



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 with addressing all barriers of prison re-entry. This includes providing individualized and comprehensive services to meet students' identified needs by the leading offender model, using the Risk Needs Responsivity (RNR) assessment. A very important and continued focus has been strengthening community relationships to help provide wraparound 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, 11 Program Diplomas and 282 Course Certificates awarded, and 9 men were baptized. The South Carolina Department of Corrections approved our Cognitive Learning 100 and Work Ready 100 curriculum, written by Melodie Truluck. The SHIELD Ministries estimated economic impact for 2024 was over 4.3 million dollars with an estimated 1,052% rate of investment on public donations. 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.

I would like to close by expressing my deepest appreciation for our staff and volunteers' tireless work in giving our students hope. Because of you, Hope is Alive in 2025! The front cover, featuring our MIT volunteers Lee and Jo Cox with Brain, an MIT pre-release and SHIELD Ministries post graduate exemplifies our volunteer's dedication and the results of shared hope.

Warmest Regards,



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



Table of Contents

MISSION 4

STUDENT SERVICES..... 4

CRISIS STABLIZATION SERVICES 5

 RISK NEEDS RESPONSIVITY (RNR) 6

 SC PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES 8

 VETERANS 9

 TRANSPORTATION 9

COGNITIVE LEARNING AND WORK/CAREER READY SERVICES 11

 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 11

 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT 12

 STUDENT EARNINGS 12

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT 13

2024 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE..... 14

 PRISON INTERVENTION (PI) 14

 PRISON PRE-RELEASE 14

 PROGAM GRADUATES 15

 RECIDIVISM RATES 18

 REVENUE 20

 ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT 21

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.

STUDENT SERVICES

- Risk Needs Responsivity
- Housing
- Food
- Clothing
- Hygiene & Bedding Products
- Access to Health Care
- Probation Requirements
- Transportation
- Mentoring (His Way Ministry)

Crisis Stabilization



- Cognitive Learning Courses
- Work/Career Ready Courses
- Financial Management Courses
- Life Recovery Support
- Community Partners
 - TABE Testing
 - GED

Cognitive Learning



- Identification
- Work Shoes and Clothing
- Temp/Employment Referrals
- Community Partners
 - Career Assessments
 - Career Specific Classes
 - CDL, Construction, Manufacturing, Food Service

Work/Career Ready



- Convocation
- Worship Service
- Spiritual Counseling
- Bible Studies
- Prayer
- Bibles
- Baptism

Spiritual Development



- Pre-Release Program
- Men in Transition (MIT) Program
- Work Ready Character Course
 - MacDougall Correctional
 - Lieber Correctional
 - Allendale Correctional

Re-Entry Preparation



- Lowcountry Food Bank
- Palmetto Goodwill Work Ready Grant
- Parks Insurance
- Priemer Medical
- SC Dept of Social Services
- SC Dept of Mental Health
- SC PPP (30 day program fee assist.)
- Trident Literacy
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Dr. William Burke

Community Resources



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.”

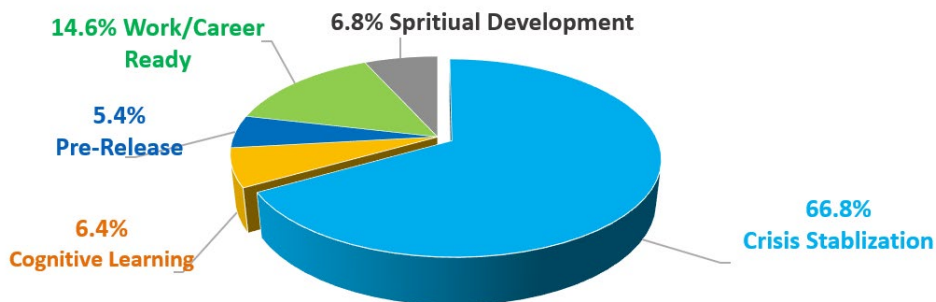
<https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/probation-and-pretrial-services/evidence-based-practices>

SHIELD Ministries strives to provide services and referrals to address ALL barriers of prison re-entry which is crucial to help justice involved people achieve long-lasting success which decreases recidivism. SHIELD Ministries has developed a menu of services designed to provide individualized and comprehensive services which are evidence-based practices.

SHIELD Ministries categorizes student direct services in the primary areas of Crisis Stabilization, Cognitive Learning, Work/Career Ready, and Spiritual Development and Prison Re-entry preparation.

80.3% of 2024 expenses were for student direct services.

2024 STUDENT DIRECT SERVICES



CRISIS STABLIZATION SERVICES

“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>

SHIELD Ministries uses Munissions Re-entry Software which includes student assessments for Risk Needs Responsivity which identify criminological needs. *“This comprehensive software solution streamlines intake, tracking, reporting, and analysis so you can easily understand and improve intervention efforts.”*

<https://www.munission.co/reentry>

SHIELD Ministries is committed to providing students with comprehensive and individualized services. We achieve this through a combination of direct services and referrals to other community care providers. This approach has two primary benefits by preventing duplication of services, ensuring efficient use of resources and by allowing our students to receive specialized care from experts in their respective fields. Munissions Re-entry software is used to facilitate this process.

Munissions not only helps improve student outcomes but also streamlines our operations and enables us to quickly identify and implement necessary intervention measures.

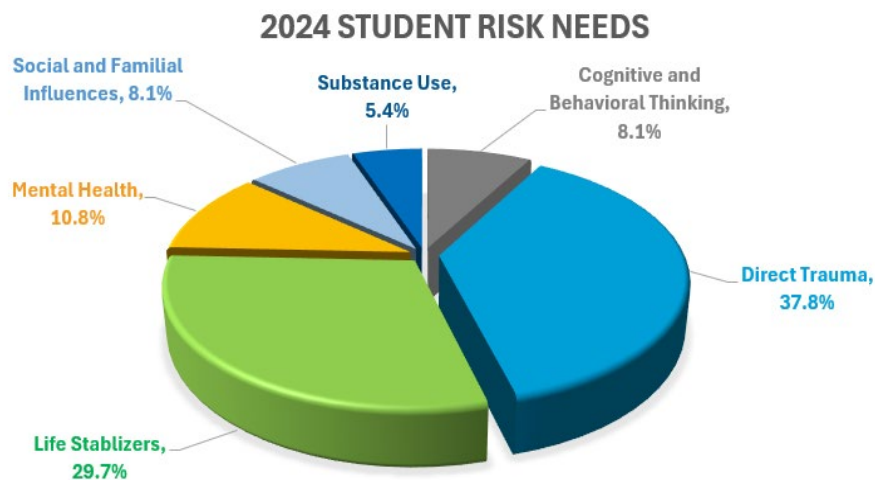
RISK NEEDS RESPONSIVITY (RNR)

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.

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/>



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.

6.8% Antisocial/Criminal Thinking Interventions

The fourth rated need reported from student assessments identified behaviors associated with 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

The fifth rated need reported from student assessments identified 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.

*Dr. Caroline Leaf, states "true transformation requires mind-management strategies to rewire neural pathways. Directing the way your brain changes (neuroplasticity) transforms energy patterns in the brain, changes blood measures, and eventually establishes a new and healthy level of balance in the brain and body. You, like the study subjects, can use the Neurocycle to methodically use your mind to take advantage of neuroplasticity to rework your neural circuitry, managing and improving a variety of mental and physical states, even if you have very dysfunctional brain networks and physiology from toxic thoughts and trauma." Leaf, Dr. Caroline. *Cleaning Up Your Mental Mess* (pp. 129-130). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.*

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 of nine 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 Community of Hope Program. Program fees only cover on average **65%** of direct program costs (does not include general and administrative 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.

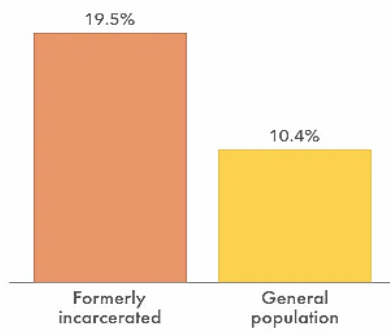
519 trips provided through Bus Passes.

46 Welcome Packages

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

FOOD PANTRY

Formerly incarcerated people are twice as likely to experience food insecurity

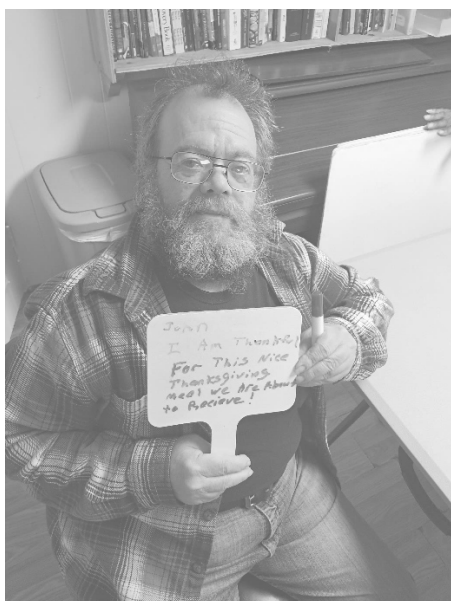


“Food insecurity is an often-overlooked consequence of incarceration, and it can’t be separated from the more well-known problems of homelessness and unemployment. While the estimates vary somewhat, researchers consistently find that food insecurity is more common among formerly incarcerated people.”

<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.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mind and Emotion Management • Neuroplasticity • Growth Mindsets • Identify toxic thought patterns, emotions, & reactions • Deconstruct toxic thought patterns and construct healthy ones • Use Mind Mapping, Dr. Leaf's Metacog™ thought processing and learning tools <p>Cognitive Learning 100</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUILDING BLOCKS of LIFE • Building a Foundation • Purpose • Values • Attitude • Passions/Goals • Accomplishments • Importance of Planning • How to achieve Your Goals • Importance of Identity and Attitude <p>Cognitive Learning 101</p> 	<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>Work/Career Ready 101</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing for Damaged Emotions • 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 <p>Cognitive Learning 102</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeeming the Past/Healing of Memories • How the Past Affects Behaviors • Role of Forgiveness in Healing • Explore The Power of Prayer • Ruminating Verses Recalling to Heal • Freedom in Healing <p>Cognitive Learning 103</p> 	<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>Financial Management</p> 

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

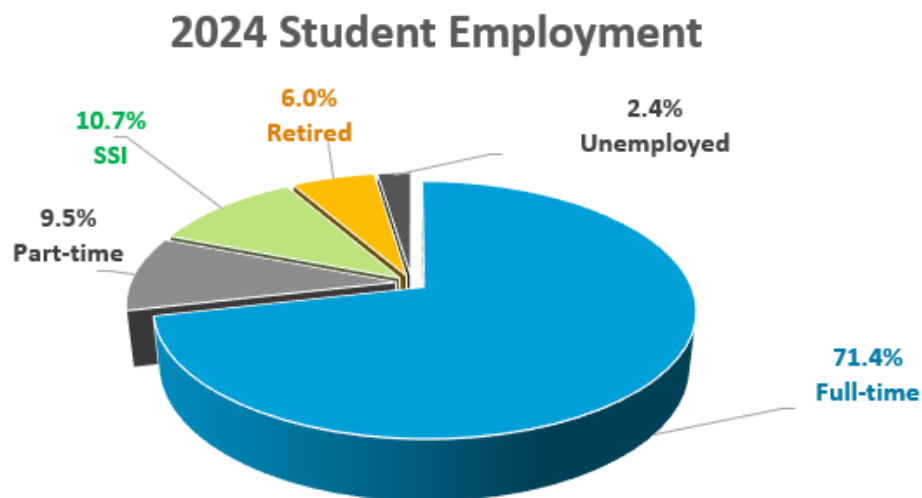
Prisonpolicy.org reports, "62% of formerly incarcerated people face alarming rates of joblessness within 6 months of release." In comparison, SHIELD Ministries student jobless rate was 2.4%, however, this rate was between students first 69-92 days versus the national average of 6 months. SHIELD Ministries 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.

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

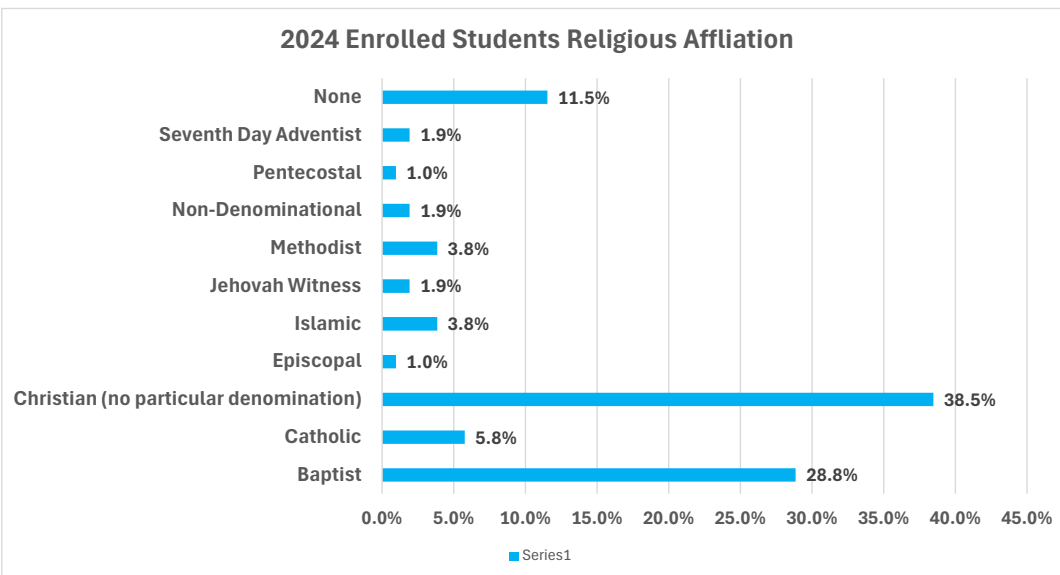
71.4% of our program participants have achieved full-time employment, and an additional **9.5%** have secured part-time positions.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

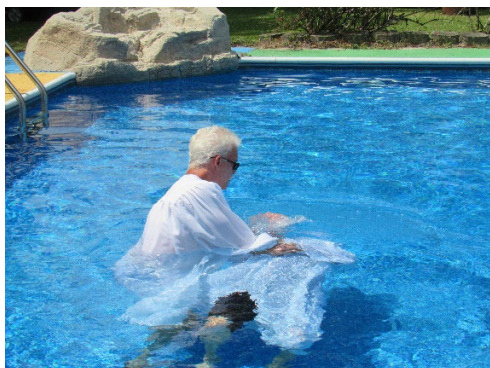
SHIELD Ministries was founded through a calling of God as a result of a redemptive work of Christ Jesus in the life of David Truluck, Executive Director. In 2002, God used Rev. Louis Venable and Chaplain David Golden who provided spiritual counseling. Chaplain Golden led David Truluck through *Healing 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. God also 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 will all types of religious backgrounds, however our classes are based on Christian Faith-based principles and are scientifically evidenced-based.

9 MEN BAPTIZED



Nine men were baptized in 2024. Pictured above from left to right with Rev. Truluck, Charles, Timothy, Anthony, Kevin being baptized and yet keeping his ankle monitor dry, and Brian.

2024 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

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.

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 year.



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



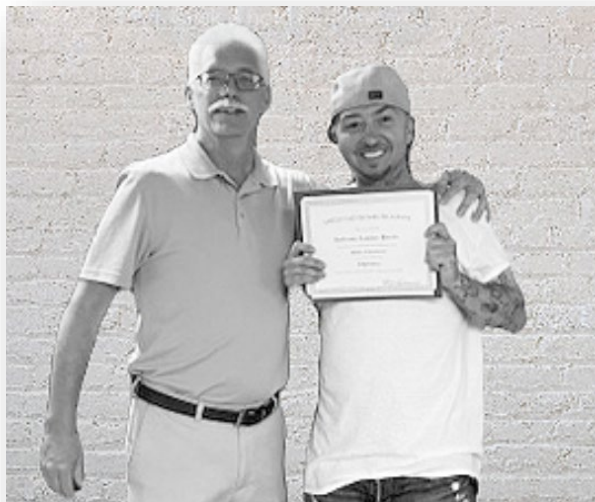
2023 Enrollment

46 of the 101 were enrolled in a prior year

PROGRAM GRADUATES

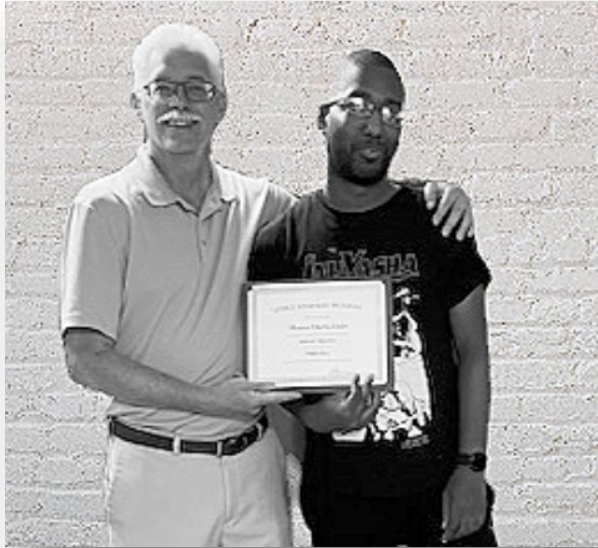
11 Diplomas Earned

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 18 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.



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.



Elijah is a graduate of both our **Pre-release and Post-release programs**. Elijah exemplifies the positive outcomes we strive for. Elijah, an MIT graduate entering from MacDougall Correctional Institution, joined our post-release program in 2023

During his one year stay Elijah also worked full-time earning more than a livable wage which enabled him to secure his own housing in January 2024.

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

Congratulations to 2024 Program Graduates Not Pictured: Arthur, Dominic, Charles, Kevin, Timothy D., Charles, and Timothy!

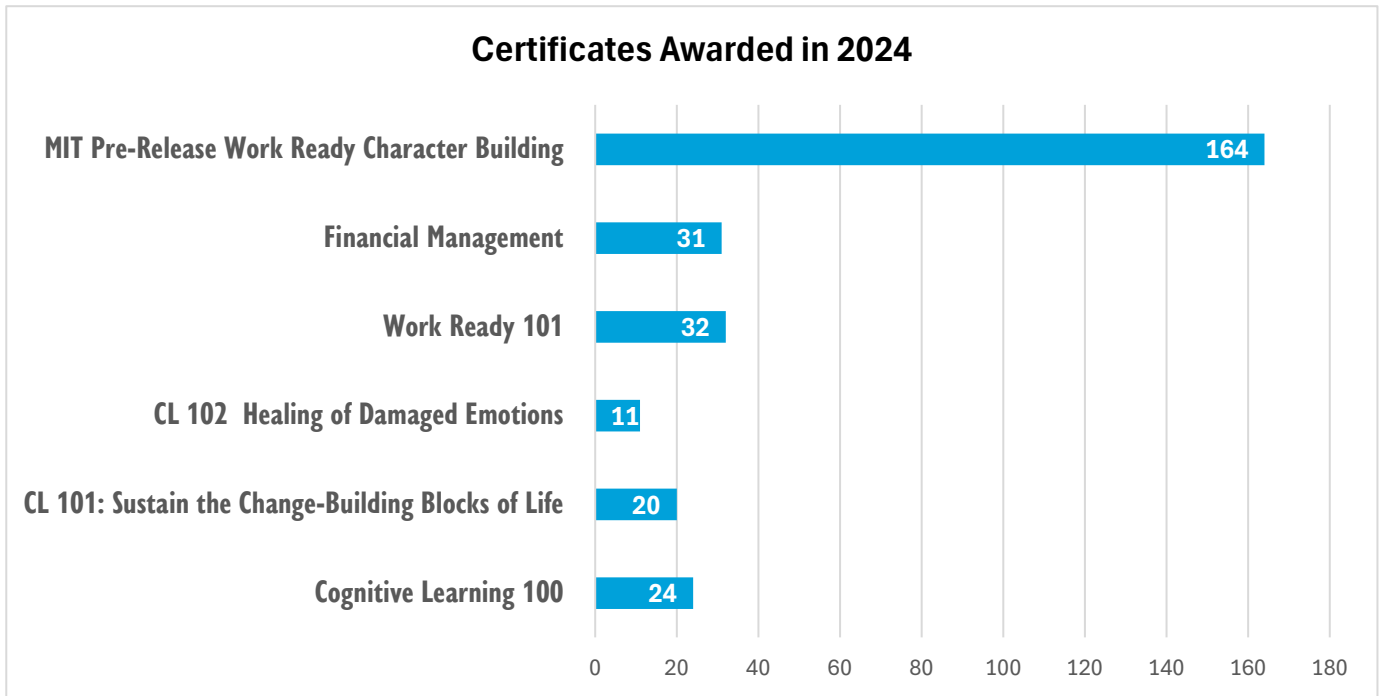
Depending on the timing of a student's admittance, it can take anywhere from 12 to 24 months to complete all the coursework required to receive the SHIELD diploma.



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.

282 Certificates Awarded in 2024



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 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. These re-arrests **may not necessarily result in a return to prison**, which is the 3-year measurement used by SC Department of Corrections to define recidivism. Using an independent company, SHIELD Ministries annually runs background checks on graduates and students who have successfully completed a minimum of 3 courses.

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%



In the 2024 Annual Accountability Report, the South Carolina Department of Corrections reported a 19% Recidivism rate. The South Carolina Department of Corrections defines recidivism as:

“Inmates who **return to SCDC custody within three years** after the release date for a new crime or as a result of a revocation for technical violations of their conditions of their supervision.”

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2024/N040.pdf>

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



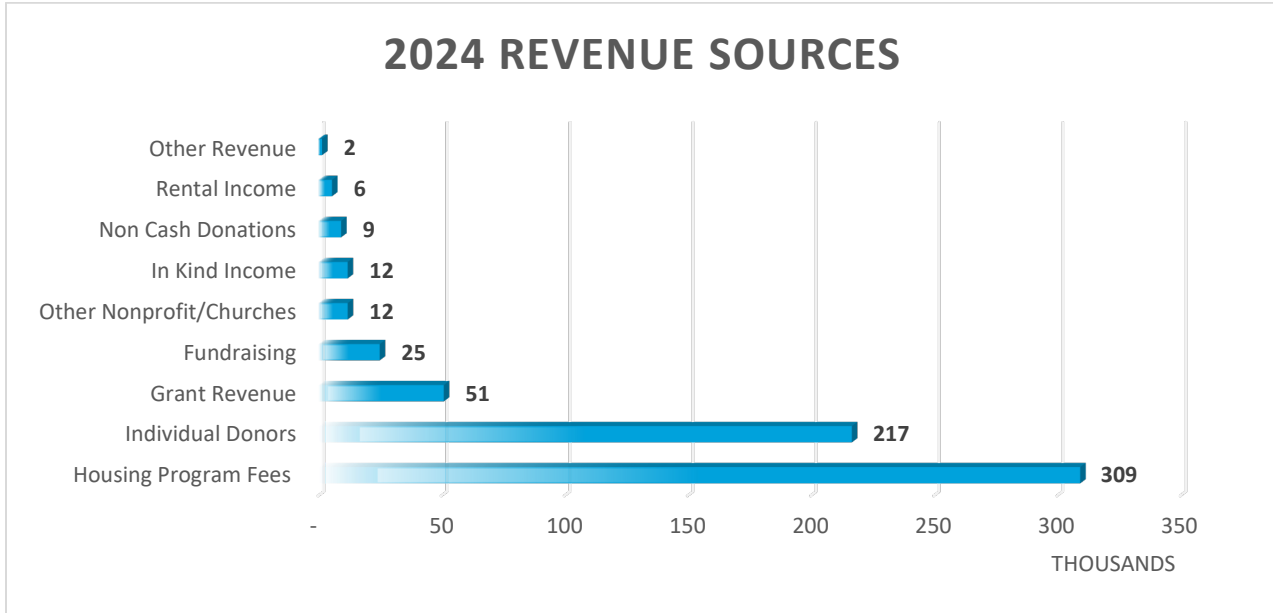
APPLICATION REFERRALS

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.

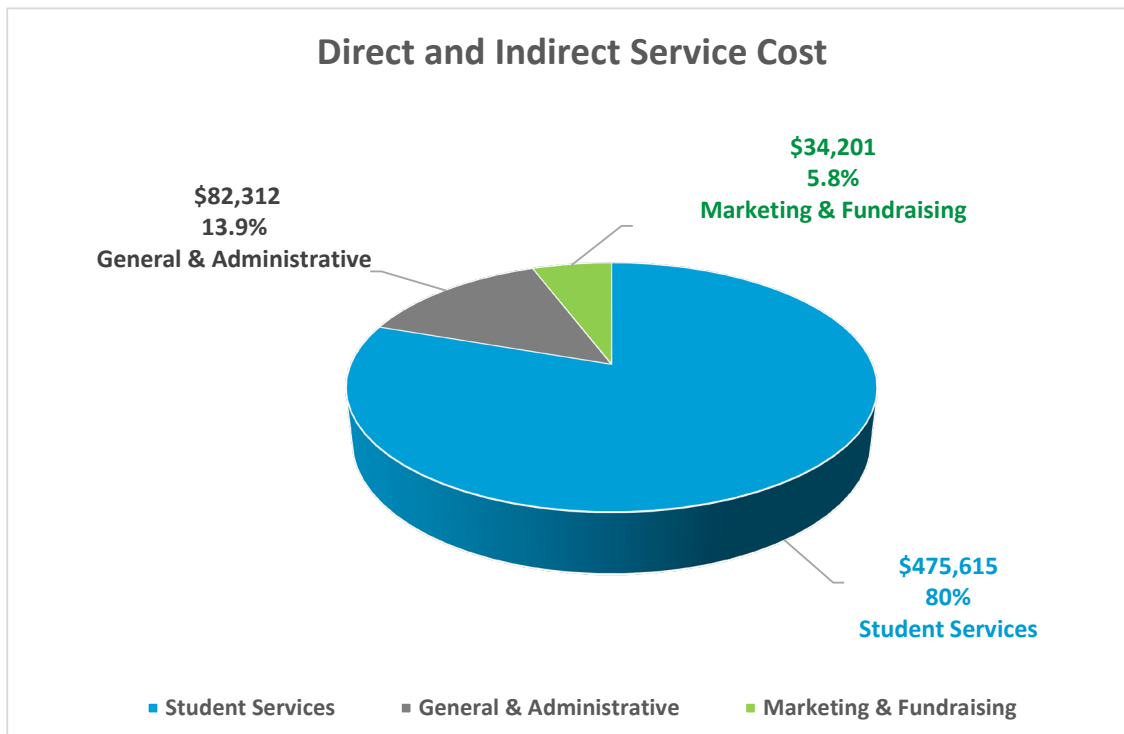
Many government and public service agencies assist their clients in searching for and applying for a program which includes housing. For these agencies and organizations, being able to refer their inmates and clients, who are often at times hard to place, is one indeterminable benefit which SHIELD Ministries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

The United States’ prison population is currently the second highest globally, falling closely behind China at just over 1.5 million individuals incarcerated. This means the United States accounts for approximately 25% of the world’s prison population, despite accounting for just 5% of the world’s population overall. Furthermore, the average cost of incarceration in the United States of America sits at approximately \$80 billion per year for the taxpayer.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections reported in 2024 that the total annual cost per inmate was \$40,429 and total inmates incarcerated was approximately 16,400.

\$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. Estimated Shield Ministries Program Expenditures	1052.3% 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