



ACT FIVE 2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

FLOWING OUTWARDS:
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

OUR STORY:
WHO WE ARE AND
WHAT WE DO

FINANCIAL REPORT:
REVENUE AND EXPENSES

THE NEXT CHAPTER:
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
MOVING FORWARD

FLOWING OUTWARDS >

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by saying thanks – thank you for your support, partnership and prayer, and for sharing the story of the new things God is growing through Act Five.

At the graduation ceremony for our 5th Gap Year cohort last April, a parent of one of our students approached me. She spoke of how the transformation in her daughter through time with Act Five had spread into their

home and family in more ways than she could express and far more than she could have imagined.

This story and the many like it get to the heart of why the invitation on offer in Act Five matters in today's world. They speak to the rippling impact of real transformation.

Act Five's mandate – *preparing young people for life in the world as rooted & engaged disciples of Jesus* – responds to real and pressing concerns about the trends among emerging young adults. Act Five is quite literally rewiring the brains of young people and setting their feet on solid ground (see *The Anxious Generation* by J. Haidt). What is more, the transformation that we

are witnessing in our participants is flowing outwards: into their home communities, among our missional partners, and into new neighbourhoods, churches and workplaces.

What we are witnessing is the confirmation that we must invest in communities of formation if we are to lead to real change in the world. We do not need more content or quick, measurable activities. True "impact" will grow if we do the real, slow, personal work of investing in young people's lives.

The stories, updates and invitations that you find in this report speak to what God has been doing among Act Five. May you experience hope as you read this. We are immeasurably grateful that you have chosen to be a part of this story. With the support of our broadening community we will continue to guide, invite, and equip young people in the Way of Jesus.

In grace,

Jon Berends

THE STORY WITHIN THE NAME

The name **Act Five** comes from our core belief that the Bible is the True Story of the whole world, and that the Christian life is about finding our place IN that story. It helps to break it down into six acts:

ACT ONE:

The beginning of the story, of God creating heaven and earth, coming to dwell with his people in the garden.

ACT TWO:

The story of the fall, of the serpent's deceit and the introduction of evil, shame and greed into the story.

ACT THREE:

The story of God walking with his people, Israel, repeatedly extending grace and working to redeem and restore. The people lose the story often but God remains faithful.

ACT FOUR:

The coming of Jesus, in his life, death and resurrection – showing the way for others to follow, the way of the cross.

ACT FIVE

We find ourselves here, with a starting point and communities to learn from but no script. We are asked to work out our faith in community, to practice it. We depend on grace and the Holy Spirit, and we long for the final act.

ACT SIX:

This is the vision of where the story is going, with images that fuel hope in the new heavens and new earth, where all of creation is restored.

Learn more about our story and community with The Act Five Podcast on Spotify at actfive.ca/blog/podcast



OUR INITIATIVES

Act Five is more than a gap year! Here are some of the key programs we offer.



GAP YEAR PROGRAM

The 8-month program has been designed to stretch 18-20 year olds through new experiences, places, and relationships within a Christian community. While living together in a home, students explore their faith and who they are through learning, service, and adventure.



RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The *Residency Program* provides a formative community living experience for young adults who are pursuing work or study in the city of Hamilton through shared participation in the Act Five learning community.



SERVE & OBSERVE

Act Five's *Serve and Observe* trips provide high school students with service and learning experiences in Hamilton. These 2-3 day trips are designed to inspire youth and their leaders or teachers to serve, grow in character, and engage their faith in meaningful ways.



STORYTELLING NIGHTS

Throughout the year, we host *Evenings with Storytellers*. We open doors to the public to listen to stories of those who have meaningfully wrestled with living out their faith in different contexts in our world.



SPAGHETTI WEDNESDAYS

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, at 6pm, we invite anyone to come and join us for a meal. We make a big pot of something (not always Spaghetti!) and enjoy conversation with each other around the table.

Highlights from the 2023- 2024 year:

19
NIGHTS SPENT
SLEEPING OUTSIDE



600
PLATES OF
SPAGHETTI SERVED

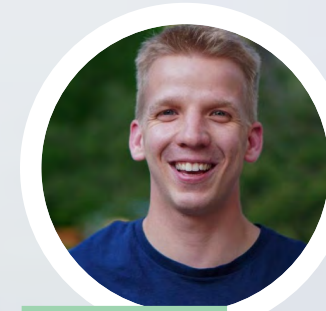


2500+
HOURS SPENT
VOLUNTEERING



Jana Overzet
Class of 2024

“I love that Act Five teaches lessons that are practical and valuable, especially for after moving out! Through class and conversation, an overarching idea I’m left with is: life, even when ordinary, even when small, even when simple, is sacred and beautiful.”



Toon Garritsen
Resident 2024

“Living in an intentional community at Act Five showed me that real community isn’t always fun and games. Community done right is hard work, but it is hard work worth doing.”

To date, after 5 years:

63
TOTAL GAP YEAR
GRADUATES



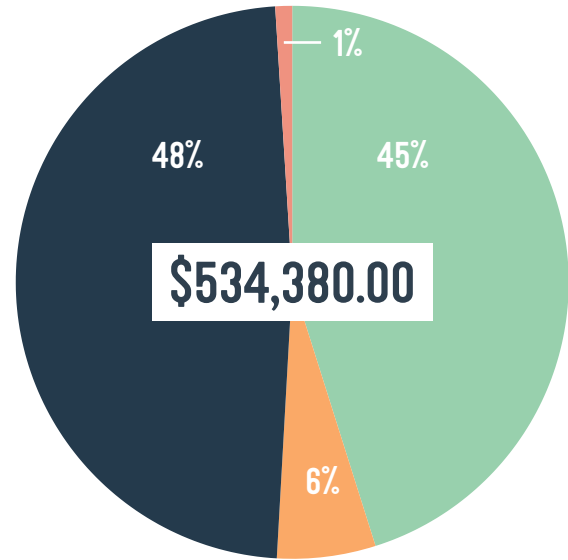
125
TOTAL
RESIDENTS



TO READ MORE STORIES,
VISIT [ACTFIVE.CA/BLOG](https://actfive.ca/blog)

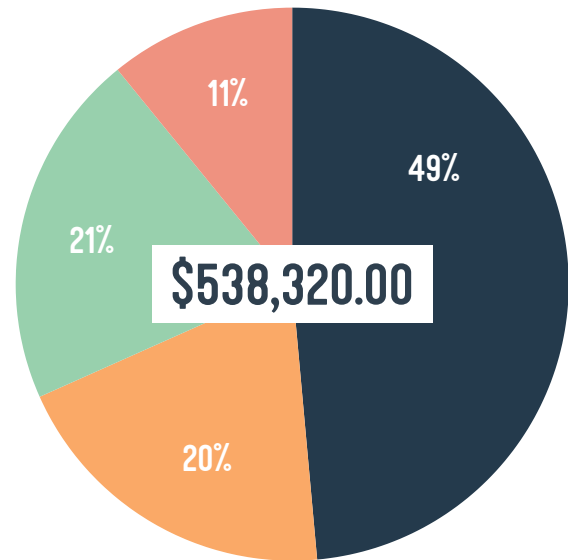
FINANCIAL REPORT

The following represents Act Five's first fiscal year, completed April 30, 2024.



2023-2024 REVENUE

- Donations & Grants - \$241,156
- Partnerships - \$30,800
- Tuition, Program Fees, Room & Board - \$257,155
- Other Revenue - \$5,269



2023-2024 EXPENSES

- Employee Wages & Benefits - \$261,408
- Property Costs - \$106,396
- *Program Costs - \$111,949
- †Administrative Costs - \$58,567

* Includes gap year, residency and outreach costs.

† Includes office, marketing, web, financial, legal and insurance costs.

In our first year as an independent charity, we are grateful to have the support of our donors!



15

MAJOR DONORS
(who gave \$5000+)

30

MONTHLY DONORS

THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE STORY

With the support of *Chisel Consulting*, Act Five has named the following major themes as Strategic Priorities for 2024-2027.



ESTABLISHING HOME

- > Property
- > Staff Capacity
- > Base of Financial Support

Before Act Five can move into new places, we must invest in deep roots where we are. This involves the purchase of a permanent home, continued investment in the Act Five staff team, and substantiating Act Five's base of donor support



OPENING DOORS

- > Financial Access
- > Clear & New Program Offerings
- > Increased Recruitment

The change young people are experiencing in Act Five is good, needed and beautiful. It is time to increase avenues of entry into what God is doing here. We must lower the barriers of cost for young people, develop differentiated program offerings and recruit in new spaces to extend our invitation.



TELLING THE STORY

- > Increased Communication
- > Bringing the Story Outwards
- > Deepened Partnerships

We want our closest and wider audiences to know with clarity who we are, what we do, why we do it, and why it matters. We want to grow those who can advocate us, share the story in more places, and invite key partners into deeper mutual relationship with Act Five to further our mission.





WAYS TO GIVE AND INVEST IN ACT FIVE

In an increasingly anxious generation, young adults need people like you supporting and encouraging them. Act Five exists to help young people slow down and develop a deeper relationship with God, their community, and the world.

GIVE ONLINE

Scan the QR code or visit actfive.ca/give



GIVE BY E-TRANSFER

Please send your e-transfers with a note to: finance@actfive.ca

GIVE BY CHEQUE

Please send all cheques to:
Act Five Initiatives
75 Blake St, Hamilton, ON L8M 2S7

GIVE SECURITIES OR CONSIDER A LEGACY GIFT

Contact Jon Berends at jberends@actfive.ca to learn more