

# THE AWAKEN PROJECT: 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## LEADERSHIP

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### *Board of Trustees*

**David Blackstad**, Alexandria, MN  
**Ted Hill**, Wetaskiwin, AB  
**Daniel Meier**, Hayward, WI

**Rebecca Melzer**, Blanchard, PA  
**Jami Stroud**, Oakdale, MN  
**Blake Wright**, Lake Mary, FL

### *The Awaken Project Staff*

**Steven Wagner**, Gap Year Director

## 2022-2023 STUDENTS

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**Reagan Martin**, Ashland, OH  
**Kayla McFadden**, Mansfield, OH

**Austin Minion**, Sabin, MN

## 2022 DONORS

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### *Individuals/Households*

**Vernon & Judith Anderson**, Alexandria, MN  
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**Michael Benson**, Mansfield, OH  
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**Jennifer Rogers**, Bellville, OH  
**Robert Sites**, Fredericktown, OH  
**Jami Stroud**, Oakdale, MN  
**Douglas Wagner**, Buffalo Grove, IL  
**Paul Wagner**, Buffalo Grove, IL

### *Churches and Organizations*

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, Morris, MN  
**One Hope Church**, Gig Harbor, MN  
**SJ Squared**, Rosemount, MN

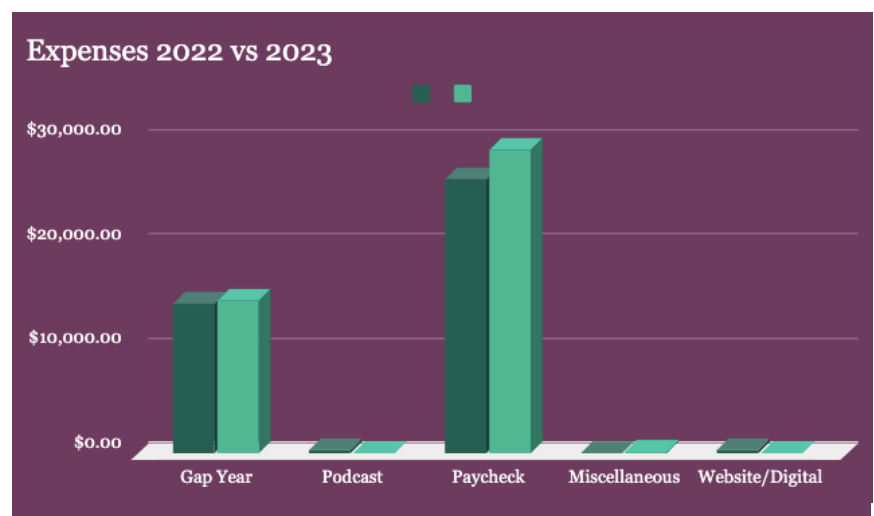
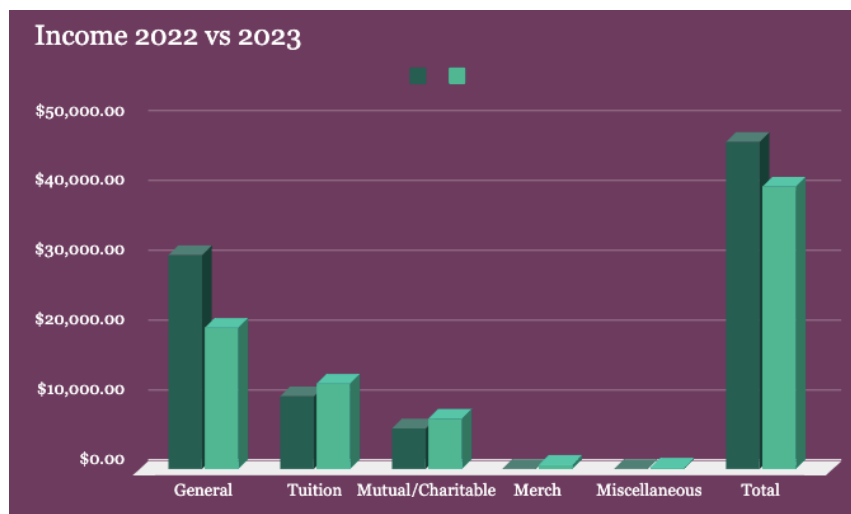
**Trinity Lutheran Church**, Ashland, OH  
**Upper Arlington Lutheran Church**, Hilliard, OH

# FINANCIAL STATE OF THE AWAKEN PROJECT

December 31st, 2023, compared to December 31st, 2022

	2022	2023
General Donations	\$30,634.30	\$20,157.79
Tuition Donations	\$10,500.00	\$12,250.00
Mutual Fund/Charitable Giving Fund Donations	\$5,790.00	\$7,240.00
Merchandise Sales	\$0	\$684.57
Miscellaneous Income	\$12.80	\$159.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,937.10</b>	<b>\$40,492.29</b>

	2022	2023
Gap Year Expenses	\$14,422.51	\$14,742.93
Podcast Expenses	\$359.93	\$0
Paycheck Reimbursement	\$26,332.85	\$29,258.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$118.20	\$231.00
Website/Digital Expenses	\$405.18	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,638.67</b>	<b>\$44,231.93</b>



# IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR

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To the family, friends, and supporters of The Awaken Project,

Reflecting on the 2023 fiscal year, it is once again clear to me that a year can make a significant difference in the life of any person, organization, church, or any other entity. In 2023, The Awaken Project saw plenty of growth, but the majority of that growth was vertical and seemingly underground, versus above ground and abundantly clear to anyone to observe. We welcomed in our third cohort of three students; Reagan Martin (Ashland, Ohio), Kayla McFadden (Mansfield, Ohio), and Austin Minion (Sabin, Minnesota) have been an excellent group to have this year with TAP, and we are grateful for their time spent with us in fellowship and community.

The growth that we've seen below ground has looked like the following:

- Establishing a healthy partnership network within The Greenhouse Collective, a network of ministries who also focus on residential community, young adult discipleship, and tending a gospel atmosphere. We are also grateful for support and our partnership with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).
- Strengthening our partnership with Quake events and Life Promotions so that TAP is no longer an add on to Quakes, but rather an integral part of the ministry of these weekend events.
- Continuing to support the ministries of Mount Carmel, our gracious host and home base. We are blessed to call Mount Carmel home and like Quake, have become a regular part of the campus rhythms, which we hope to continue here for a long time.
- Most importantly, we have seen another cohort of students be given many opportunities to extensively grow in their knowledge of the Bible, experience intentional Christian community, engage in national and international youth and young adult ministry, and explore callings that God has given them for such a time as this. To put it bluntly, TAP has a good thing going and we're encouraged to see more people become a part of our mission and vision.

With all of that being said, it is clear to me that TAP still has plenty of room for growth now above the surface of the ground. I am praying that the 2023-2024 cohort will be our last of only three students. I am praying that we will find a larger vehicle to transport a larger cohort of students in 2024-2025. I am praying that TAP can become an organization that can give financially, instead of only receiving financially. Above all else, I am praying that God continues to lead and guide this ministry as only he can, and that we as stewards accept further that none of this is about us; we just get to cooperate with God and his power to sustain this small slice of his kingdom.

Thank you, each and every one of you, for your support in seeing TAP's mission and vision come to fruition in the lives of our students. We have much to be thankful for from this past year, and I am very optimistic that we will continue to have much to be thankful for in the coming years ahead!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Wagner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steven Wagner  
Gap Year Director