

THE WEEKEND REPORT

Building Confidence and Success at the Diakon Weekend Alternative Program

The Weekend Alternative Program (WAP) at the Diakon Wilderness Center in Boiling Springs provides an opportunity for young people to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and find new ways to overcome challenges in a supportive and empowering environment.

This program equips youth with the tools and support they need to thrive throughout 2025. We recognize that family support plays a crucial role in their success, which is why we're happy to have over 90% family engagement in treatment. This is measured by the percentage of families participating in at least one family based activity such as program orientation and goal setting, providing weekly treatment goal feedback in a youth's program goal book, or participating in transition meetings on a youth's final weekend.

With guidance from our dedicated staff, students leave the Weekend Alternative Program ready to tackle the rest of the year with renewed focus, set meaningful goals, and take the first steps toward lasting positive change this year and beyond.

Referrals are simple and we help provide transportation. Contact us today by emailing or calling Jason Brode, Diakon Youth Services Executive Director at (717) 960-6700 or BrodeJ@diakon.org

www.diakon.org/youth-services/weekend-alternative-program/

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

March Updates and Exciting News for WAP



Happy (almost) Spring! March is a month that symbolizes growth, renewal, and transformation—three things that align perfectly with what we strive to achieve at the Diakon Weekend Alternative Program (WAP). Our focus this month is on accountability, resilience, and personal responsibility, helping our participants recognize their potential and make choices that lead to positive change.

And we have some great news. Girls WAP is returning! We recognize the importance of providing a supportive and empowering space tailored specifically to young women, addressing challenges unique to their experiences while fostering leadership, self-esteem, and personal growth. More details will be shared in the coming weeks, but we can't wait to expand our reach and impact even more young lives.

As we continue our work, we are grateful for the ongoing support from our referral sources, partners, and community members. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of the youth we serve.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Stay tuned for more updates, and as always, feel free to reach out if you'd like to learn more or get involved!

Jason Brode
Executive Director,
Diakon Youth Services

Here's what family members, participants and Agency Worker say about the success of the WAP program:

"He is doing well and becoming the man I know he is. I just wanna thank you again—your help has been like an angel on my shoulder."

- Parent



"I'm glad to see progress with the program as well as outside of the program. He's been focused and determined to stay out of trouble."

- Parent



"Thank you for all your hard work. Please let the team know how much we appreciate their work. I think he has shown a lot of growth since starting the program."

- Grandparent



"Thank you guys so much! He loved the program and said canoeing was his favorite part—he was all on board to come back one more time if needed. Thanks so much for everything."

- Probation Officer



"I kinda like it here because it gives me something to do, and every weekend is an adventure."

- Participant



"I see growth. I really like hearing him speak about his weekend."

- Parent



"I am very proud of the progress he has made. I am looking forward to seeing him graduate from the program and continue to better himself."

- Parent



SCAN ME

Giving Youth a Second Chance



At the Diakon Weekend Alternative Program (WAP), we believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and build a brighter future. That's why the Diakon Second Chance Fund exists—to remove financial barriers that may prevent at-risk youth from being successful after they graduate from our program.

What is the Second Chance Fund? The Second Chance Fund provides financial assistance to youth who need support. Many of the young people referred to our program face significant challenges—unstable home environments, limited financial resources, or past experiences that have placed them at a crossroads. This fund is used to match what the youth has to pay toward court case fees and fines, helping to alleviate financial burdens while reinforcing personal responsibility.

How You Can Help The Second Chance Fund is made possible through the generosity of individuals and organizations who believe in investing in the potential of our youth. Every tax-

deductible donation, no matter the size, directly supports a young person's journey toward a better future. By contributing, you are providing the opportunity for transformation, personal growth, and ultimately, a second chance.

Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference. If you'd like to support the Second Chance Fund, please reach out to learn more about how you can help change a life today by emailing kindallm@diakon.org or visiting our website at <https://www.diakon.org/giving>.

"Thank you for funding toward my ebike. The bike has provided transportation for me to my workplace which is 6 miles from where I live. This has turned my commute from a 2 hour walk to a 15 minute ride."

"Thank you for your help with paying my restitution...I still am working to pay the rest off but the payment you made from the second chance fund has helped me to feel I can get these costs taken care of so I can get off probation soon"

Helping youth achieve their goals

Diakon offers academic scholarships to current and former participants of any Diakon Child, Family & Community Ministries programs, including youth services.

Interested youth must complete a scholarship application and meet all requirements described on the application. A review team composed of Diakon leadership members processes each application and makes a determination as to award.

Funds are used for college or trade-school tuition, books, and room and board. Checks are distributed

to the institution or authorized vendor, such as a college bookstore. Each student is eligible to receive up to \$4,000 annually.

"I am halfway through my accelerated Registered Nurse program and it has come with many trials and tribulations but I am excited to report that I am excelling and am so close to the end goal and this would never have been possible without the support of the Diakon Scholarship Program"
— Aaliyah
Scholarship Recipient

