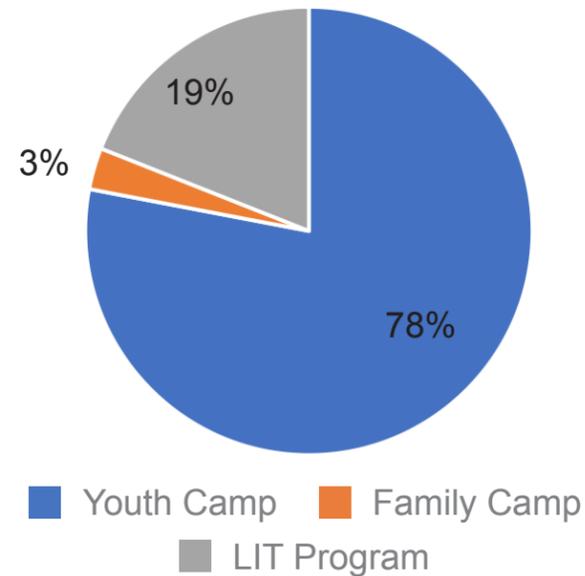




## PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY

TallTurf's leadership understands the significance of the goal it has established to strengthen its current programming and ensure the future involvement in its unique vision of promoting reconciliation within its communities. The leadership of Tall Turf has been cautious and prudent in its planning, and it is committed to the full success of its plan. The fruition of this critical plan will require generous community investment and the involvement of committed volunteers. In the end, the lives of thousands of youth will be enhanced and the community will be rewarded through the continuance of leadership development among a diverse segment of our youth ready to take on the effort of reconciliation.

Program expense percentages



**2018-2020**

Embracing Reconciliation:  
The Campaign For A Stronger Community



# CASE STATEMENT

**“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...”**

**(2 Corinthians 5:18)**

## FOSTERING RECONCILIATION FOR OVER 50 YEARS.

Tall Turf Ministries believes that to make progress towards God’s vision of wholeness and unity, all must first strive to be reconciled with self and with others. This effort of reconciliation is a wonderful gift from God. Webster defines reconciliation as the restoration of friendly relationships.

Despite the rich history of religious expression, economic growth, educational progress, and social acceptance, West Michigan hasn’t always been “one” community. This was evident in glaring ways 50 years ago when riots and social unrest led community leaders to found Camp Tall Turf. And while Tall Turf has been a reconciling factor in our community ever since, divisions and inequities remain on many levels, including race, culture, gender, and socio-economic levels, often preventing individuals from reaching their full God-given potential. West Michigan is blessed with a wide range of opportunities for youth to get involved in discovering who they are, why they have been created, and how they can serve. However, few ministries have taken on the specific goal of education and leadership development in the context of racial reconciliation.

Tall Turf’s leadership understands the significance of its mission these last 50 years, a mission that still meets a critical need now and for the foreseeable future. At this time of celebrating 50 years of God’s faithfulness and seeking God’s renewing power for the decades ahead, it is with resolve that the leadership seeks to strengthen its current programming and insure the future success of our organization.

## DEVELOPING SERVANT LEADERS

That emphasis on the integration of reconciliation into its programs is what made Tall Turf Ministries unique in 1968 and still makes it vibrant and meaningful today. Adhering to a mission **“to equip youth and families for lives of reconciliation in God’s world.”**, Tall Turf Ministries (TTM) has helped shape the lives of more than 40,000 young people from 8 to 18 years, helping them become servant leaders who can find commonalities in diversity and make personal connections that positively shape their future. Currently, Tall Turf Ministries includes a resident summer camp, a City Camp, the Leaders In Training Program, and the Firehouse Kids. TTM is operated by committed staff and a Board of community volunteers on an annual budget of \$562,000, with most of the required revenue coming from the generosity of the community.

Tall Turf Ministries strives to promote reconciliation in all phases of life, to expand one’s faith in Christ as a foundation for reconciliation, and to create young leaders who will be equipped to spread the meaning and rewards of reconciliation in their

**“After camp was over, I wanted to continue to learn about my walk with Christ, so I downloaded apps and receive daily bible verses and 3 daily devotions. - Sinclair 18 (Summer LIT)**

communities. To do this, TTM offers year round programming, celebrates the diversity of its participants, and incubates leaders for staff positions through years of training and involvement.

In most cases, the youth leaders who become involved with Tall Turf Ministries start their journey with the camp experience. Many of the children who attend the summer camp do not have the full resources to attend a local camp. Often these children come from families below the poverty level (90%), have single parent households, and have few options for summer fun and instruction. The Tall Turf summer camp and year-round programs serves over 600 youth and families with fees kept to the absolute minimum to ensure that no child is turned away. The difference between actual costs and fees generated is nearly \$300,000 and is the investment Tall Turf and its generous supporters make each year in the future leaders of our communities. Years ago the success and diversity of Camp Tall Turf was singled out by Peg Smith, then CEO of the American Camp Association, in her statement: **“Camp Tall Turf is one of a handful of camps in our country providing leadership and setting an example of both the possibility and benefits of a diverse and inclusive camp community**

**“Because of my involvement with Tall Turf Ministries, I am able to build trust relationships across the board. This learned skill helped develop an affinity to provide services to a diverse community of wellness seekers.” - Dr. Ron**



**“Before I started working as an LIT at Tall Turf, I didn’t know how to make my relationship with God become stronger. Now I have learned ways to help me pray and concentrate on speaking with God. I also have learned different ways to break down the bible to understand it more. At first, I didn’t know where to even start by reading the Bible, but since I started working at Tall Turf it has helped me grow a lot.” -Anissa, 15 (LIT)**



**for all children and young people.”** That tradition of working with youth from diverse backgrounds to build the skill set needed to develop service leaders through faith and reconciliation still drives the ministries today.

All Tall Turf Ministries programs are designed around the desire to build the faith needed to foster reconciliation in personal lives and in the community. Leaders In Training (LIT) is a special program that works throughout the year with approximately **20 youth** taking this philosophy of building faith and reconciliation to the next level by concentrating on blossoming youth leaders who have exhibited substantial personal growth through the camp experience. Christian servant leadership principles and skills are fostered during the traditional school year and during summer camp, with an emphasis on racial reconciliation, youth mentorship, community involvement and college preparation. These **20 youth** impact their individual sphere of influence which multiplies our outreach capacity.

The Firehouse Program is an initiative to connect with neighborhood children at an early age and instill in them values that can affect personal growth and wholeness. Weekly, about **30 elementary students**, gather to participate in Bible study, interactive games, and classes such as art, science, and dance. Though some visit every week, many are challenged to do so. Together approximately **100 youth** participate as Firehouse Kids. Often, because of family and community dynamics, this program provides the primary outlet for biblical education. It also offers the kids and families a chance to become familiar with the resources Tall Turf Ministries has to develop and maximize the potential each child has to live a full and meaningful life.

## CONTINUING THE TRADITION

As Tall Turf Ministries readies to celebrate 50 years of service to our community’s youth, our leadership has been preparing for the next 50 years by developing a strategic plan and vision for the organization that includes a larger presence in Grand Rapids through affiliations with current churches, organizations, and businesses. Within the past year, fee for service collaborations have been initiated with New City Kids, Neland Ave CRC, Episcopal Diocese of West Michigan, Steepletown Neighborhood Services, and others. **Through these relationships, TTM reached another 511 individuals throughout this past year.** Paramount to its future vitality and viability, a solid financial foundation and upgraded facilities are required to ensure program success.

Accordingly, after careful and prudent planning, the Board of Tall Turf Ministries has approved a two-year plan to strengthen program support, address physical needs at the camp, initiate a fund development program, and expand the organization’s endowment fund. The proposed \$1,850,000 plan will specifically address the following...

<b>Ongoing Program Support 2018-2020</b>	<b>\$1,043,600</b>
<b>Camp Needs</b>	<b>\$431,400</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Paving</b> (Access Road - .5 miles)</li> <li><b>Dining Hall Upgrades</b> (Flooring, chimney, repair, heater, equipment)</li> <li><b>Camp House Repair</b></li> <li><b>Cabin Upgrades</b> (Flooring, Heaters, Sinks/Cabinets, Lights)</li> <li><b>Camp Mini Van</b></li> <li><b>Duplex Repair</b></li> <li><b>Roofing Upgrades</b> (Nature Center, Maintenance Bldg., Activity Hall)</li> <li><b>YFC Upgrades</b> (Flooring, Furniture, Lights)</li> <li><b>Camp Truck</b></li> <li><b>Waterfront Gazebos</b></li> <li><b>Office Furniture</b></li> <li><b>Golf Cart (Repair)</b></li> <li><b>Active Shooter Siren</b></li> <li><b>Contingency</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Interim Program Support</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Development Office</b> (2 years start up)	
<b>Endowment</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>Campaign Expenses</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Total Campaign</b>	<b>\$1,850,000</b>