Christmas Market Co-Op FAQs

1. **What is the purpose of the Dream Center Christmas Market?**

It's a place for families in our county to shop for their children in a very affordable way to lessen the stress of the holiday season, while still providing new items for their kids. It is made possible through families who will be participating, as well as through donations from local churches and other donors who want to be a part.

2. **How does it work?**

A parent or legal guardian, as well as foster parents, can sign up on our website to apply to be part of the co-op, here. We are calling it a co-op because at least one parent or guardian from the family is asked to volunteer at one of our nine food distributions between Sept. 1 and Nov. 25. (For dates of distributions, go here.) Then on Dec. 12, our Dream Center warehouse will be turned into a Christmas store, and families can come and shop!

3. **How much does it cost?**

There is a $10 flat entry fee per child on Christmas Market day, with a maximum of $50 per family for larger families. There will be a variety of items for different ages for boys and girls, and all items will be new. Families will be allowed to pick at least three gifts for each child, with a value of at least $75 total.
For example, for a family with four children, the entry fee will be $40 but the value of gifts will be at least $300! There will also be a gift wrapping station for parents to get everything wrapped and ready to take home with you!

4. **Why is there a cost to parents?**

We want our Christmas Market to champion the parents as being the heroes of the story by being able to provide their children's gifts themselves, but at a cost that is affordable for them. Our aim is to provide dignity to parents while lessening the financial stress of the holiday season.

5. **Where does the entry fee money go?**

These fees will be paid forward for the following year's Christmas market items that families in the future will be able to purchase. Participating parents and guardians will be paying it forward!

6. **What will I do with my children while I shop?**

We will have a Christmas party at Grace Church next to the Dream Center, where kids can have fun, make Christmas crafts, and be supervised by local teachers as well as volunteers.

7. **How can I donate toward the Christmas Market, or volunteer?**

To donate, go to our website and use the Christmas Market selection or mark your check accordingly. To volunteer, please email us at PhelpsCountyFood@gmail.com. Thank you!

8. **More questions?**

Feel free to contact us at PhelpsCountyFood@gmail.com or by calling 573-458-6989.