



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



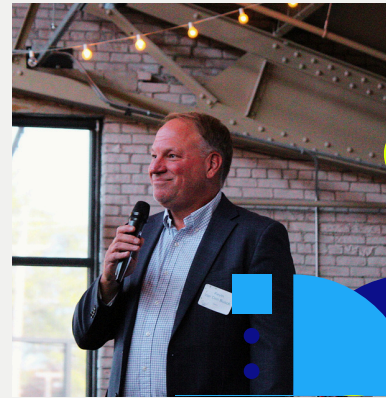
From The Executive Director

In my first year at Escape, I have been so impressed with how much goodness flows from our staff, Board, volunteers, partners, families, and students. We believe in the God-given potential of every child, and make their flourishing our priority, with God's love as our fuel.

Having spent my career leading nonprofits, what distinguishes Escape is its deep sense of community and steadfast commitment to every kid.

In 2025, Escape has diversified funding streams, improved our processes, and received our building and property as a donation. Looking ahead, we seek to strategically deepen our impact by growing more life-changing programs and relationships with youth. I am grateful to call this place home and to stand alongside the young heroes who come through our doors each day searching for hope and belonging—and finding both.

-Kevin VanDenBosch



About Escape Ministries



Our Vision

A community where youth are understood for their stories and celebrated as heroes.

Our Mission

To intervene in the lives of youth who fall through the cracks of society by providing Gospel-rooted relationships, resources, and opportunities, empowering all to thrive as we discover our worth together.

Our Programs



Students complete classes while suspended/expelled from school, moving towards return and restoration.



Youth get their first paying jobs and build employable skills completing projects for local businesses and residents.



Students meet after school, set goals, and see holistic growth through tutoring, music, fitness, faith, cooking, and more.



Members build muscle, community, and character through boxing, fitness, and coaching.

2025 Impact Measures

ACROSS ALL ESCAPE PROGRAMS

220

Students Served
UP 40% FROM 2024

25,614

Youth Contact Hours
UP 26% FROM 2024



EDUCATION

- 53 students who were suspended or expelled received academic and holistic support in our Alternative Suspension program (ASAP).
- 85% of youth said Escape **helped make them a better student.**
- After-school tutoring helped 15 students including Mark*, who passed all 6 classes this fall after passing none a year ago.



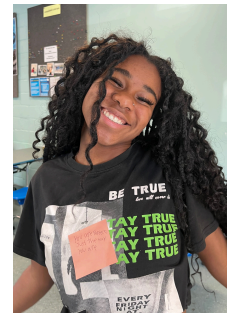
FITNESS

- Over 2000 visits to Westside Boxing & Fitness.
- 37 Escape students **grew in fitness** through committed participation in boxing, biking, golfing, martial arts and/or basketball.



EMPLOYMENT

- 60 youth were employed, earning \$56,403 collectively.
- **38 promotions earned** (8 students promoted twice!).
- Added year-round services, employing 14 youth after school.
- \$47,000 in pop can returns to fund our programs.



FAITH

- 60 youth attended The FAM youth group, with 18 frequently engaged.
- 62% of students said Escape helped them **significantly grow in their faith.**

"Escape showed me it's never too late to turn your life around." -Markya, age 16

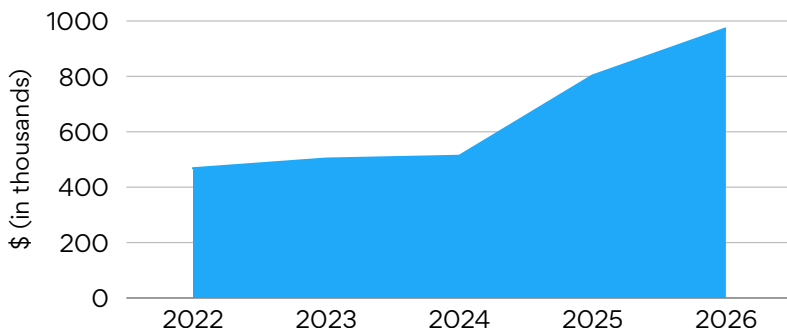
Financial Performance



2025 Budget: \$800,693
2025 Revenue: \$838,334

Growing Our Budget To Deepen Impact

Escape Budget

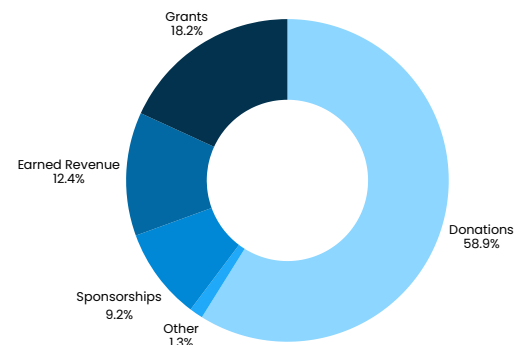


- We served 40% more students in 2025.
- We added 2 part-time positions to **expand & enhance our programs.**

Diversifying Revenue for Sustainability

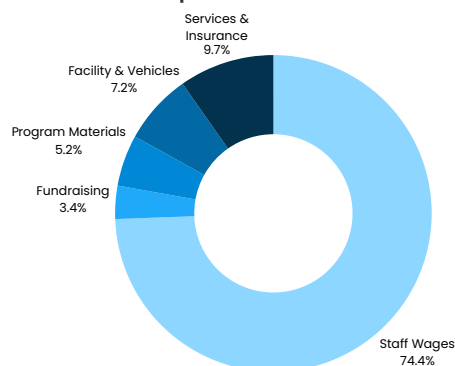
- We achieved **record highs** in earned revenue and event sponsorships in 2025.
- We earned significant grants from MiLEAP, Shine Foundation, and Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland.

2025 Revenue Sources



Managing Resources Faithfully & Responsibly

2025 Expenses Breakdown



- Powered by people, we invest most of our resources in quality staffing.
- We **passed our independent audit** for 2024 and followed through on auditor recommendations.

Peak Moments

College-Bound Finalists

Emelynn, Jocelyn, and Mariah all shared courageous stories at The Hero In Me, won scholarships, and enrolled in college in the fall.



Campus Donation

In December, the Escape building and the adjacent house was donated to Escape Ministries! Hope will have a long-term address on 32nd Street, and we are so grateful. We are already planning for our campus to include youth housing, an outdoor park, and more.



Where U At? Youth Conference

In our 2nd year attending, Escape was represented by 16 students and staff at the conference focusing on faith, leadership, and healing with 200 youth from West Michigan. Two of our staff were dynamic workshop leaders!



Mural Creators

Have you seen the mural at the River & 16th St Shell Station? 8 Escape students created the masterpiece in collaboration with MuralMatics and Tulip City Walls, leaving their mark on the world through art.



“Escape helped all 3 of my teen boys grow into respectful young men... the amount of positive things that have happened to me and my family because of Escape is absolutely mind-blowing.” -Escape Parent

Our Community



Beautifully Diverse

30% Hispanic/Latino
27% Black/African American
21% Mixed
19% White/Caucasian
3% Asian/Pacific Islander



Resilient

50% from Single Parent homes
80% of households under \$50K annually
54% have specialized services (IEP/504)



Wide-Reaching

13 different schools represented, mostly from Holland and West Ottawa.
42% Middle School Students
58% High School Students



Collaborative

We are better together, creating programs and events alongside:

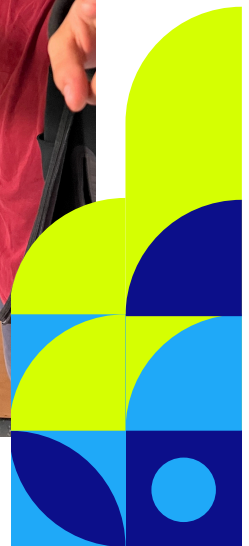
- CultureWorks
- Heights of Hope
- Hope College
- Ottawa County
- I AM Academy
- Evergreen Commons
- Velo Kids
- LAUP
- West Michigan Works!
- First Tee of WM
- Boys & Girls Club
- Youth Solutions / JMG...and more!



Supportive

Our sponsors in 2025 included business, churches, and foundations.

- Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc.
- K-Line Industries
- Championship Martial Arts
- Tim & Nancy Rottschafer
- Lee & Linda Devisser
- Haworth, Inc.
- Holland Bus Company
- Westside Service
- Poppies and Peas
- The Shine Foundation
- Kent & Marlae Lee
- WM Community Bank
- MiLEAP 32n OST Grant
- The Hedges Agency
- Hannah Biddlecome Productions
- Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland
- Schreur Printing



"I'm proud that I can be more well spoken now and not be afraid or as nervous." -Lavon, age 17

Future Goals & Strategy

01. Implement Youth Host Homes

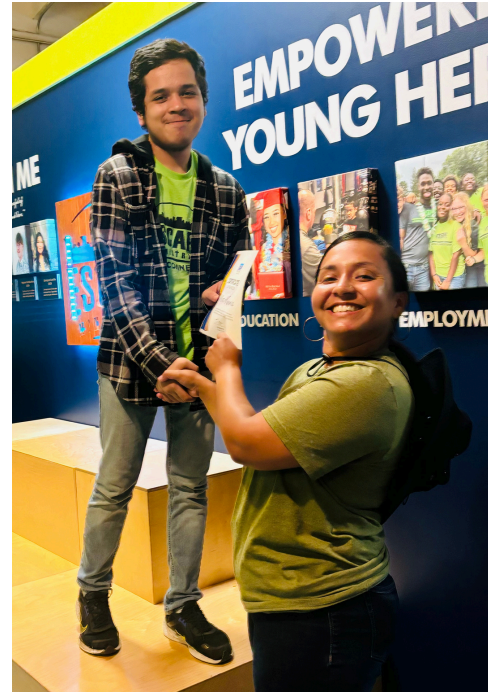
Through a license and a contract from the State of Michigan, Escape will create a network of Host Homes for 16-19 year-olds eligible for Independent Living. This will fill an important gap within our mission. See more at escape-out.org/homes

02. Mission-Driven Excellence

We will increase our program impact measures, improve employee benefits, and increase staff retention.

03. Collaborative Engagement

We will deepen strategic partnerships so that more of our community sees Escape youth as their own - showing up for them, sharing resources, and strengthening our community towards Escape's vision.



"Escape has grown my child's faith, and helps my child feel included and valued." -Escape Parent



From The Board President

Thank you for the time, talents, treasure, and prayers you contribute to invest in the lives of the youth and families we serve. We look forward to great things ahead and are grateful for the opportunity we have to serve. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, we'd love to hear from you.

-Angelica Velez

Our Board of Directors

Angelica Velez, President

Senior Quality Warranty Manager, Gentex

Steve Kammeraad, Vice President

Director of Operations, K-Line Industries

Chad Overbeek, Treasurer

Vice President, West Michigan Community Bank

Derrek Sterken, Secretary

Real Estate Agent, Coldwell Banker

Brian Banks

Owner, Anchor Rock Construction

Rachael Anouthai

Co-Owner, Championship Martial Arts

Kathleen Weller

Owner, KMW Services

Jackie Nickel

Business Professor, Hope College

Our Staff



Thank You!



202 E 32nd St
Holland MI 49423

Contact Us

 616-396-4481

 office@escape-out.org

 escape-out.org

 @EscapeYFGK