



**Thrive
For Life**

*transforming lives
behind & beyond
prison walls*

**Case for
Support**

Milwaukee Expansion



Vision

A comprehensive continuity of care for our returning brothers and sisters continuing their education to ensure their permanent and successful reentry into free society.

Transforming Lives Behind and Beyond Prison Walls: Thrive For Life Expands to Milwaukee



Cardinal Dolan confers with Father Zach during a visit to Riker's Island.



Background

Thrive For Life's mission is to transform lives both behind and beyond prison walls. Since 2016 in New York City, we have provided a comprehensive continuity of care to our brothers reentering from prison as they continue the good work of college education that they began while incarcerated. Behind the prison walls, we facilitate retreats rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Through these retreats, we offer classical and meditative resources for an examined life.

Beyond the walls, we have houses of studies for those continuing the good work of education that they began while locked up. In 2019, we opened the nation's first house of studies for formerly incarcerated students who are continuing their degrees at one of our partner universities throughout the New York metropolitan area. These partners include New York University, Columbia University, St. Francis College, St. John's University, and others.

Since opening, not a single resident scholar has recidivated. In 2023, at the direction of His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Thrive For Life acquired Abraham House, Inc.. Abraham House has served justice-impacted members of the South Bronx community since 1993, operating a house for reentering citizens committed to transforming their lives post-release through education and employment.





Expansion to Milwaukee

Thrive For Life is expanding its successful continuity of care model to Milwaukee. We have acquired a former convent located in the Halyard Park neighborhood of Milwaukee to launch a House of Studies where up to 12 formerly incarcerated students can live while continuing their education at local universities.

At the Milwaukee House of Studies, resident scholars will have access to comprehensive support including case management, academic & professional mentorship, spiritual direction, vocational training, community service, and help transitioning to permanent housing and employment. ‘

Our goal is to build strong bonds of community where our resident scholars can permanently and successfully reenter society.

With a projected budget of \$1 million for acquisition, renovations, operations, and services, the Milwaukee House of Studies will change lives, strengthen neighborhoods, and demonstrate the power of education. But we cannot do this alone. We humbly seek your support in helping us transform lives.



Continuity of Care Model

Thrive For Life's continuity of care model starts behind prison walls. Our trained mentors lead retreats to help incarcerated individuals reflect on their lives, cultivate purpose, and consider educational opportunities aligned with personal goals. Many apply for our transitional housing program prior to release.

■ Identification & Referral of potential participants

- Accompaniment of justice involved persons in or out of prison/jail by TFL and/or partners

■ Screening, Interview, Admittance

- Commitment setting & admittance of candidates to transform lives

Empowerment & personal development planning



■ House of Studies

Milwaukee

Initial Residency

- Therapy & wellness support
- Food pantry community service
- Education & trade school prep
- Spiritual support & guidance

Transitional Residency

- Community of scholars
- Education & career mentoring
- Continued spiritual support
- Community service participation

Impact

Since 2016 in New York City, Thrive For Life has served over 3000 incarcerated individuals throughout the state, federal, and local correctional systems through our retreats behind the walls. We currently host up to 35 residents across two transitional housing sites in New York City. 100% of our resident scholars have avoided recidivism and 100% are on track to complete their chosen course of study in both university and vocational trade school programs. Many now live in their own homes and work in fields including social services, community outreach, marketing, and technology.



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- Gainful employment
- Permanent housing
- Alumni Membership



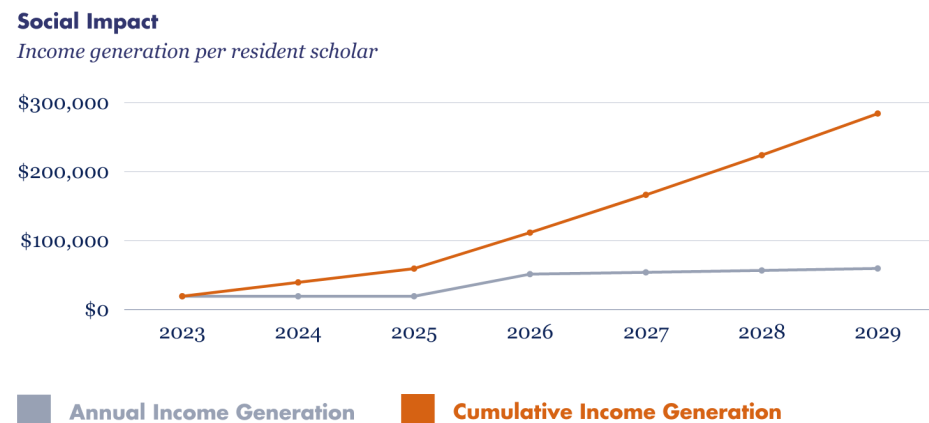
For example, Italo S. served 10 years in prison before joining our community at Ignacio House. He is now a full-time Thrive For Life staff member pursuing a degree in social work. Mychal P., another resident scholar, is completing his B.A. at NYU and has earned a digital media fellowship which he intends to use in his career focusing on creative content generation and marketing. Both are inspiring peers while giving back to their communities.

Together with education institutions, employers, and housing providers, we ensure formerly incarcerated students can complete their degrees, pursue gainful careers, and achieve lasting success.

In Milwaukee, we aim to replicate our model of success and house up to 12 students annually. Over three years, we can help up to 36 returning citizens build careers and permanently rejoin society. With each life transformed, our entire region grows stronger.



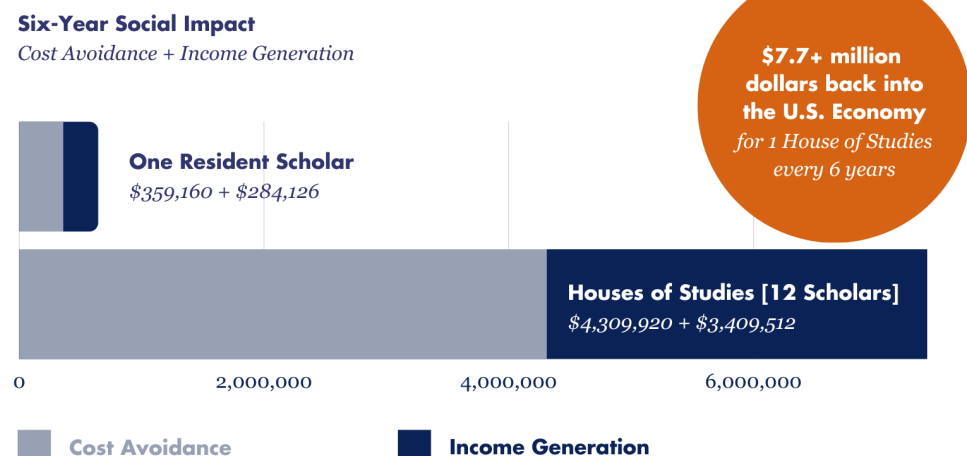
Equipped with the powerful tools of education, resident scholars stand to generate substantially greater earnings in gainful employment roles. This has both individual and cumulative impacts on wealth creation and spending power that put dollars back into the local economy across a wide array of sectors.



Assumes initial part-time employment and then transition to full employment in 2025-2026 + YoY 5% salary increase per annum

Based on average Milwaukee PT/FT salary ranges

Combining both cost avoidance and long term income generates, Thrive For Life has a deep social impact that translates into substantial savings to taxpayers and wealth generation.



Why Education?

Education is a proven tool that substantially affects one's likelihood of returning to prison. While 70% of released individuals return to prison within three years in the United States, that number falls to 14% for those who earn an associate's degree, to 5% for those who earn a bachelor's degree, and to 0% for those who earn a graduate degree.

Keys to Success

- 1. Starting early behind bars:** By forging connections behind the walls, we observe individuals' commitment firsthand. We only admit residents who demonstrate personal growth potential and who are committed to continuing the good work of education.
- 2. Education:** Through our university partners, resident scholars have access to scholarships and support to help them balance school, work, and re-entry needs. Education is proven to reduce recidivism, virtually ensuring that they become productive and capable members of society.
- 3. Tailored Supportive Services:** Our ongoing services bridge the gap from incarceration to independent living. We meet each person at their specific stage in their journey and accompany them on the road to permanent and successful reentry.
- 4. Community partnerships:** We collaborate with employers, universities, faith congregations, housing providers, and others to expand opportunities. This network support is essential.
- 5. Uplifting voices:** Formerly incarcerated individuals hold staff and leadership roles. Their insights guide our work and are critical to forging strong bonds of community.
- 6. Holistic development:** We address academic, vocational, wellness, social, and spiritual needs for complete personal transformation.

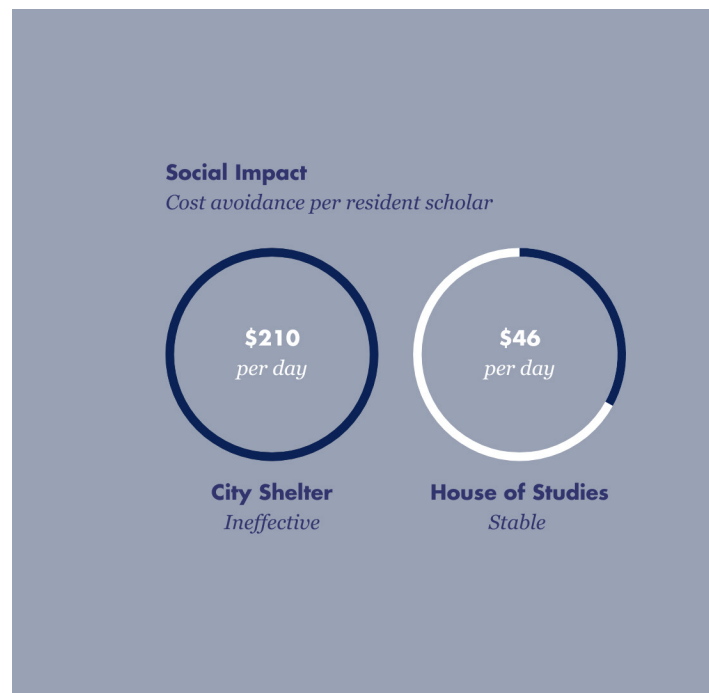
With your support, our student residents will discover their potential and embrace lives of meaning and purpose. Please join us in bringing Thrive For Life's transformative model to Milwaukee.



Financial Impact

By providing a comprehensive continuity of care to returning individuals committed to continuing their education, we have virtually ensured their permanent and successful reentry into society, while achieving exponential cost savings to the American taxpayer.

Specific to the greater Milwaukee metropolitan area, the cost avoidance generated by diverting returning individuals from the shelter system—which provides comparatively fewer and more limited wrap-around services—to our house of studies is considerable.



taxpayer savings
\$164 per day
\$4,920 per month
\$59,040 per year



Based on average shelter system costs in Milwaukee and operational costs of Thrive For Life House of Studies.

Results to Date

Since our beginning in New York, Thrive For Life has leveraged its comprehensive continuity of care to transform lives both behind and beyond the prison walls.



Ways to Support Milwaukee Expansion

Strategic Expansion Fundraising Goal:
\$1,000,000

While Thrive For Life provides the human capital, programming, and on-the-ground expertise for our Milwaukee expansion, we need community support to fund the infrastructure, facilities, and supplies that make our work possible. Here are some key ways to support our Milwaukee House of Studies:

- Renovations for the Milwaukee House of Studies: Funds are needed to update electrical, plumbing, flooring, walls, and other infrastructure in the former convent that will house resident scholars.
- General Operating Support: Ongoing expenses include program staff, professional fees, administrative staff, retreat costs, and day-to-day operations.
- Resident Supplies: We must furnish each bedroom and common spaces with items like bedding, furniture, kitchenware, books, and school supplies for resident scholars.
- Transportation Assistance: Bus passes and rideshare credits help residents get to jobs, classes, appointments, and services throughout the city until they can afford their own transportation.
- Emergency Aid: A reserve fund provides emergency rent, utility, or other support to resident scholars facing sudden financial crises that could derail their progress.
- Health and Wellness: Funds ensure residents have access to healthcare, mental health support, nutrition education, fitness resources and other wellness services.
- Job Training & Placement: We connect residents to vocational certificates, apprenticeships, resume coaching, interview prep and professional clothing to obtain living-wage jobs.

Your generosity will provide home, community, and bright futures for Thrive For Life resident scholars in Milwaukee. Together we can work together to transform lives both behind and beyond the prison walls.

Giving Categories

1. Renovate a Resident Room - \$2,500
Provide a complete room renovation for a scholar, including updated furnishings, bedding, and study materials, creating a sanctuary for learning and growth.
2. Nourish and Nurture - \$15,000
Support the house's food and supplies for six months, offering our scholars nutritious meals and the necessary living essentials.
3. Tech-Enabled Learning - \$25,000
Invest in a robust technology infrastructure for the house of studies. This contribution will provide advanced computers, smartboards, software licenses, and enhanced internet connectivity, establishing a cutting-edge educational environment.
4. Educational Enclave - \$25,000
Sponsor the transformation of a common space into a state-of-the-art learning and community center, complete with technology and comfortable furnishings.
5. Residential Revitalization - \$50,000
Underwrite major renovations for the house, including updates to living quarters, common areas, and study spaces, enhancing the overall living and learning environment.
 - 5a. Sandblast house exterior to restore original cream city brick - \$50,000
 - 5b. Restore the original 1902 Chapel - \$75,000
6. Sustaining Scholarship - \$75,000
Fully support the supportive services and programmatic staffing for up to 12 scholars for one year, providing a comprehensive continuity of care.
7. Legacy Builder - \$100,000
Leave a lasting impact by sponsoring the establishment of a named scholarship, contributing to the house's general operating fund, or underwriting a significant portion of the house's operational costs for the year.

Each category is crafted to provide donors with the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the establishment and sustainability of the house of studies, ensuring that resident scholars in Milwaukee have access to the resources they need.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Thrive For Life understands that diverse organizations perform better. As a nonsectarian organization, board and staff embrace all people who seek to help us advance our mission of transforming lives behind and beyond prison walls, regardless of anyone's ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability status, religious affiliation, country of origin, immigration status, or socioeconomic status. Current East Coast staff include four Hispanic or Latinx people, one African American person, one Asian person, and six Caucasian individuals. Thrive For Life's DEI goal in 2023-24 is to secure a DEI expert to assist with an organizational assessment and engage 100 percent of staff members in training related to unconscious bias and equity in the workplace.

As Thrive For Life's staff team grows, the organization recruits and hires staff members and volunteers who have direct experience with the carceral system. Organizational culture values ideas, questioning, and discussion to elevate everyone's voices and contributions equally. Thrive For Life prioritizes the leadership of formerly incarcerated people as board members, and the Resident Leadership Council contributes to program admissions, activities, and evaluation. Thrive For Life also convenes a young executive board to include burgeoning leaders and new perspectives in its work. The organization seeks staff and volunteers who speak multiple languages to maximize impact within the sector. Outwardly, Thrive For Life's work is rooted in meaningful relationships with diverse communities, particularly people impacted by systemic racism. Thrive For Life seeks to work directly with these communities to ensure their experiences are heard and contributions are incorporated.

Milwaukee Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000

Cash Reserve - \$100,000

Structural - \$450,000

+ Building Acquisition Costs

+ Exterior & Interior Capital Renovations

+ Room Furnishings & Refurb

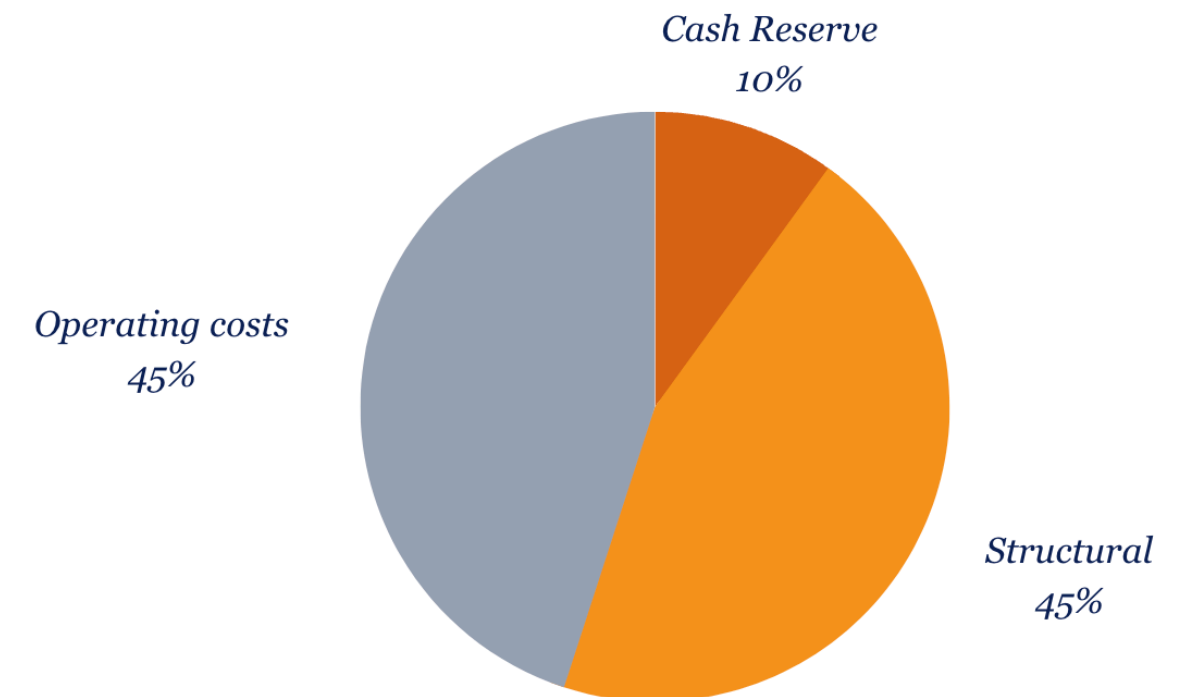
Operating costs (2 years) - \$450,000

+ Staffing

+ General Overhead

+ Transportation

+ Food & Household Supplies





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Contact

info@thriveforlife.org
www.thriveforlife.org

(212) 337-7544

30 W 16th Street New York, NY 10011

327 Brown Street Milwaukee, WI 53212

