2025 Year in Review

Families Served/Food Distributed: In 2025, Phelps County Dream Center served 1,499 unique families with 3,342 members a total of 7,811 times. Fifty-four percent participated three or fewer times throughout the year. The Dream Center registered 493 new households in 2026, with a total of 1,108 members.

More than 400,000 lbs of food were distributed to families in need by approximately 200 volunteers logging more than 3,000 hours of volunteer time.

HIghlights for the year

- The Dream Center contracted with Opus V to provide a further level of accountability in financial reporting.

- The Dream Center collaborated with a Missouri S&T Senior Design Class in Engineering Management, under the leadership of Prof. Joan Schuman, to get concepts for more efficient ways to add distributions to our community and provide more dignity in the process for patrons.

- Missouri Extension led a cooking class at the Dream Center – Families Eating Smart and Moving More – with 10 Dream Center patrons. Those who successfully completed the classes got a small appliance of their choice. Seven people graduated.

- The Dream Center was able to assist more than 100 new families impacted by the tornado of March 2025 with food and other resources.

- A part-time marketing and program coordinator was hired.

- In the wake of the tornado, the Dream Center hosted an Easter basket making event for families in the community with donated items from a local businessman. Twenty families were served.

- The Dream Center sponsored a Community Workshop with the True Charity organization with more than 80 people and 25 organizations represented. There are now six organizations affiliated with True Charity in our community: In addition to Phelps

County Dream Center – Gear City Church, Greater Rolla Area Charitable Enterprise (GRACE), Hope of the Ozarks, The Rolla Mission, and TKD Foundation.

- A concrete extension was completed on the west side of the building, allowing for increased safety and ease of building access for patrons.

- The Dream Center helped start the Good Dads Strong Schools program at Truman Elementary School, which continues monthly during the school year.

- The Dream Center purchased a generator for its building with a $10,000 grant from the Meramec Regional Planning Commission's disaster relief fund.

- The Dream Center became an affiliate with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and Phelps County Community Foundation in order to be able to receive securities and other types of donations.

- The federal government extended shutdown in November led to a large influx of food and monetary donations as the community rose to the occasion. The Dream Center received a $10,000 grant from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for food purchases.

- The Dream Center purchased Better Impact volunteer software for onboarding and scheduling volunteers.