



Will Kiefer, Executive Director of Bench Mark, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Will Kiefer is the Executive Director and Founder of the Bench Mark Program, a fitness-based mentoring initiative catering to at-risk youth in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In January 2014, Mr. Kiefer launched Bench Mark as a means to engage with older at-risk youth in Lancaster City who were not benefiting from traditional mentoring programs. What began as a community service aspiration has evolved into an organization serving over 100 youth daily through seven diverse initiatives in Lancaster County. With a team of twenty-two individuals, including six program graduates, Bench Mark operates within detention centers, high schools, the community, and the local workforce. The program emphasizes long-term 1:1 and group mentoring, boasting an average service time of 38 months per student. Bench Mark collaborates with referral partners such as the Lancaster County Dept. of Juvenile Probation and the Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency. The organization sustains its \$750K+ annual operating budget through various funding streams, including donations, contracts, and grants.