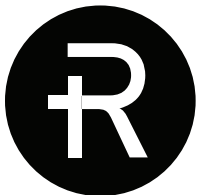




2024

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



REACH THE

JAIL MINISTRY

THE SETTING

*“Each of us are a part of bringing the Good News to inmates across the state...
We do this work with the hope that once inmates leave jail, they will have a positive impact on their families and communities, never to return back to jail...”*
-Nathan DeWard, Executive Director

MISSION

To provide Christ-centered hope and healing through biblically-based, chaplain led, volunteer jail ministries.

VISION

For every incarcerated person to experience new life in Christ and develop healthy family, church, and community relationships.

GENESEE COUNTY



580 Beds

OCEANA COUNTY



66 Beds

EATON COUNTY



275 Beds

INGHAM COUNTY



600 Beds

KENT COUNTY



1,200 Beds

- Michigan Jails Served: 32
- Beds Available: 8,348
- Annual Bookings: 152,755
- RTF Chaplains & Staff: 50
- RTF Volunteers: 1,066
- Volunteer Hours: 25,000

*“To have someone show you the light in all the darkness
is everything to someone like me.”*
Inmate, Huron County Jail

THE STORY



"I had a childhood full of trauma. I was moved in and out of foster homes while my parents struggled with addictions. I was left with my struggles and looked at God as a bad figure in my life. How could He let this happen to me?" Ashley G, Montcalm County

Stories like these aren't unique to the jail population. The majority of inmates come from dysfunctional backgrounds, with unaddressed trauma and chronic addictions. Generational cycles have cursed them and without intervention, the cycles will reproduce.

As a ministry we serve 32 Michigan county jails and our purpose is to interrupt these cycles, statewide. An RTF body of 50 staff mobilizes over 1,000 volunteers to be the hands and feet of Jesus inside places that many would likely never enter.

Chaplain Kenny Hovis of Genesee County states, *"We forget that the jails in each one of these counties are a big part of the community."* Jail is the beginning of the judicial process for individuals as they await sentencing. In Michigan, 96% of individuals who enter jail will reenter the community, while only 4% will receive longer-term prison sentences.¹ What happens inside of the jail affects what happens on the outside, and our desire is to see lives transformed for the sake of the communities in which we serve.

While we have a direct impact on thousands of inmates through our programs, we constantly hear from the Sheriff's Office that our indirect impact is long lasting. Our ministry of presence changes jail culture as inmates receive trauma healing, learn to navigate their way through God's Word, build healthy relationships, and seek to recover.

Dolen (pictured left) from Barry County became a meth addict after he lost his wife in a car crash. As a first responder, he was the first at the accident scene. This was traumatic to Dolen and since then he has been fighting addiction. As a result of the healing God provided through RTF programs, Dolen desires to share what he has learned.

Ashley from Montcalm County recalled how her life transformed in jail, *"I have been carrying around a lot of baggage that feels like boulders weighing me down. I don't have that anymore and I want people to know that change is possible."*

Scott Hall, our Regional Director says, *"If I could have it all, every incarcerated person would be touched by our ministry."* **This is our vision. This is our dream. One life changed, one life saved, can alter the course for generations that follow.**

THE IMPACT

12,600+
BIBLE
COURSES
COMPLETED

7,900+
BIBLES
DISTRIBUTED

50,000
INMATES
IMPACTED
IN 32
COUNTY
JAILS

260+
HWH
PARTICIPANTS

1,000+
ARM
LETTERS WRITTEN

3,900+
WORSHIP
SERVICES HELD

21,200+
1 TO 1
MENTORING
SESSIONS HELD

29,000
IMPACTED
IN RTF
PROGRAMS

1,300+
REFERRALS
TO REENTRY
SERVICES

5,400+
IMPACTED
BY RECOVERY
PROGRAMS

THE
HOW

Chaplains build a partnership with jail administration and community volunteers to provide spiritual services, mentoring, and life skills classes in county jails. Based on federal 2024 rates, the in-kind value of our 25,000 volunteer hours is \$837,250. We are thankful for this collaborative work!

Without our ministry, these services would not be offered.



JAIL
“This is where Christ would be. He would be here, among His people.”
Chaplain Randy Hahn,
Mecosta County

VS PRISON

Jail	Prison
96% released back to the community	4% go on to prison
Short-term detention (under 1 year)	Long-term detention (over 1 year)
Operated by local government (Sheriff’s Office)	Operated by state and federal government, and private companies
Fewer accommodations, such as programs and privileges	More accommodations, such as programs and privileges
Many awaiting arraignment and/or trial, or serving shorter sentences	All sentenced

In 2023 in Michigan, 36,387 individuals were incarcerated in state and federal prisons while 15,510 were in jail.²



THE WHY

On behalf of RTF, thank you for trusting us with your support. We ask for your continued prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support to continue the Lord’s mission.

We’re thrilled to tell the story of what God is doing in the diverse communities and jails across the state. The Lord has given RTF staff and volunteers a front-row seat to witness lives being changed through the gospel. We cannot help but share that with you, since the vast majority of inmates return to the county where they served time in jail. These are your neighbors, and we desire to see their lives transformed by Christ so they can develop healthy family, church, and community relationships.

We celebrate the impact our ministry has made in jails, which we’ve outlined in this report. As one of the nation’s largest jail ministries, we are proud of the sheer magnitude of work accomplished through our partnerships with volunteers, churches, sheriffs, and their correctional teams across Michigan. Moreover, we celebrate how the Lord’s Spirit empowers us to serve and equip others for service in jails.

God’s blessing has rested on Reach the Forgotten Jail ministry since 1966. We want to continue to provide trained chaplains and biblically-based programming. Please know, we cannot do this without you. We are so grateful for you!

-Nathan DeWard, *Executive Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Trustee
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OUR CHAPLAINS



THE FINANCIALS

WHERE

THE MONEY COMES FROM

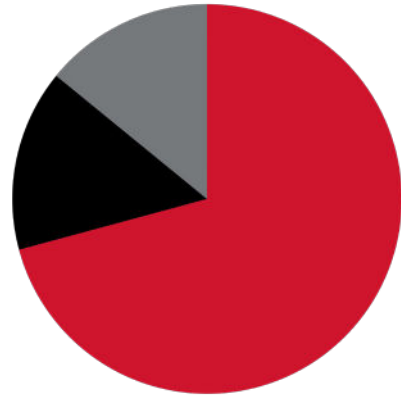
- Individuals 65.9%
- Churches 19.7%
- Businesses 10.5%
- Foundations 3.9%



WHAT

YOUR DONATION DOES

- Programs 70.8%
- Management 14.1%
- Fundraising 15.1%



CONTRIBUTIONS THIS FISCAL YEAR

\$2,194,525

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Year ending June 30, 2024

Other Income:	\$81,861
Total Income:	\$2,276,386

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES:

Programs:	\$1,896,279
Management:	\$377,649
Fundraising:	\$404,312

CITATIONS

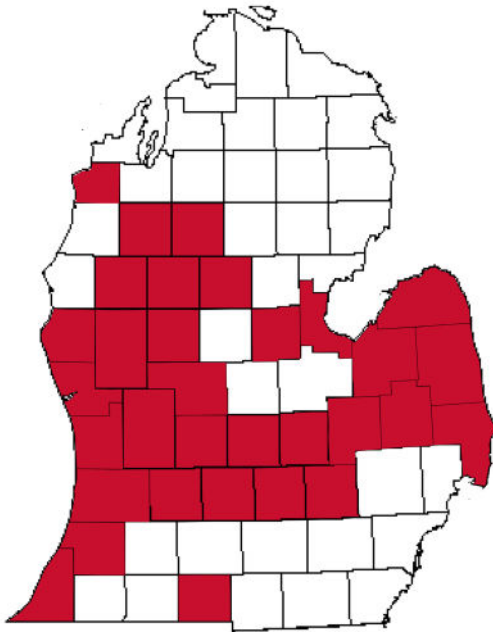
1. The 2019 Census of Jails, *Bureau of Justice Statistics*
2. Punishment Beyond Prisons 2023: Incarceration and Supervision by State, *Prison Policy Initiative*



REACH THE

JAIL MINISTRY

1480 Buchanan Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507



Allegan
Barry
Bay
Benzie
Berrien
Branch
Clare
Clinton
Eaton
Genesee
Huron
Ingham
Ionia
Kent
Lake
Lapeer

Livingston
Mecosta
Midland
Missaukee
Montcalm
Muskegon
Newaygo
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Van Buren
Wexford

office@jailministry.org
616.784.4620

Reach the Forgotten

is a 501C(3) non-profit organization



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