

AUTOMOTIVE WOODWORKING FABRICATING & WELDING SMALL ENGINE COMPUTER DESIGN CONSTRUCTION AND MORE

Year 2023 is complete and time to report the "numbers" from behind the scenes. Each year Walking Tall celebrates "Friend Raiser," our annual fund-raising event that really does develop friendships, old and new, with folks who partner with us to support our mission. For 2023, more than 72 families and businesses have participated in our event which started with a \$10,000 "challenge." Total deposits of more than \$76,800 have been received during this event and is truly remarkable. Although 25.4% less than Friend Raiser for year 2022, considering the state of our economy nationwide, Walking Tall is most grateful.

Donations, although important, are only part of the story in describing how Walking Tall accomplishes so much in the process of training-up this next generation. Yes, contributions are critical: 1) from our vendors, who seek skilled workers; 2) from our grandparents, nationwide, who thankfully see changes in their grandsons; 3) from our single parent households who desperately search for positive mentor influences; 4) from our local faith community of churches that come alongside organizations doing "good works"; 5) from local Family Foundations who peruse organizations worthy of financial support. We are especially thankful for our monthly contributors who have faithfully and sacrificially given so we can "keep the lights on."

However, what allows Walking Tall to flourish is our faithful mentor support. These folks come from all different backgrounds: from welders to engine mechanics, from metal fabricators to powder coating craftsman, from construction to fine carpentry, from imagining product solutions to designing 3-D com-

puter models for creating products, from planting seeds to harvesting crops, from classroom to coming alongside just to listen. What all of us have in common is our *faith* as well as *desire* to make a difference in the life of these teen young men. Scripture reminds us that we must be "doers" of the Word, not only hearers (James 1:22.)

This new year of 2024 promises to be challenging – what an understatement! Please consider helping us mentor these teens, either by joining us on campus or by joining our growing community of financial supporters. In all cases, we challenge you to become a "Doer" in this new year.



Mentor Doug

If you haven't ever supported Walking Tall, please consider a one time donation or regular monthly donation to support and continue offering many skills to these young men. Thank you so much! Walking Tall: PO Box 3789 Central Point, OR 97502 or walkingtallso.org for online donations.