



SHIELD MINISTRIES
Educating Men for a Hope-filled Future

2024 Annual Report

Educating Men for a Hope-filled Future!

SINCE 2007

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul proposers, (III John 1:2)

As we reflect on 2024, we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have guided and assisted our students towards prosperity in mind, body, soul, and spirit. Your unwavering faithfulness and support made this possible. Your generous donations of time, finances, and prayer significantly impacted the lives of over 260 students last year.

Throughout the year, we focused on continuing to build a strong re-entry and prison intervention education program, unique in its approach to addressing all barriers of prison re-entry. This includes providing individualized and comprehensive services to meet students' identified by Risk Needs Responsivity (RNR) assessments. A very important and continued focus is strengthening community relationships to help provide comprehensive student support services.

We are pleased to share a few highlights from 2024, including a record number of applications and students enrolled in our prison intervention program. We also celebrated a recidivism rate for graduates of 0.71%, 33 students satisfied their Probation requirements, awarded 11 Program Diplomas and 276 Course Certificates, and received SC Department of Corrections approval for our Cognitive Learning 100 and Work Ready 100 curriculum, written by Melodie Truluck. The estimated economic impact for 2024 was over 4.3 million dollars with an estimated 1,052% rate of investment from public donations. Additionally, Palmetto Goodwill awarded SHIELD Ministries a grant in support of our student Work Ready education and support services.

Building on this foundation, we are excited to expand our Career Readiness efforts in 2025 through partnerships with Trident Literacy (TLA). Through TLA, our students' current education levels are assessed, career paths are identified, and students are enrolled in classes that will equip them with the reading, math, and language comprehension skills needed to pursue career paths in CDL, Construction, manufacturing, and hospitality.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our volunteers and staff who work tirelessly to give our students hope! Hope is Alive in 2025 because of you!

Warmest Regards,



Rev. David M. Truluck, MAPM
Executive Director
david.truluck@shieldministries.org
843.209.7941
www.shieldministries.org



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MISSION

The Mission of SHIELD Ministries is to provide a men’s comprehensive re-entry education program in a Christian environment designed to create opportunities for personal, professional, and spiritual growth which reduces recidivism and enhances public safety.

PROGRAMS

SHIELD Ministries’ services are organized into strategic evidenced based and biblically grounded programs that provide comprehensive support and education. These programs represent a proven model designed to foster personal, professional, and spiritual growth. When combined, this integrated approach effectively reduces recidivism and enhances public safety.

What are Evidence-Based Practices?

“Evidence-based practices involve the conscientious application of social science research and other available data to inform policies and practices that aim to achieve maximum and measurable reductions in recidivism. The Risk-Need-Responsivity Model is used to guide effective assessment and supervision practices in the federal system.”

<https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/probation-and-pretrial-services/evidence-based-practices>

PRISON PRE-RELEASE EDUCATION PROGRAM



Minds in Training (MIT)

134 Enrollment with Certificates Earned:

48 Character Class

13 Cognitive Learning 100

10 Work Ready 100

Enrolled in 2025 with Certificates Awarded in 2026

33 Cognitive Learning 100

In 2025, SHIELD Ministries entered a key transition year, completing the old curriculum and launching the new curriculum in the spring, which required additional time and effort. Volunteers were trained to ensure strong implementation. The South Carolina Department of Corrections approved our **Cognitive Learning 100, Work Ready 100, and Financial Management** as authorized **education programs in MacDougall, Lieber and Allendale prisons**. This milestone strengthened our programming and expanded our impact within these correctional facilities.



Post-Release and Prison Intervention Programs

Prison intervention refers to justice-involved students who are awaiting trial, bonded out to SHIELD Ministries while awaiting trial, or court-ordered to participate in SHIELD Ministries. These individuals are enrolled in the Post-Release Education Program.

“Each year, about 600,000 people in the United States enter prisons; and at the same time, people are sent to jails across our country over 10 million times per year. Individuals returning to their communities after a term of imprisonment face a number of barriers to success, including housing insecurity, inability to access health care, food insecurity, and barriers to education and employment.”

REPORT TO CONGRESS FROM THE REENTRY COORDINATION COUNCIL APRIL 2022: Coordination to Reduce Barriers to Reentry: lessons learned from COVID-19 and beyond. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1497911/download>

Our programming model is grounded in evidence-based research, specifically the **Criminogenic Needs framework** and the **Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model**. Criminogenic needs are the dynamic risk factors—such as antisocial thinking, substance abuse, lack of employment skills, poor impulse control, and unstable relationships—**that directly contribute to criminal behavior**. Evidence shows that when these needs are met recidivism is decreased. The RNR model ensures that services are matched to an individual’s level of risk (Risk), target the specific factors driving their behavior (Need), and are delivered in ways that align with their learning needs, abilities, and personal circumstances (Responsivity).

By intentionally structuring our programs around evidence based and Christian principles, SHIELD Ministries helps our students addresses the root causes of criminal behavior, increasing the likelihood of long-term transformation, reduced recidivism, and community safety.

The Policy of Research Associates (PRA) defines the principal goals of Responsivity as:

“The principal goals are to ensure that participants receive the services they need, do not receive more services than they need, and receive services in the most effective and efficient sequence. Leaving pressing problems unaddressed allows them to fester and worsen, delivering unnecessary services can overburden participants and interfere with their engagement in required services, and addressing responsivity needs, criminogenic needs, or maintenance needs in the wrong order is likely to undermine the effectiveness of the interventions.” <https://www.prainc.com/risk-need-responsivity/>



SHIELD Ministries' Post-Release Program consists of four core programs: **Crisis Stabilization, Education, Work/Career Readiness, and Spiritual Development.** These core programs are recognized and presented as **individual programs within the overall Post-Release Program.** Our transportation services provide limited support to participants in the Crisis Stabilization Program as well as those enrolled in employer-sponsored programs.

Crisis Stabilization

Crisis stabilization is most effective when law enforcement, courts, and community providers coordinate services that address housing, behavioral health, and supervision needs. The U.S. Department of Justice emphasizes that collaborative partnerships improve outcomes by connecting justice-involved individuals to services rather than relying solely on enforcement responses (U.S. DOJ COPS Office: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/>; National Reentry Resource Center: <https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>)

Service Providers, Stakeholders, and Partners

- SC Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services
- Public Defender Offices (Multiple statewide)
- Dr. William Burke
- His Way Ministry
- Low Country Food Bank
- Premier Medical Center
- Charleston Mental Health
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Catholic Charities



CRISIS STABLIZATION PROGRAM

Post-Release Services

228 Applications

123 Students Enrolled in Re-entry Education Program (Record Number)

- **21,460** estimated meals provided
- **14,309** nights of housing provided with 44 students
- **44** SC PPP Funded
- 92 Direct Trips Provided with

Crisis Stabilization Program Service Needs

Services	Meeting Criminogenic Needs	Criminogenic Need	Criminogenic Need Description
Case Management	<p>Post Release case management supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured supervision • Accountability • Monitoring compliance • Goal tracking <p>This helps interrupt persistent offending patterns through structured oversight and follow-through</p>	Antisocial Behavior	Pattern of rule-breaking, criminal conduct, and violations across settings; Impulsivity, aggression, risk-taking, weak self-control
Legal Compliance Support	<p>Encourages engagement with lawful supervision agencies supporting mandated registration, treatment, and requirement compliance; Reinforces accountability, planning, and responsible follow-through with legal obligations.</p> <p>Supports adherence to mandated treatment and testing requirements</p> <p>Prevents incarceration disruptions that interfere with employment or education</p> <p>Promotes structured time management aligned with supervision requirements</p> <p>Reduces relational stress and promotes stability necessary for family reconciliation</p>	<p>Antisocial Behavior</p> <p>Substance Abuse</p> <p>Education & Work</p> <p>Leisure & Recreation</p> <p>Family/Martial</p>	<p>Pattern of rule-breaking, criminal conduct, and violations across settings; Impulsivity, aggression, risk-taking, weak self-control</p> <p>Drug/alcohol misuse linked to criminal behavior</p> <p>Unemployment, low achievement, poor work stability</p> <p>Lack of structured pro-social activities</p> <p>Family dysfunction, instability, weak bonds</p>
Housing Housing - continued	<p>Post-release housing stabilizes transition and reduces survival-driven reoffending and technical violations</p> <p>Reduces household stress by preventing violations that destabilize family systems</p> <p>Encourages association with peers seeking change and reduces reliance on criminal networks.</p> <p>Decreases relapse triggers linked to homelessness and supports treatment continuity</p> <p>Enables employment stability and consistent participation in education or job training.</p> <p>Provides structured living environment that reduces idle, high-risk time</p>	<p>Antisocial Behavior</p> <p>Antisocial Associates</p> <p>Substance Abuse</p> <p>Education & Employment</p> <p>Leisure & Recreation</p> <p>Family/Martial</p>	<p>Pattern of rule-breaking, criminal conduct, and violations across settings; Impulsivity, aggression, risk-taking, weak self-control</p> <p>Influence of pro-criminal peers and social networks</p> <p>Drug/alcohol misuse linked to criminal behavior</p> <p>Unemployment, low achievement, poor work performance</p> <p>Lack of structured pro-social activities</p> <p>Family conflict, instability, weak emotional bonds</p>

<p>Mentorship</p>	<p>His Way Ministries and Volunteer mentorship provides accountability and consistent pro-social modeling to interrupt chronic offending patterns; Challenges distorted thinking and reinforces pro-social beliefs and accountability</p> <p>Replaces criminogenic peer influence with positive adult guidance and pro-social support</p> <p>Provides encouragement, accountability, and support for sustained recovery</p> <p>Promotes goal setting, work ethic, and educational persistence through guidance and encouragement</p> <p>Encourages engagement in structured, pro-social activities and constructive time use</p>	<p>Antisocial Behavior</p> <p>Antisocial Associates</p> <p>Substance Abuse</p> <p>Education & Work</p> <p>Leisure & Recreation</p>	<p>Pattern of rule-breaking, criminal conduct, and violations across settings; Impulsivity, aggression, risk-taking, weak self-control</p> <p>Influence of pro-criminal peers and social networks</p> <p>Drug/alcohol misuse linked to criminal behavior</p> <p>Unemployment, low achievement, poor work stability</p> <p>Lack of structured pro-social activities</p>
<p>While basic needs themselves are considered responsivity factors under the RNR model, stabilizing them is essential to effectively address higher-level criminogenic needs.</p>			
<p>Basic Needs Food Clothes Hygiene Access to Health Care</p>	<p>Reduces crisis stressors that trigger impulsive or aggressive behavior and reduces survival-driven offending (theft, violations) by stabilizing immediate needs</p> <p>Reduces reliance on criminal peers for food, money, or survival resources.</p> <p>Stabilizes health and reduces relapse risk tied to crisis or untreated medical issues.</p> <p>Improves job readiness and attendance through access to clothing, hygiene, and medical care.</p> <p>Reduces idle time spent seeking resources for survival</p>	<p>Antisocial Behavior</p> <p>Antisocial Associates</p> <p>Substance Abuse</p> <p>Education & Work</p> <p>Leisure & Recreation</p>	<p>Pattern of rule-breaking, criminal conduct, and violations across settings; Impulsivity, aggression, risk-taking, weak self-control</p> <p>Influence of pro-criminal peers and social networks</p> <p>Drug/alcohol misuse linked to criminal behavior</p> <p>Unemployment, low achievement, poor work stability</p> <p>Lack of structured pro-social activities</p>

Education

Reentry education programs are strengthened through collaboration among correctional institutions, supervision agencies, and community education providers. Evidence-based reentry guidance highlights that cross-system partnerships improve program participation and reduce recidivism (National Reentry Resource Center: <https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/resources/toolkits/reentry/part1/reducing-recidivism>; U.S. DOJ COPS Office: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/>).

Students complete a Risk-Needs Assessment (RNR) and an Education Level Assessment to identify their priority needs and skill gaps. These assessments are used to prioritize classes that meet the highest Criminogenic Needs and to identify and plan needed education.

Service Providers, Stakeholders, and Partners

- Palmetto Goodwill Investment Fund
- Palmetto Goodwill I-Can Program
- Trident Literacy
- Trident Technical College Journeyman Program
- ATI Foundation



EDUCATION PROGRAM (Post-Release) Certificates Earned

Services	Meeting Criminogenic Needs	Criminogenic Need	Criminogenic Need Description
Cognitive Learning 100	Targets criminal thinking by teaching cognitive principles linking thoughts, emotions, unforgiveness, thought patterns, and behavior. Challenges distorted beliefs, impulsive decisions, and justification patterns	Antisocial Behavior	Distorted thinking patterns, criminal beliefs, and justification of harmful behavior
	Fosters belief of and tools for change and provides healthy tools for coping with stress and emotional triggers leading to substance abuse.	Substance Abuse	Drug/alcohol misuse and addictive behaviors linked to criminal conduct
	Provides tools and methods to strengthen critical thinking, improve learning and reading comprehension, and develop essential soft skills for employment.	Education & Employment	Unemployment, low achievement, poor work stability
	The 5-step mind–emotion management framework develops emotional self-regulation and cognitive awareness, promoting healthier relationships and improved communication—	Family/Martial	Family conflict, instability, weak emotional bonds

	protective factors associated with reduced recidivism		
Financial Management	Strengthens financial literacy, budgeting, delayed gratification, and responsible planning to improve economic stability.	Education & Employment	Financial instability, unemployment, and poor planning linked to criminal behavior.
Anger Management Approved by SC Probation, Pardon, and Parole	Develops emotional regulation, impulse control, and constructive conflict resolution skills. Its primary criminogenic focus is reducing impulsive and aggressive behavioral patterns, which are strong predictors of recidivism under the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model. Challenges hostile attribution biases, justification of aggression, and blame-shifting Improves conflict resolution and communication	Antisocial Behavior / Cognition Family/Marital Relationships	Impulsivity, aggression, poor emotional regulation, and reactive behavior. Family conflict, instability, weak emotional bonds
SMART Recovery Approved by SC Probation, Pardon, and Parole	Builds motivation for change, manages urges, restructures addictive thinking, and promotes prosocial lifestyles. Directly targets addictive behaviors and the thinking patterns that sustain them and reduces substance-driven criminal behavior Restructures distorted thinking and justification patterns tied to substance use through impulse control, emotional regulation, and decision-making skills Encourages movement away from substance-using peer groups toward healthier support networks	Substance Abuse Antisocial Behavior / Cognition Antisocial Associates	Drug/alcohol misuse and addictive behaviors linked to criminal conduct. Criminal belief systems and distorted thinking driving behavior. Influence of pro-criminal peers and social networks
Cognitive Learning 101 Building Blocks of Life	Strengthens critical thinking, identity development, discipline, and belief-based decision-making, personal responsibility and accountability and transformation through evidence based biblical truth	Antisocial Behavior	Criminal belief systems and distorted thinking driving behavior.
Understanding Your Mind	Teaches neural pathway awareness, cognitive restructuring, and habit change strategies and how thoughts and beliefs shape emotions and behavior, including how the brain is	Antisocial Behavior	Compulsive behaviors and maladaptive thought cycles



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	neurologically impacted by repeated behaviors such as pornography use		reinforcing criminal conduct.
Cognitive Learning 102 Healing for Damaged Emotions	<p>Addresses trauma, bitterness, unforgiveness, and emotional triggers through evidenced based and biblically based faith-integrated inner healing and recovery principles</p> <p>Addressing emotional pain that often underlies addictive behaviors</p> <p>Promotes forgiveness, empathy, and healthier relational patterns</p>	<p>Antisocial Behavior</p> <p>Substance Abuse/Addiction</p> <p>Family/Marital Relationships</p>	<p>Emotional instability, reactive behavior, and trauma-driven responses.</p> <p>Drug/alcohol misuse and addictive behaviors linked to criminal conduct.</p> <p>Family conflict, instability, weak emotional bonds</p>



WORK/CAREER READY

Work soft skills education and development, work and career counseling, referrals to temporary employment agencies, employers, screening and enrollment to supportive work centered educational and internship programs like Palmetto Goodwill’s I-CAN Program, Trident Technical College’s Journeyman Program, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Center, and Trident Literacy. Transportation services for employer sponsored programs.

Services	Meeting Criminogenic Needs	Primary Criminogenic Need	Criminogenic Need Description
Work Ready 100	Equips students with job-readiness skills including communication, teamwork, time management, and workplace responsibility to strengthen employability and work stability.	Education & Employment	Deficits in job skills, unemployment, and economic instability linked to recidivism.
Career Ready	Prepares students for long-term employment through career exploration, résumé development, interview skills, and structured goal setting to increase vocational direction and stability.	Education & Employment	Economic instability, lack of career planning, and limited workforce preparation associated with recidivism risk.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Sunday 8:15 AM Worship Services, prayer, bi-weekly Convocation, spiritual counseling, Baptism, Bibles, and His Way Ministry program.

Services	Meeting Criminogenic Needs	Criminogenic Need	Criminogenic Need Description
Spiritual Development Worship Services Prayer Convocation Spiritual Counseling His Way Ministry	Students examine belief systems, moral reasoning, identity, and accountability—challenging distorted thinking and promoting prosocial values and internal transformation By connecting participants to a prosocial faith-based community.	Antisocial Cognition Antisocial Associates	Distorted thinking patterns, entitlement beliefs, and justification of harmful behavior addressed through cognitive restructuring and identity transformation

Spiritual Development – Post-release

Worship, Prayer, Spiritual Counseling, and Convocation primarily supports the criminogenic need of **Antisocial Cognition**, with secondary impact on several additional dynamic risk factors.

Through worship, prayer, spiritual counseling, and structured convocations, participants are encouraged to examine belief systems, moral reasoning, identity, accountability, and personal responsibility. This process challenges distorted thinking patterns, entitlement beliefs, and justification of harmful behavior while promoting prosocial values and internal transformation.

Secondarily, Spiritual Development supports:

- **Antisocial Personality Pattern** – by fostering humility, self-reflection, emotional regulation, and character development.
- **Antisocial Associates** – by connecting participants to a prosocial faith-based community.



- **Family/Marital Relationships** – by reinforcing forgiveness, reconciliation, and healthy relational principles.

While spiritual services function as a strong **responsivity factor** within the RNR framework, they also directly influence cognitive restructuring and identity transformation, reinforcing long-term behavioral change and reduced recidivism.

7 enrolled in GED

Post release

11 Cognitive Learning

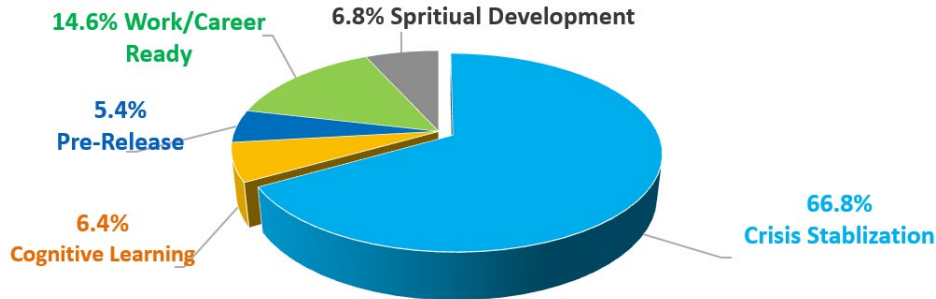
15 Cognitive Learning

15 Work Ready

17 Work Ready

80.3% of 2024 expenses were for student direct services.

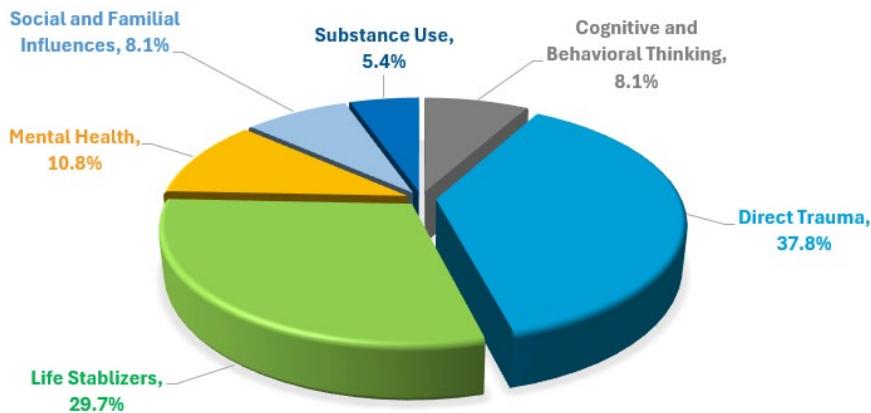
2024 STUDENT DIRECT SERVICES



Risk Needs Responsivity (RNR)

The Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model has become the leading model of offender assessment and treatment. A number of independent studies have found that programs which adhere closely to the RNR model have lower recidivism rates. Risk Needs Responsivity (RNR), also referred to as stabilization needs, which are unmet human needs which interfere with successful re-entry. These unmet needs can lead to chronic homelessness and unemployment, substance use, and/or poor mental health. SHIELD Ministries strives to ensure that our students receive the services they need and do not receive the ones they do not need, and all in the proper order. In order to achieve this, upon admittance students take 7 self- assessments from our Munissions SSP Re-entry software which scores, identifies and prioritizes stabilization needs.

2024 STUDENT RISK NEEDS



37.8% Direct Trauma

2024 student self-assessments revealed that Direct Trauma was the most frequently reported risk need. SHIELD Ministries is committed to addressing this need through a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) approach. Our services include referral counseling, onsite counseling, transportation support for students seeking external counseling services, spiritual counseling, and Cognitive Learning 100. These offerings aim to create a safe and supportive environment that fosters healing and recovery for those impacted by trauma.



<https://www.traumainformedcare.chcs.org/what-is-trauma-informed-care>

29.7% Life Stabilizers

2024 student self-assessments have identified Life Stabilizers as their second highest need. These Life Stabilizers encompass education, employment, finances, food, and housing. SHIELD Ministries addresses these needs through various services, including job referrals, re-entry education with a focus on Cognitive Behavioral Learning, Work/Career Ready and Financial Management classes. These services fall under our Crisis Stabilization, Cognitive Learning, and Work/Career Ready service categories.

10.8% Mental Health

The third highest need reported from student self-assessments identified mental health. SHIELD Ministries addresses mental health through our Crisis Stabilization services, which include referrals and transportation to Charleston Mental Health for students in need. Additionally, we provide onsite professional group counseling. Our Cognitive Learning classes are instrumental in teaching students healthy ways to manage their thoughts, emotions, and memories. These courses have shown improvements in learning and reading comprehension as well.

8.1% Cognitive Behavioral Thinking

The fourth rated need reported from student assessments identified behaviors associated with Cognitive Behavioral thinking. Individuals learn and process information differently, and interventions should be adapted accordingly. Cognitive-behavioral approaches which aim to change the offender's thought processes and behavior, are a key component of responsivity. antisocial cognitions and personality patterns. To address these needs, along with mental health referrals, our programs use an evidence-based curriculum to improve an individual's social skills, means-ends problem solving, critical and moral reasoning, cognitive style, self-control, impulse management, and self-efficacy. SHIELD Ministries' Cognitive Learning classes are evidenced based and include the below which are identified in these categories:

- Aggression management
- Interpersonal skills development, e.g. conflict resolution, reasoning, enhanced thinking, problem solving, empathy building
- Cognitive Learning, managing thoughts, emotions, and building healthy neural pathways

8.1% Social and Familial Influences

Also rated fourth are Social and Familial Influences. Interpersonal Relationships and Family Assistance may include needs in areas such as marital and/or relationship problems, relationship with dependents and parenting skill deficits, as well as lack of family and/or social support. SHIELD Ministries addresses these needs through Spiritual Development services and/or Referrals to *A Father's Place*. SM's Financial Management Classes help men learn to budget and prioritize their fiscal responsibilities in order to prioritize their child support payments.

Example needs include family reunification services, individual and/or family counseling, parenting classes and child support payment assistance.

5.4% Substance Use

The final and lowest rated need reported from student assessments identified was substance use. SHIELD Ministries along with the Cognitive Learning classes hold recovery group meetings and regularly perform



random drug and alcohol test. Students who test positive are required to enroll in a drug treatment program in order to remain enrolled in the program and are drug tested on an increased basis.

HOUSING

14,042 Nights of Student Housing

104 men spent a combined total of 14,042 nights of student housing in 2024.

“Stable housing with appropriate supportive services is a key factor in preventing homelessness and reducing recidivism. The goal is to reduce barriers to public and subsidized housing, and advance promising models that improve outcomes for people who repeatedly use corrections and homeless services.” <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/reentry-program>

SC PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES

65 Students on Probation/Community Supervision

- 33 Students successfully completed probation
- 57 Students received 30 Day Program Fee Assistance (1,139 Nights) \$28,475

SHIELD Ministries is one twelve programs in South Carolina who received an award from the SC Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to help probationers pay for the first 30 days of their re-entry housing program fees. SHIELD’s educational program includes housing, and students pay \$25.00 per day to participate in the post-release educational program. Program fees only cover on average 65% of direct program costs (does not include general and administrative costs.) Donors fund the remaining direct program and business costs.

Veterans

14 Veterans Served



"Justice Department data showed that about 8% of all U.S. inmates, or about 181,500 were military veterans. The preliminary assessment identified multiple risk factors that contribute to incarceration for veterans, including combat-related trauma and post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries, substance abuse, and adverse childhood experiences while in the military."
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/crime-courts/commission-will-study-veterans-are-likely-non-veterans-get-trouble-law-rcna44326>

Pictured above far left, Micah. Micah was referred to the SHIELD Ministries Post-release program by an MIT student leader in MacDougall Correctional Institution. Micah entered the program in March 2024 and in nine months completed Cognitive Learning 100, Cognitive Learning 102, Work Ready 101 and Financial Management courses.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided to students directly by staff, volunteers, upon entrance and also by Carta bus passes. Transportation to the SC Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services and the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, if applicable, for registration is one of the many Crisis Stabilization Services which are provided.

"Transportation has been identified as a major barrier to successful re-entry."

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00328855211029894>

1235 Trips Provided

714 trips were direct transportation services provided by staff and volunteers.

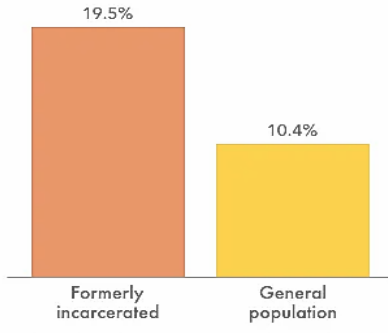
519 trips provided through bus passes.

46 Welcome Packages

Upon admittance men receive a welcome package which includes sheets, pillows, blankets, towels, washcloths, toilet paper, hygiene pack, and Bibles.

FOOD PANTRY

Formerly incarcerated people are twice as likely to experience food insecurity

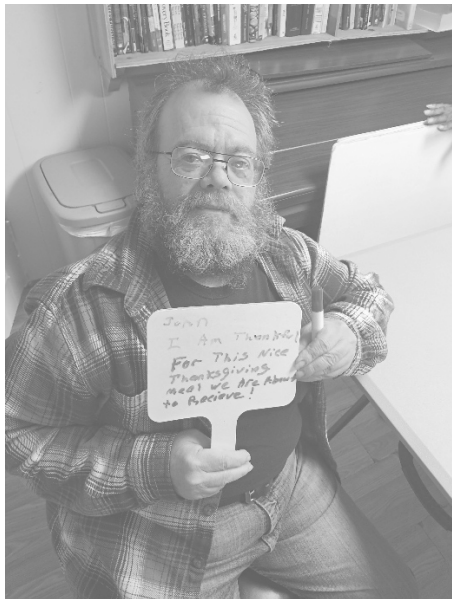


“Food insecurity is an often-overlooked consequence of incarceration, and it can’t be separated from the more well-known problems of homelessness and unemployment. While the estimates vary somewhat, researchers consistently find that food insecurity is more common among formerly incarcerated people.”

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/02/10/food-insecurity/>

30,655 Meals Provided

As the Re-entry Coordinating Council reported to Congress in April 2022, food Insecurity is one of the barriers of successful re-entry. SHIELD Ministries is a local partner agency of the LowCountry Food Bank and also receives donations from Delancey Street Foundation and through donors. Along with being able to shop weekly in the food pantry, students also have special event catered meals. It is estimated that our food pantry provides 2.5 meals per day for our students who have spent a combined total of **14,042** days in our housing program. The estimated number of meals provided is **30,655**.



During our annual Thanksgiving meal, our students write and share what they are thankful for. Pictured above left, SHIELD student, John writes, **“I am thankful for this nice Thanksgiving meal we are about to receive.”** Pictured right are students and volunteers sharing a Christmas meal together. SHIELD Ministries also provides graduation meals for our MIT, Pre-release program which many of our MIT volunteers help fund.

Cognitive Learning and Work/Career Ready Services

Students' length of enrollment periods vary as they have an opportunity to earn between 1 and 9 certificates. Students earn a diploma by completing a minimum of 5 core courses. Course material is grounded in best practices and evidence-based research and is specifically designed to equip students with essential skills in critical thinking, mind-emotion management, career readiness, and financial management.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuroplasticity/Growth Mindsets • Identify toxic thought patterns, emotions, & reactions • Deconstruct toxic thought patterns and construct healthy ones through using a 5 Step Mind Management Process • Use Mind Mapping, Dr. Leaf's Metacog™ thought processing and learning tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUILDING BLOCKS of LIFE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose • Values • Attitude • Passions/Goals • Accomplishments • Importance of Planning • How to achieve Your Goals • Importance of Identity and Attitude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build soft skills/character traits employers desire • Address criminal backgrounds • Growth Mindset • Character Traits • Decision Making Process • Communication • SMART Goals • Work Ethic
<p>Cognitive Learning 100</p> 	<p>Cognitive Learning 101</p> 	<p>Work/Career Ready 101</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing for Damaged Emotions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of Forgiveness • Guilt, Grace and Debt Collecting • Fear, Doubt and Anxiety • Anger, Hostility and Worry • 10 Sources of Depression • Learning how to renew thoughts/feelings • Low Self-esteem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeeming the Past/Healing of Memories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Past Affects Behaviors • Role of Forgiveness in Healing • Explore The Power of Prayer • Ruminating Verses Recalling to Heal • Freedom in Healing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgeting and Financial Planning • Taxes, Your Responsibility • Benefits of Saving Money • Credit Cards • Predatory Lending • Paying Down Debt • Credit Reporting • Renting Versus Purchasing • New Car Purchase Versus Used • Basic Investing
<p>Cognitive Learning 102</p> 	<p>Cognitive Learning 103</p> 	<p>Financial Management</p> 

Additional Courses

Additional studies offered are *Think, Learn, Succeed, Experiencing Prayer with Jesus*, and *The Brain on Porn*. SHIELD Ministries also partners with Trident Literacy who performs TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) testing which evaluates basic skills in reading, math, and English used to help students increase skills for Career Readiness programs.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

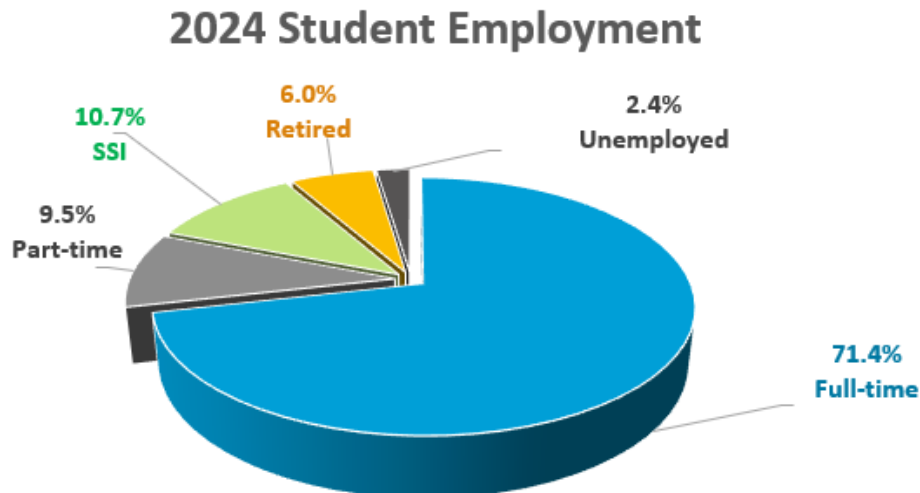
Prisonpolicy.org reports, “62% of formerly incarcerated people face alarming rates of joblessness within 6 months of release.” In comparison, SHIELD Ministries student **jobless rate was 2.4%**, however, this rate was between students first 69-92 days versus the national average of 6 months. SHIELD Ministries students **earn 54% more** than the average of formerly incarcerated people as reported by Prisonpolicy.org.

SHIELD Ministries assists men in their reentry process by connecting them with temporary employment agencies within the first few days of their release. This temporary work experience allows the men to reacclimate to the workforce while simultaneously participating in our Cognitive Learning and Work/Career Readiness classes. The process and classes prepares students for the transition to full-time and, ultimately, full-time permanent employment. Our primary objective is to equip these men with the skills and opportunities necessary to secure gainful employment.

Average Student Earnings

- \$9.90 - \$25.00 per hour, full-time
- \$11.25 - \$15.00 per hour, part time
- \$943 - \$1,640 per month, retired
- \$840 - \$953 per month, SSI

71.4% of our program participants have achieved full-time employment, and an additional **9.5%** have secured part-time positions.



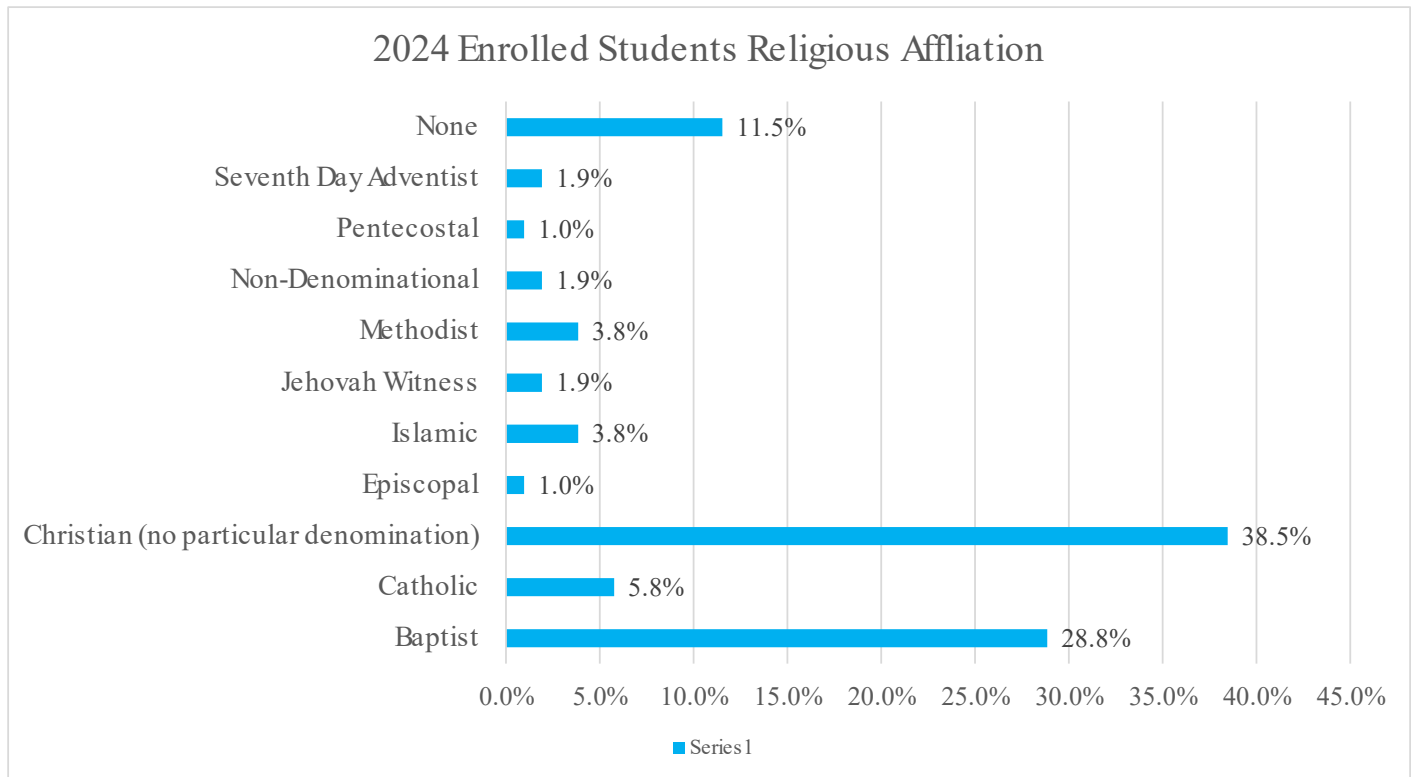
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

SHIELD Ministries was founded through a calling of God as a result of a redemptive work of Christ Jesus in the life of David Truluck, Executive Director. In 2002, God used Chaplain David Golden, who provided spiritual counseling, as he led David Truluck through *Healing for Damaged Emotions and Healing of Memories*. God also used Dr. William Burke, Assistant Director of Forensic Psychiatry of MUSC, Assistant Professor, College of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and private practitioner, to provide specialized counseling and treatment in conjunction with Chaplain Golden’s mentorship and spiritual counseling. In addition, God used a small prayer team in a mighty way to not only facilitate David’s inner healing but to birth SHIELD Ministries.

A major common factor that was realized in David Truluck’s healing process in both the spiritual and physiological areas, was cognitive behavioral therapy/learning which was evidence-based and at the time considered **“the gold-standard psychological treatment.”**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5797481/>

SHIELD Ministries’ offers optional worship services to our men each Sunday at 8:15 AM along with required bi-weekly convocation on Wednesdays. We serve men with all types of religious backgrounds, however our classes are based on Christian Faith-based principles and are scientifically evidenced-based.



PRISON INTERVENTION (PI)



2024 PI Enrollment

28 of the 33 served were court ordered into the program



2023 PI Enrollment

10 of the 28 served were court ordered into the program

7 Students graduated and completed their court order into the SHIELD Program.

PRISON PRE-RELEASE

MIT (Men in Transition)

311 Enrolled

South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) Students

207 Enrollment

164 Graduates with 28 expected to graduate in 2025

25 Student Leaders

- Allendale Correctional Institution
- Lieber Correctional Institution
- MacDougall Correctional Institution

The MIT Course offered in prison is a character-based class focusing on developing the soft skills that employers value in their employees which include Self-Control, Thoroughness, Dependability, Loyalty, Enthusiasm, Punctuality, Determination, Responsibility, Sensitivity, Endurance, Truthfulness and Wisdom. The course also focuses on opportunities to exemplify these traits while students are incarcerated.

The challenge of prison adult education is to create an atmosphere of respect, a desire to learn and grow, and open communication while ensuring safety. (Simmons & Branch, 2015) from the Virginia Department of Corrections share that “One of the most notable challenges among our colleagues is engaging with learners who lack trust and therefore, are opposed to the traditional, authoritative style of teaching.”

The SHIELD Ministries Volunteer Team plays a crucial role in establishing trusting relationships with our incarcerated students. These relationships are essential for effective learning and utilizing diverse teaching methods. By fostering trust, we can help alleviate stress and anxiety as students transition from prison back into the community.

2024 Program Performance

Post-Release Re-entry

Education Housing Program



2024 Applicants

58 of the 262 applicants were admitted in a prior year.



2023 Applicants

46 of the 246 applicants were admitted in a prior



2024 Accepted

20 pending enrollments upon release for 2025



2023 Accepted

15 pending enrollments upon release for 2024



2024 Enrollment

58 of the 104 were enrolled in a prior year



2023 Enrollment

46 of the 101 were enrolled in a prior year

11 Student Diplomas Earned

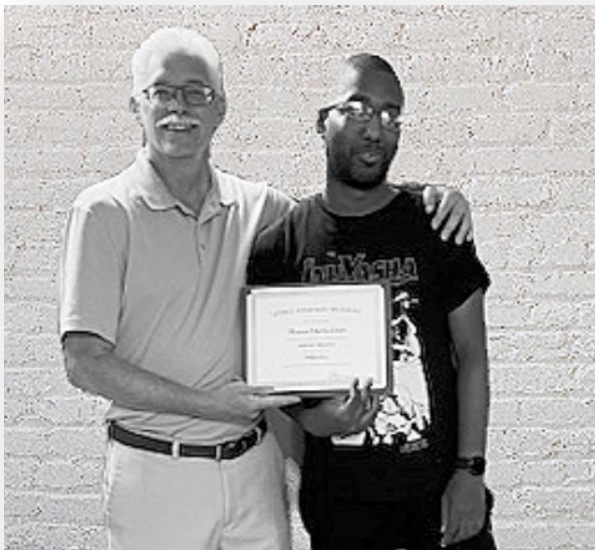
Students who receive a SHIELD Ministries Program diploma spend on average between 700 and 900+ in learning hours. Depending on enrollment dates it could take between 12 and 24 months to earn a diploma.



Anthony is a graduate of both our **Pre-release and Post-release programs**. Anthony, an MIT graduate entering from MacDougall Correctional Institution, joined our post-release program in 2023. Anthony's re-entry has presented extra challenges which were due to a surgery that temporarily affected his employment and has redirected his career goals.

SHIELD Ministries often provides services beyond re-entry education so students can exit into society with stability to help aid with long-term success.

Post-Release Graduates



Marcus is a 2024 Post-release graduate. Marcus has done exceptionally well as one of our **Prison Intervention students**. Marcus was referred by SC Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services and entered our program in late 2022.

Students like Marcus who are in our Prison Intervention program and are often required to stay beyond their graduation continue to participate in convocation and career development programs. Marcus is expected to successfully exit the program in late 2025.



Matthew is a 2024 Post-release graduate. Matthew has done exceptionally well as one of our **Prison Intervention students**. Matthew was referred by his attorney and he entered the program in December 2022.

Matthew is gainfully employed full-time and has maintained his recovery and is on track to successfully complete his probation requirements.

We are incredibly proud of Elijah and his accomplishments. We wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Congratulations to our other 2024 Program Graduates: Arthur, Dominic, Charles, Kevin, Timothy D., Charles, and Timothy!

Depending on the timing of a student's admittance, it can take anywhere from 12 to 24 months to complete all the coursework required to receive the SHIELD diploma.



RECIDIVISM RATES

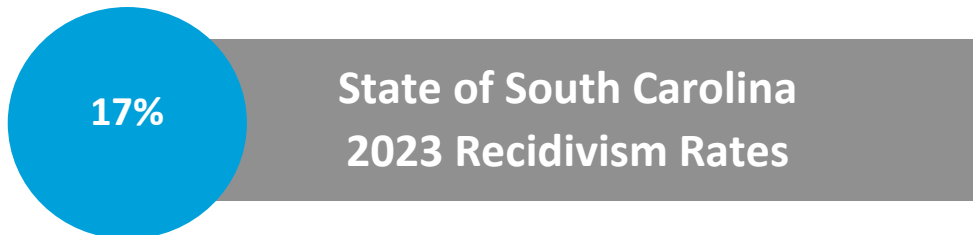


Recidivism rate measurements can vary across different agencies. Common measurement indicators include rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration, and technical violations within a 3-year period. SHIELD Ministries calculates recidivism based on re-arrests which include technical violations and rearrest within 3 years of release. Using an independent company, SHIELD Ministries annually runs background checks on graduates and students who have successfully completed a minimum of 3 courses. Re-arrests may not necessarily result in re-convictions, and return to prison.

The Harvard University Institute of Politics Criminal Justice Policy Group reported "research showed that several dynamic risk factors – namely health, employment, housing, skill development, mentorship, social networks, and organization type – significantly affect the success of reentry. Thus, community-based organizations aiming to facilitate successful reentry and reduce recidivism rates should place special emphasis on addressing these risk factors." https://iop.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/sources/program/IOP_Policy_Program_2019_Reentry_Policy.pdf

Recidivism Within 3 years of Release

Graduate/Student Population	Recidivism Rate
Program Graduates (Total)	0.71%
Program Graduates (Non-violent/technical violations)	0.24%
Students w/3 course completions	5.65%
Students w/3 course completions (Non-violent/technical violations)	4.94%



Amanda Hernández reports that in 2023 "South Carolina reported one of the lowest recidivism rates in the country at **17%**. The South Carolina Department of Corrections defines recidivism as someone who is **re-incarcerated** within three years of release."

<https://www.corrections1.com/re-entry-and-recidivism/lower-recidivism-rates-reported-in-several-states-in-2023#:~:text=South%20Carolina%2C%20too%2C%20boasts%20one,within%20three%20years%20of%20release.>

In a press release in 2020, Chrysti Shain reported:

Recidivism rates are measured after inmates have had time to rebuild their life after release. If they remain out of prison for three years, they are considered a success. This rate includes former inmates who return to prison on crimes committed before they were incarcerated. South Carolina also measures recidivism without including these offenders, because their crimes were committed before they attended programming aimed at helping them succeed in society.

<https://sdcindustries.sc.gov/sites/sdcindustries/files/Documents/Recidivism%20Press%20Release%20-%20Chrysti%20Shain%20Sept%202020.pdf>



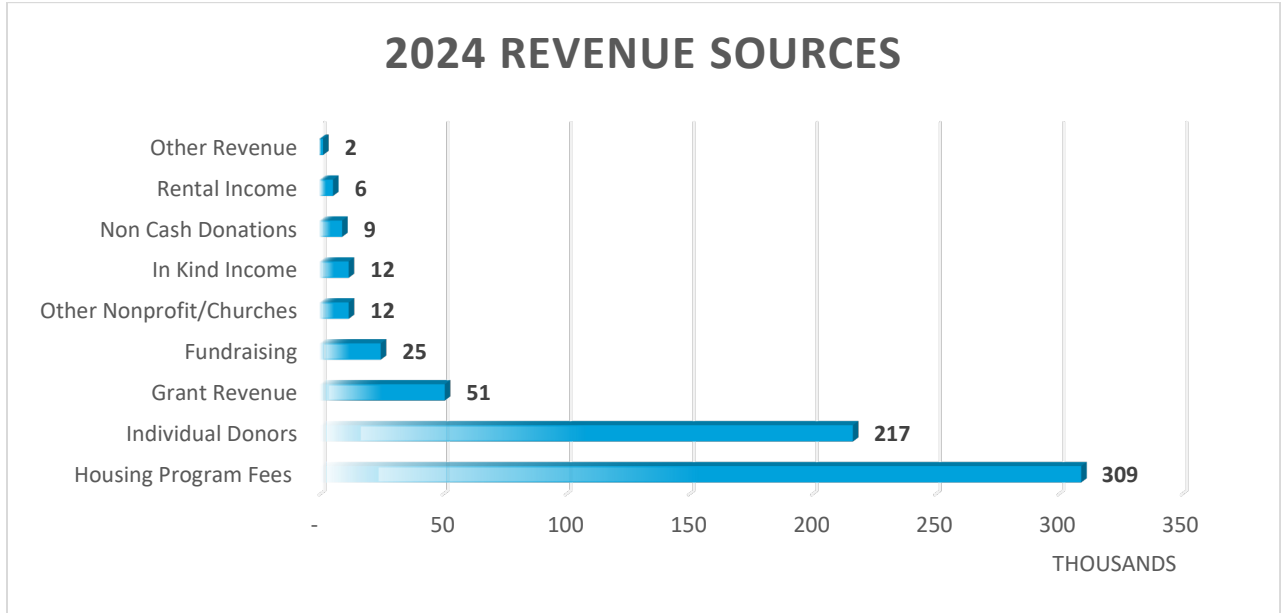
APPLICATION REFERRALS

SHIELD Ministries works closely with various law enforcement and government agencies, other nonprofit organizations and other community public and private service organizations to deliver individualized and comprehensive prison re-entry services. In 2024, **55.3%** of SHIELD Ministries applicants* were referred from law enforcement agencies; **23.7%** from public service agencies; and **21.0%** from the community.

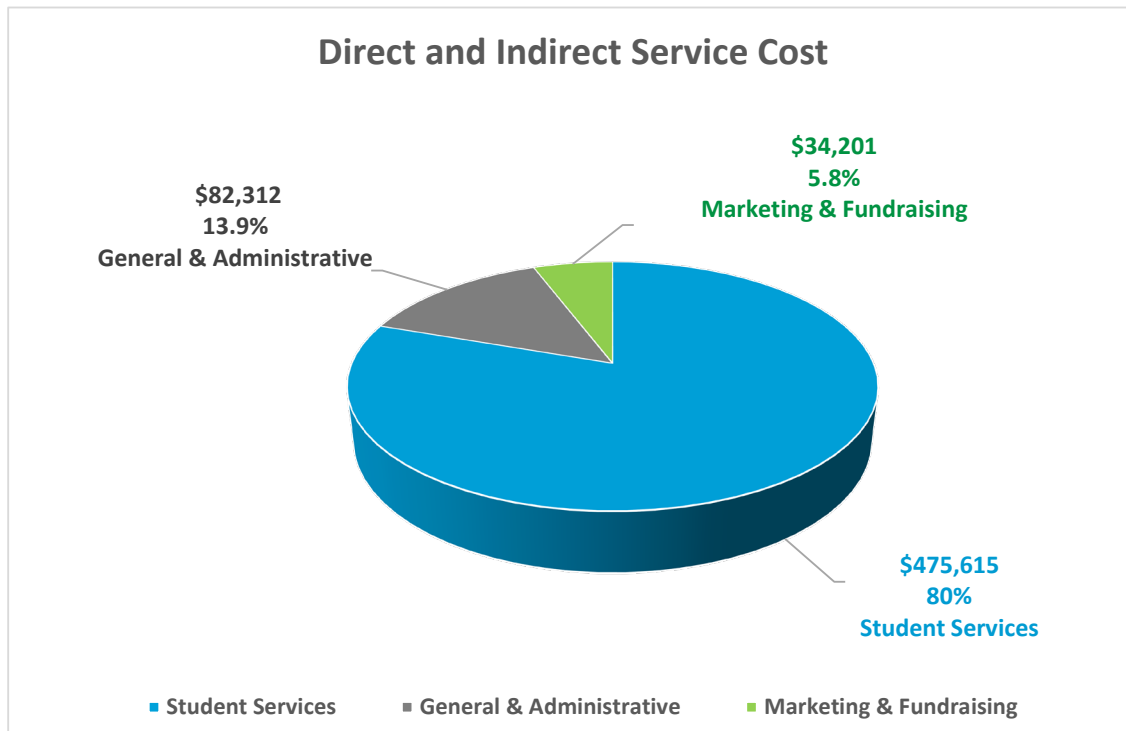
Many government and public service agencies assist their clients in searching for and applying for a program which includes housing. For these agencies and organizations, being able to refer their inmates and clients, who are often at times hard to place, is one indeterminable benefit which SHIELD Ministries provides.

Referral Sources	FY24 Applications	%	FY23 Applications	%
Detention Center/Jail - Sherriff's Office	19	7.3%	25	9.8%
Federal Probation	3	1.1%	4	1.6%
SC Department of Corrections	104	39.7%	112	44.1%
SC Prisoner Health Care Program	2	0.8%	8	3.1%
SC Probation, Parole and Pardon Services	15	5.7%	16	6.3%
NC Probation	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
US Navy	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
SUBTOTAL Law Enforcement	145	55.3%	167	65.7%
Public Defenders	44	16.8%	34	13.4%
Government Agency	2	0.8%	3	1.2%
Nonprofit	16	6.1%	14	5.5%
SUBTOTAL Public Service Agencies	62	23.7%	51	20.1%
SO Counselor	3	1.1%	2	0.8%
Website	5	1.9%	20	7.9%
Word of Mouth	11	4.2%	2	0.8%
Attorney	4	1.5%	3	1.2%
Hospitals	27	10.3%	9	3.5%
Family	4	1.5%	0	0.0%
SHIELD Affiliation	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
SUBTOTAL Community	55	21.0%	36	14.2%
TOTAL APPLICANTS FY2024	262	100.0%	254	100.0%

REVENUE



EXPENSES





ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT

Programs like SHIELD help alleviate the public’s burden of cost of incarceration. A 2017 report from the United States Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics outlined what the expenditure costs which taxpayers fund through our government:

“In 2017, county and municipal governments spent nearly \$100 billion on police protection and nearly \$30 billion on corrections.

Real (inflation-adjusted) justice system expenditures increased 62% from \$188 billion in 1997 to \$305 billion in 2017.

State governments made nearly \$50 billion in direct expenditures for corrections activities, 88% of which were for correctional institutions.

Numbers of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in state and local justice systems grew 16% from 1997 to 2007, then fell 1% from 2007 to 2017.” <https://bis.oip.gov/library/publications/justice-expenditures-and-employment-united-states-2017>

It is estimated that the rate of inflation between 2017 and today has increased by 22.02%. Therefore the estimate of current cost to state governments in the United States for today using this rate is **over 36.6 billion dollars**. <https://www.inflationtool.com/us-dollar/2017-to-present-value?amount=30000000000000&year2=2023&frequency=yearly>

\$4.3+ Million Estimated Positive Economic Impact

1,052.3% (ROI) Return on Public Donation Investment

Each year SHIELD Ministries estimates the economic impact along with a return on investment for public donations which our program contributes back to our local community and our state. The economic contribution of SHIELD Ministries far outweighs the public’s donation support of the program.



Educating Men for a Hope-filled Future! 2024 ESTIMATED COMMUNITY ECONOMIC IMPACT

As of September 17, 2024, the SC Department of Corrections reported average annual per Inmate cost* with a daily rate of \$110.46 per prisoner.	
Shield Ministries Estimated Annual Prison Savings for FY2024 (SC Daily Prison Per Man Cost \$110.46 x (14,042 - 1,139) (-SC PPP paid) = student total days in program.)	1,522,604
Estimated income based on student’s total days of being enrolled in the SM Program in 2024 and collected employment/salary data.**	1,026,162
Estimated income for 2024 students who were employed and successfully exited the Program during FY2024. Estimated with pay at time of exit.	1,219,918
SUBTOTAL	3,768,684
ROI (Return on Investment calculation based on Public Support Donations \$327,047; Excludes student program fees.	1052.3%
Estimated Shield Ministries Program Expenditures	592,128
TOTAL 2024 ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT \$ 4,360,812	

*Calculation of the SCDC per inmate costs is based on the average number of inmates in SCDC facilities and a small number of authorized absences and does not include state inmates held in designated facilities, institutional diversionary programs, or other nonSCDC locations. https://www.doc.sc.gov/sites/doc/files/Documents/research/BudgetAndExpenditures/Per_Inmate_Cost_1988-2024.pdf

**This number consists of program days, number of days, enrolled in the program