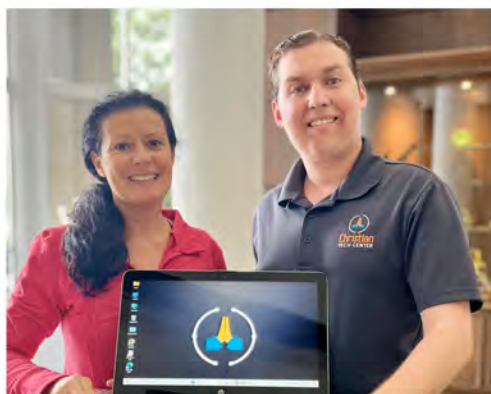




Raising Hope. Restoring Lives.



Annual Report FY2025

Raising Hope ... Together

“

We are beyond grateful to We Raise for your generosity and belief in our mission. The support has had a powerful and lasting impact on our organization. Because of the grant, we have been able to increase the number of paid training positions available for participants who are rebuilding their lives. But this investment didn't just fund jobs, it created hope. Thanks to We Raise, more individuals now have the opportunity to earn, learn, and build a new path forward. Your generosity is helping people not just stay free, but thrive.

”

- Community Warehouse
Milwaukee, WI

“

We Raise's continued support has helped strengthen and sustain the educational impact of our tutoring program. Over the past year, your partnership has not only provided vital resources, it has also affirmed our long-term vision to address systemic inequities in public education. Because of your investment, we've been able to deepen our impact—supporting more students with consistent academic guidance and walking alongside families who need allies to help address this challenging issue. Your prayers and encouragement remind us that we're not in this work alone, and that makes a tangible difference in both the lives touched and outcomes.

”

- Sunshine Gospel Ministries
Chicago, IL

Letter from our President/CEO and Board Chair

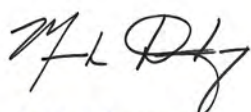
This year has shown us, once again, how powerful God's love can be when His people come together with purpose. Your generosity has allowed We Raise Foundation to continue supporting Christian organizations that bring light into difficult circumstances and walk faithfully alongside individuals seeking a new beginning. Because of you, hope is rising in places that have long faced hardship, and lives are being restored with compassion and dignity.

The stories highlighted in this annual report reflect the heart of our mission. They reveal students discovering confidence, returning citizens securing meaningful work, and families finding renewed stability through programs grounded in faith. We see God's promise lived out daily: "For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). These ministry partners remind us that when hope takes root, transformation follows.

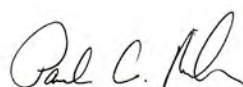
Looking forward, we are energized by the opportunities ahead. The needs are great, but the commitment of our donors, partners, and leaders is even greater. With your continued prayers and support, We Raise will keep investing in those who are building stronger, healthier communities and opening doors for individuals to experience God's restoring grace.

Thank you for believing in this work and for standing with us. Together, we are raising hope, restoring lives, and helping communities flourish in Christ's love.

With gratitude,



Mr. Mark Duesenberg
Chair, Board of Directors



Mr. Paul Miles
President and CEO





Our Vision

People thriving and living out their God-given potential.

Our Mission

Following Christ's example to love and serve others,
We Raise elevates philanthropy to inspire and
transform communities.



Reviving the 360 Experience | Marian Middle School, St. Louis, MO

Raising Hope. Restoring Lives.

As we look back on the past year, our theme — **“Raising Hope. Restoring Lives.”** — beautifully reflects the heart of We Raise Foundation’s mission. Every grant awarded, every partnership strengthened, and every life impacted points to the transformative power of God at work through His people.

Because of the faithful generosity of our donors, We Raise continues to invest in Christian organizations that bring hope into places of struggle and shine the light of Christ where it is needed most. Through programs focused on education, workforce development, and reentry, we see individuals discovering new purpose, families gaining stability, and communities growing stronger.

Scripture reminds us,

*“Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.”*

(Isaiah 40:31)

We see that renewed strength every day—in students choosing a new direction, returning citizens rebuilding their lives, and neighbors finding dignity and opportunity through the ministries you support. Hope is more than an idea; it is a catalyst for restored lives and renewed futures.

Thank you for joining us in this work. Your prayers, generosity, and compassion allow us to walk alongside remarkable leaders and organizations who are bringing God’s healing and hope to their communities.

May this report celebrate what God has done through your partnership and inspire us to continue raising hope—and restoring lives—together.





FY25 BY THE NUMBERS

People Served

During Fiscal Year 2025, We Raise grantee partners served over

22,800 men, women, and children
through their programs.

Volunteers Engaged

Volunteers are the lifeblood of so many nonprofit organizations. During Fiscal Year 2025,

over 740 individuals volunteered their time
with We Raise grantees
for a total of 11,500 hours.



Thy Kingdom Crumb | A01 Foundation, Indianapolis, IN

Program Support

We Raise's grant programs are about much more than money. Long-term successful programs and leaders also benefit from expert advice, connections with other inspired leaders, and additional funding opportunities. We Raise grants aim to provide both

financial support and expert resources

to strengthen the program for sustainable impact.

Total Program Support in FY2025

\$1,173,631

Donor Support

Everything We Raise does is made possible by our generous, faithful supporters.

We received donations from nearly 2,900 individuals during fiscal year 2025.

Donors supported the work of We Raise in a variety of ways including planned gifts, IRA charitable rollover gifts, gifts of stock, memoriam/honorariums, and Thrivent Choice Dollars.



Our Priority Granting Areas



EDUCATION

Education is foundational for thriving lives, families, and communities.



REENTRY

By walking alongside those who were formerly incarcerated, we create a pathway to hopefulness.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

When we focus on people and workforce development, we bring stability to our communities.





Grantee Highlights

On the next several pages, we are pleased to highlight three We Raise program partners whose work reflects this year's annual report theme, **Raising Hope. Restoring Lives.** These organizations are creating meaningful change through programs rooted in faith, compassion, and opportunity. Their impact is made possible through the generosity of our donors and the strength of collaborative partnership—working together to bring hope into challenging circumstances and support individuals and communities on a path toward renewal and stability.



Raising Hope Behind Bars

JUMPSTART USA, Spartanburg, SC

Hope can take root even in the most unexpected places. Through Christ-centered discipleship and meaningful relationships, JUMPSTART is helping incarcerated men and women discover purpose, accountability, and a future shaped by faith—restoring lives from the inside out.

JUMPSTART, a Christ-centered prison ministry with a holistic approach to breaking the cycle of incarceration, is expanding its reach across North Carolina correctional facilities thanks to a generous grant from We Raise Foundation.

"The grant was an answer to our prayers," said George Benner, executive director of JUMPSTART NC. "The exact amount matched what we needed to launch programs at seven additional prisons."

Through a three-year, \$100,000 GrantsPlus grant, approximately 630 incarcerated men and women will participate in JUMPSTART's structured 40-week discipleship program. The curriculum centers on Scripture and "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren, guiding participants toward spiritual growth, responsibility, and lasting transformation.

Founded in 2008 by four incarcerated men in South Carolina, JUMPSTART was born from lived experience and a desire to help others avoid the revolving door of prison. Today, the volunteer-driven

ministry serves state-run prisons in Georgia, Ohio, Florida, and North Carolina, with plans to expand to Texas in 2026.



More than 3,700 graduates have been released with over 96% staying out of prison.

"This program wasn't created in a think tank," said Ed Troha, president of JUMPSTART USA. "God was working in the hearts of incarcerated men who wanted others to find their God-given purpose. We focus on faith, accountability, and transformation from the inside out."

JUMPSTART's impact is both measurable and enduring. More than 7,000 individuals have participated nationwide, and 96% of released graduates tracked have not returned to prison. Leaders attribute much of this success to the ministry's highly relational model, where volunteers walk alongside participants for 40 weeks, building trust and addressing the deeper roots of incarceration. Kelvin, an early graduate, describes JUMPSTART as a turning point after years of addiction and incarceration. Today, he is a certified peer support specialist dedicated to helping others experience freedom and restoration in Christ.

Support from We Raise donors brings hope to individuals often written off by society and equips volunteers to serve faithfully in challenging spaces—transforming prison walls into places of faith, growth, and new beginnings.



In 2025, JUMPSTART North Carolina continued to expand its impact, delivering programming in 12 prisons—adding eight new facilities during the year—and securing eight additional approvals for expansion in 2026. The program served 410 participants, hosted seven graduation ceremonies, and celebrated 119 graduates, marking another strong year of growth and transformation.





Raising Hope for Tomorrow's Leaders

Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI

Hope is built when young people are given both a strong foundation of faith and a clear vision for their future. At Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, students are being equipped not only for academic success, but for meaningful careers, responsible leadership, and lives rooted in God's purpose.

Through generous donor support, We Raise Foundation partnered with Siebert Lutheran Foundation to award a \$300,000 grant to Kingdom Prep's innovative pilot program, Nehemiah 2.0. This hands-on curriculum introduces students to real-world career pathways while laying the groundwork for long-term stability, including future homeownership.

"Nehemiah helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem," said Kevin Festerling, founder and principal of Kingdom Prep. "He stepped out in faith, trusting God's plan. Through Nehemiah 2.0, we want students to see that God has His hand on them and a purpose for their lives beyond what any test score can measure."

Grounded in Scripture and social responsibility, Nehemiah 2.0 gives students a central role in acquiring and renovating distressed or vacant

homes in their community. From carpentry and electrical work to real estate management and finance, students gain practical skills while helping revitalize neighborhoods. The renovated homes will be sold or rented, creating both community impact and a sustainable funding model for the program.



Nehemiah 2.0 provides practical training in 27 skills needed across the construction trades and real estate development.

Students also benefit from mentorship by local industry professionals who guide them as they apply classroom learning to real-world projects. Jayden, a student entering his senior year, discovered a talent for problem-solving and home repair early on. What began as fixing things for neighbors has grown into a passion he hopes to pursue

through Nehemiah 2.0.

By 2028, Kingdom Prep plans to engage 75 students in renovating at least three homes across Milwaukee. Through this program, students gain more than job skills—they develop confidence, purpose, and a calling to serve.

Your generosity is helping raise hope for students like Jayden while restoring lives and neighborhoods—one home, one student, and one future at a time.



Nehemiah Hour is an exploratory course where young men identify problems in the local or global society, and find biblical solutions according to the Kingdom Prep Framework for Solving Problems.

Through guidance, each young man identifies how he can use his natural talents to add value to the problem he chooses to solve.





Restoring Lives Through Meaningful Work

Chopping for Change, Cleveland, OH

A stable future often begins with meaningful work—and for individuals preparing to reenter society after incarceration, access to job training can make all the difference. Chopping for Change (C4C) provides that critical turning point by equipping incarcerated individuals with marketable skills, confidence, and a pathway to employment before they return to their communities.

Chopping for Change is an innovative workforce development program operated by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM) in Cleveland, Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry. The program places incarcerated participants into civilian custody for hands-on training in culinary arts and hospitality, allowing them to build practical experience while still serving their sentence.

Participants receive comprehensive instruction in culinary techniques, food safety, and hospitality operations, along with counseling and wraparound support services designed to address the challenges of reentry.

Depending on their length of participation, students may earn a Culinary Training Program certificate,

a Hospitality Training Program diploma, or an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts and Hospitality. Industry-recognized credentials, including ServSafe certification, prepare graduates to step directly into employment upon release.



**The recidivism
rate for Chopping
for Change
graduates is
less than
3%.**

Originally launched in 2015 for women, Chopping for Change has grown to include men from the Grafton Correctional Facility. To date, more than 250 individuals have completed the program, and 97% of graduates have remained out of the criminal justice system—a powerful testament to the impact of combining workforce training with relational support.

For participants like Andy, the program represents far more than a certificate. At graduation, he received his first chef's coat, marking both a milestone and a new beginning. His goal is simple but profound: to provide stability for his family and build a future rooted in dignity and purpose.

Through programs like Chopping for Change, donor support is helping transform incarceration into opportunity—raising hope, restoring lives, and strengthening communities through the power of meaningful work.



Chopping for Change culinary graduates who are less than a year away from their release date have the opportunity to gain work experience, giving the students a chance to work in a high-pressure culinary environment and preparing them for employment in Cleveland restaurants.



2024 Richard E. Herman Leadership Award

Reueline Arulanandam

J.D. candidate

Saint Louis University School of Law, St. Louis, MO



The Leadership Award was established in honor of Dr. Richard Herman, We Raise Foundation's fourth president (2006–2015), a passionate supporter and encourager of young adult Christian leaders.

The award recognizes the commitment and service of an emerging Christian leader between 20 and 35 years of age whose professional or volunteer efforts are helping under-resourced individuals and communities in the United States thrive.

Reueline Arulanandam is a J.D. candidate at Saint Louis University School of Law. She earned a bachelor's degree in Public Health with minors in Political Science and Urban Poverty Studies from Saint Louis University in 2025.

As Student Government Association president during her senior year, Reueline represented over 8,100 students, promoting social justice and fostering a sense of belonging. Since 2022, she has served as a University Ambassador for SLU Admissions.

In 2024, Reueline interned with Phillips Black, assisting individuals on death row. As a Pershing Fellow, she worked at Concordance Academy, supporting formerly incarcerated individuals. Her first service experience in St. Louis was with Restore St. Louis: Firm Foundation Tutoring, where she saw firsthand the power of education, faith, and justice.

"This award means so much to me," Reueline said. "Looking at the past leaders who have received this honor, they are all the type of leaders I want to be. They are strong, rooted in the Gospel, and genuinely invested in restoring the communities around them. This award has only inspired me to want to do more, to give more, and to one day return to the nonprofit organizations and community organizers who are sacrificing so much for the hope of a more equitable future."



Thank You!

Thank you for your faithful generosity and partnership in this work. Because of you, hope is being raised in places too often overlooked, and lives are being restored through Christ-centered programs that bring dignity, opportunity, and healing. Your support allows We Raise Foundation to invest in organizations that meet real needs while sharing God's love in tangible, life-changing ways.

Through your giving, individuals are discovering new purpose, families are finding stability, and communities are growing stronger. Whether through education, workforce development, or reentry programs, your generosity helps open doors that lead to renewed confidence, meaningful work, and a future grounded in hope. These moments of transformation are possible because you choose to stand with those who are serving faithfully on the front lines.

We are deeply grateful for your trust and commitment to this mission. Your prayers and compassion strengthen ministries that walk alongside people as they rebuild their lives and embrace the future God has prepared for them. Together, we are witnessing the power of faith in action—raising hope, restoring lives, and reflecting Christ's love in the world.

Thank you for being an essential part of this story and for helping create lasting change that reaches far beyond what we can see today.



FY2025 Financials

BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING REVENUES

\$1,610,694



- CONTRIBUTIONS
\$604,081
- NET TRANSFERS FROM INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO
\$439,471
- ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS
\$546,248
- OTHER RESOURCES
\$20,894

BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING EXPENSES

\$2,026,134



- PROGRAMS
\$1,173,631
- FUNDRAISING
\$645,629
- MANAGEMENT
\$206,874

Program Expense is comprised of: Grants and Projects (\$551,158), Program Education (\$404,805), and Program Support (\$217,668)

Total Net Assets at 6/30/25 were \$11,635,479

A full copy of our audit report
is available online at weraise.org



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Cleveland, OH



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Director of Communications

Our Funding Partners



SIEBERT
LUTHERAN FOUNDATION



Lutheran Foundation
OF ST. LOUIS



Raising Hope ... Together

“

Support from We Raise has been a tremendous blessing to us. Your partnership has allowed us to sustain and expand our outreach across Indianapolis—fueling the food truck that brings both nourishment and hope to our neighbors in communities that are often overlooked or underserved. Beyond the practical impact, your support has affirmed that the work we do matters—that sharing the love of Christ through food and relationship is worth investing in. Each meal served, prayer shared, and story of transformation is a reflection of what this partnership makes possible.

”

– Thy Kingdom Crumb
Indianapolis, IN

“

Receiving the Emerging Leader Grant from We Raise affirms my calling as a school leader and fuels my commitment to innovation, excellence, and student success at Marian. This support empowers me to embrace challenges as opportunities—to uplift, inspire, and lead by example—ensuring that our students thrive in an environment built for their growth and achievement. Thank you!

”

– Marian Middle School
St. Louis, MO





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