroom?!

Forged over 15 years of love and care with thousands of volunteers, donors and staff, ESCAPE Ministries continues to lead the way forward to reach kids who often fall through the cracks in our community.

As you browse the pages ahead, just know how grateful we are to each of you for your part in making this place a reality. There are transformed lives walking around out there because you said yes to what we're all about.

Thank you.

And I hope you'll keep saying "yes," for the kids who are still out there, made in the image of God, looking for hope, belonging and empowerment to be the person they were meant to be.

May

- 9** ESCAPE in Tulip Time Parade!
- 15** Community Impact Day
- 16** *Hero In Me at Maranatha Church*

June

- 22** Graduate Open House

September

- 24** *Annual Banquet at the Civic Center*

October

- 25** Fall Festival

December

- 10** Celebration of Learning

HERO IN ME: MAY 16 | 6:30PM | MARANATHA

Every day at Escape, courageous students labeled as "failures" or "at-risk youth" overcome adversity like family turmoil, addiction, and so much more.

Despite daily challenges, they persevere in school, learn to trust others, find jobs, and begin to dream of brighter futures.

On **May 16 at 6:30pm** at Maranatha Church in Holland, MI, Escape Ministries will celebrate the 2024 Hero finalists in an event that lets them share their personal stories of adversity, heartbreak, breakthroughs and triumphs.

Join Escape Ministries, family, and friends as we celebrate these extraordinary youth in their pursuit of brighter futures.



Payton

Jorge

Adam

EDUCATION: A.S.A.P *Alternative Suspension Accountability Program*



In 2023 ESCAPE was awarded, through the Holland Women Who Care, funds to contract with Midtown Counseling for regular counseling services at ESCAPE.

Hand selected counselors, Kailey and Robert, meet with A.S.A.P students on a weekly basis in therapeutic sessions and group counseling.

The change in the hearts and minds of our students has been incredible as they open up to these loving professionals, and find new ways of seeing themselves, their Creator, and their world.

Every school district has a need for what A.S.A.P uniquely offers. Our ministry has been bringing hope, belonging and empowerment -providing a space for transformation and second chances to the kids that need it most.

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

FITNESS: WEST SIDE BOXING

West Side Boxing (WSB) continues to "break down barriers one punch at a time." In collaboration with after-school programming, WSB introduced **Intro to Boxing** and **Next Level Boxing** for energetic middle school students.

Starting with "chapel" and character building, twice a week, these students engage in the basics of boxing techniques, footwork, and proper form from Coach Ruben and dedicated staff who are passionate about nurturing young talent.

Through these classes, West Side Boxing aims to empower the youth, instill a sense of determination, and foster a love for the sport that will stay with them for years to come.



EMPLOYMENT: CAREER CONNECTIONS



Six years ago, Elijah was a 15-year old in his first summer job at Escape. In 2023, he came back to Escape as an Adult Team Leader.

"I made a promise that I was going to come back and be a role model to the kids here at Escape and be a leader. So I got to teach kids character, hard work, and how to build connections, just like I learned when I was a kid."

In 2023, Career Connections employed 32 students and leaders, such as Elijah, and provided services to clients like Hope College, Ottawa Parks & Recreation, Magna Mirror, Holland Bus Company and many around the community.

With more than 3500 hours worked over 10 weeks, students and leaders earned a whopping \$23,000 combined! And as summer quickly approaches, students and staff are eager to start all over again.

We say that Career Connections is "more than just a job," and we mean that. On top of relationship building, job skills, and budgeting coaching, we incorporate weekly adventure trips to expand horizons.

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Weeding | Mulching | Cleaning | Moving
Landscaping & More!

*Don't have a project?
You can sponsor a youth for a non-profit site!
\$100 employs one youth for a (3-day) week!*

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

HIRE YOUTH TEAMS FOR YOUR PROJECT!

TO INQUIRE/ GIVE

escape-out.org/hire
616-396-44811 x206
escape-out.org/give



LOOKING AHEAD

2024 has been off to a great start and we cannot wait for what is ahead! It is a year of increasing the capacity of our programs, and honing our methodology in preparation for growth in the years to come. None of this is possible without the donation support that makes up over 95% of our annual revenue.

Many of our partners prefer to budget their giving at the front of the year, and as such we invite you to look through the many ways you, your church, your business, or perhaps a friend might partner with ESCAPE to help our programs thrive in 2024:

HERO IN ME SPONSOR

Platinum:	\$5,000.00 +	Tulip Time Float Recognition
Gold:	\$2,500.00 +	Verbal Recognition at Hero In Me Event
Silver:	\$1,500.00 +	Acknowledgement on Hero In Me Promotional Materials
Bronze:	\$500.00 +	

ANNUAL BANQUET SPONSOR

Premier:	\$20,000.00 +	Newsletter Acknowledgement
Platinum:	\$10,000.00 +	Verbal Recognition at Annual Banquet
Gold:	\$5,000.00 +	Social Media Acknowledgement (x3/year)
Silver:	\$2,000.00 +	
Bronze:	\$1,000.00 +	



Escape Ministries is immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our esteemed sponsors. Your commitment to our cause has made a profound impact on our ability to serve our youth and community. With your generous contributions, we have been able to provide vital resources and support to those who need it most.

We cherish the partnership we have with each of you and pledge to continue our mission with integrity and gratitude. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of many, and we are deeply thankful for your continued generosity.

