

EMPOWER, HOPE, BELONG



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The seeds we plant in
faith truly grow in ways
we can't always see
right away.

Tim Harris, Learning Coach

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At Escape Ministries, our heart is to help youth rise above obstacles and discover their God-given potential. We exist to empower, offer hope, and create belonging through academic support, meaningful work opportunities, and caring mentorship. This is the work your partnership makes possible every day.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KEVIN VAN DEN BOSCH

Dear Friends and Partners,

Earlier this year, Escape Ministries held its Annual Dinner to celebrate God's goodness on all the lives impacted by our ministry. The theme at the event, "Flourish in Faith", embodies the spirit of generosity and purpose that transforms lives and communities. **When donors give with faith and vision, their contributions become powerful acts of hope—especially for youth and families who need guidance, opportunity, and support.**



Through faithful giving, donors help provide mentorship, education, and safe spaces that empower young people to overcome challenges and realize their full potential. This generosity is more than a gift; it's an investment in the future, allowing faith and compassion to take root and flourish. **Together, through giving and belief in a greater purpose, we can create a lasting impact and help every young person thrive.**

As we look forward to the future, let us remember that each contribution, no matter the size, fuels our mission and brings us closer to a world where every young person has the chance to flourish. We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership in this journey of hope and transformation.

Together, we can continue to make a difference, one life at a time.



**GIVE TODAY
IMPACT TOMORROW**

This season, your generosity helps students discover their worth, rebuild confidence, and step into a community that believes in them. Thank you for helping their futures flourish.

You can multiply that impact by spreading the word! Invite a friend, coworker, or family member to join you in giving.

Together, we can sow seeds of hope that will influence countless tomorrows.

WHEN BELONGING CHANGES EVERYTHING

For more than 15 years, West Ottawa school liaison, Kevin Esposito, has walked alongside Escape Ministries—long enough to remember the very beginning of our partnership. He's watched countless students wrestle with the challenges facing today's youth: fewer positive role models, negative influences, substance abuse, and a growing sense of hopelessness.

But he's also watched something else... what happens when a young person finally feels like they belong.

"Escape meets those challenges by providing a loving and caring environment. Here, students receive academic and social support from positive adults. They're given opportunities to work, grow, and experience things they never imagined."

One moment that stands out isn't a single event, but a pattern: the quiet transformation that happens over time. "Often, we don't see results immediately," he reflects. "But years later, we see what they've overcome. Seeds were planted. What we're doing truly benefits them in the long run."

Walking through the building with our students, he's seen redemption become real, second chances embraced, trust rebuilt, and hope restored.

Escape walks the talk," he says. "They're in the trenches, addressing issues head-on.

Kevin's story reminds us why belonging matters. Hope takes root. Lives change. And together, we help students believe they can rise, flourish, and find their way forward.



"All of your contributions and efforts are making a big difference and a positive impact upon the youth of our community."

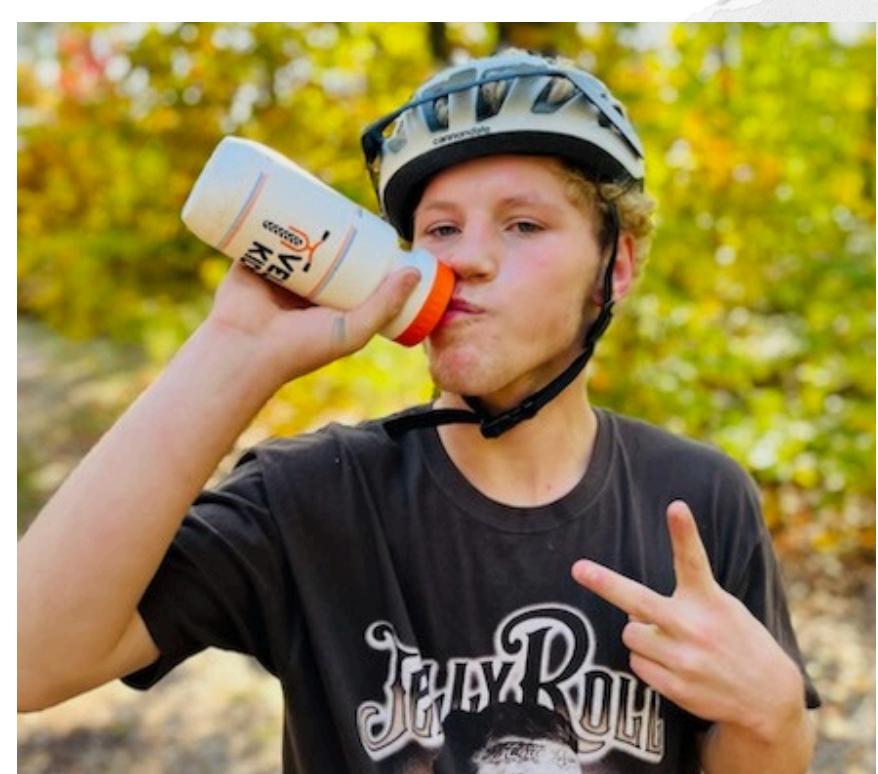
- KEVIN ESPOSITO
WEST OTTAWA SCHOOL LIAISON

A DAY YOU HELP CREATE: FILLED WITH HOPE, SUPPORT, AND SECOND CHANCES



A typical day at Escape starts with a warm smile at the door... an instant reminder to our youth that this is a place where they belong. After grabbing a meal or snack, students settle in for academic support, whether that's homework help, tutoring, or simply a quiet space to focus. Throughout the afternoon, caring adults check in, offering mentorship, encouragement, and spiritual and emotional support right when it's needed most.

As the day unfolds, students join recreational activities, job training, or small group conversations that help them grow in confidence and character. They hear words that empower them, see actions that give hope, and feel surrounded by people who believe in their future. By the time they leave, they carry more than what they came with. They carry belonging, renewed strength, and seeds of possibility planted deep within them. This is the heartbeat of Escape: Empower. Hope. Belong.



WHEN YOU GIVE, YOU HELP YOUTH AT ESCAPE FLOURISH

There are so many meaningful ways to give this season... each one helping us surround youth with hope, support, and belonging. Whether you meet a tangible need, offer your time, pray for our students, or invite others to join the mission, your generosity makes a real difference. Every act of giving plants a seed that helps our youth grow.



Ways you can make a difference

- Hire an Escape Youth Team for your next project!
- Become a monthly sponsor
- Sponsor a youth activity or outing
- Check out our Amazon Wish List (website for link)
- Host a small Giving Tuesday fundraiser
- Share Escape's mission on Social Media
- Offer your skills: Volunteer today!
- Pray for Escape youth, staff, & partners

Make your year-end donation at escape-out.org/give, scan the QR code above, or send a check by mail today!

Thank You