Angelica VELEZ

BOARD PRESIDENT

Every volunteer, donor, mentor, and partner plays a vital role in helping youth discover hope, purpose, and belonging.

To our faithful supporters, thank you for being a vital piece of this mission.

For those joining us for the first time, your partnership helps create opportunities that can change the trajectory of a young person's life.

Together, we are empowering youth and building stronger futures, one piece at a time.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

A Message from the Executive Director

Introducing "The Neighbor Care" Initiative

Feature Story: "We Can"

Meet the Keynote Speaker: Escape's Annual Banquet

ESCAPE MINISTRIES

EMPOWER. HOPE. BELONG.

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Holland, MI 49423
Permit 66

202 E 32nd St | Holland MI 49423 | www.escape-out.org | (616) 396-4481

@EscapeYFGK

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.

Every Piece MATTERS

Each Person, Every Story, One Powerful Mission

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KEVIN VAN DEN BOSCH

Dear Friends and Partners,

Every day, we have the privilege of walking alongside youth who are navigating challenges that many of us can scarcely imagine. Some are searching for stability, belonging, hope, and a vision for their future. Through mentoring relationships, educational support, life-skills development, youth employment, faith formation, and a caring community, we strive to help young people discover their God-given worth and potential.

This work is only possible because 'every piece matters.' Our staff, mentors, volunteers, donors, prayer partners, community organizations, churches, and supporters each play a unique role in creating opportunities for transformation. God has intentionally brought together people with different gifts, experiences, and passions to accomplish something far greater than any one person could achieve alone.

Like pieces of a puzzle, some contributions are highly visible while others happen quietly behind the scenes. Yet every act of service, every prayer offered, every hour volunteered, every dollar given, and every encouraging conversation helps complete the picture God is creating through Escape Ministries. When one piece is missing, the impact is felt; when every piece is engaged, lives are transformed.

As we embrace this theme, may we recognize that each person has a purpose and a place in this ministry. Together, we are building a community where young people can experience hope, healing, and opportunity. By working as one body, united in Christ and committed to our mission, we can help every young person know they matter—and that they are an important piece of God's greater plan.

INTRODUCING THE NEIGHBOR CARE INITIATIVE

What if one project could transform two lives at once? That's the vision behind Escape's new **Neighbor Care Initiative**.

Through this program, our youth work teams provide yard cleanup, landscaping, moving assistance, hauling, and other outdoor cleanup projects for neighbors who need a helping hand but may not be able to afford it.

Requests can be made by individuals in need or by local churches, nonprofits, landlords, and other community partners who know someone who could benefit. In the process, young people gain meaningful paid work experience, build confidence, and discover the value of serving others.

Thanks to the **generous support of the Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Foundation**, this initiative is creating opportunities for youth while strengthening the community—one project, one neighbor, and one life at a time.

Donated jobs can be requested at https://escape-out.org/hire/

"WE CAN" DONATE CANS, EMPOWER YOUNG HEROES

When you stop by the campus of Escape Ministries to drop off your returnable cans and bottles, you'll notice our trailers have a fresh new look! Their colorful design highlights a simple but meaningful message: WE CAN.

At Escape Ministries, "WE CAN" represents more than collecting returnables. Every can donated becomes an opportunity. Students gain valuable work experience by sorting and returning cans, earning income while building responsibility, confidence, and job skills. At the same time, the proceeds from donated cans help support the programs and services that empower youth every day.

A single can may not seem like much, but together they add up to something far greater. Every donation, no matter the size, helps create opportunities for young people and strengthens the mission of Escape Ministries.

Thank you for saving your cans, supporting our students, and showing that together, WE CAN make a lasting difference.

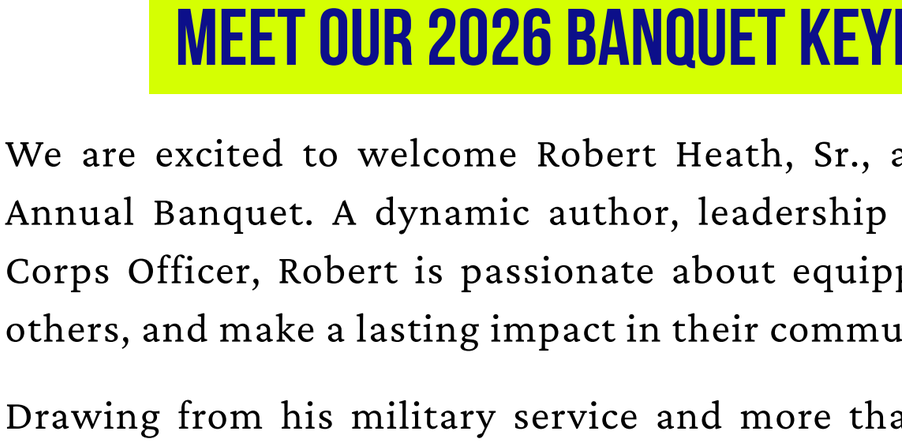
Robert HEATH, SR.

MEET OUR 2026 BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ROBERT HEATH, SR.

We are excited to welcome Robert Heath, Sr., as the keynote speaker for Escape's 2026 Annual Banquet. A dynamic author, leadership expert, and former United States Marine Corps Officer, Robert is passionate about equipping people to lead with purpose, inspire others, and make a lasting impact in their communities.

Drawing from his military service and more than two decades of experience as a leader, teacher, and coach, Robert brings a powerful message of servant leadership, resilience, and empowering others to reach their full potential. His engaging style and practical insights are sure to make this year's banquet an inspiring and memorable evening.

Join us as Robert challenges and encourages us to discover how every piece matters in building stronger lives, stronger communities, and one powerful mission.



RSVP *Your Piece Matters!*

Register online:
escape-out.org/annual-banquet/

Register by Phone:
(616) 396-4481 *Ask for Jennifer Kuneli*