

• RALEIGH •



**DREAM CENTER**

SINCE 2014

RESTORING HOPE

REBUILDING LIVES

REALIZING DREAMS



**2024**  
ANNUAL REPORT

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

## *Of Frontline Ministry*

2024 marked the 10th anniversary of launching Raleigh Dream Center. Candace and I remember back in 2014 when all Raleigh Dream Center was simply that - a DREAM.

The Lord used a woman who was about to experience homelessness to open our eyes to see the real challenges people are facing right here in our city and it became tangible for us. To see all that the Lord has done through this ministry is nothing short of miraculous. The way Adopt-A-Block is impacting thousands every month, how Family Night is impacting people on the streets, and now how the residential programs are helping people break free from addiction.



**It has been amazing, but we are only getting started.**



When your eyes have been opened to the need, it's hard to get comfortable. It bothers us that addictions are taking lives. The Lord has placed a strong calling on us as God's people to rise and speak for those who do not have a voice. Seeing the need is one thing, but being willing to act is another.

So, when we think about our 10 years in frontline ministry, we see people whose lives have been transformed; people who have made an eternal decision to follow the Lord; kids who now know clearly who God is and why they should follow him; adults who have seen the power of Jesus in their lives and are living in freedom from addiction; people on the streets who have seen the Lord at work in simple acts of kindness.

**Thank you for walking this journey with us.**

Thank you for inspiring us to continue in ministry, especially on the difficult days. You are loved and appreciated and we look forward to all that the Lord will continue to do in 2025!

In Christ,  
Jeremy & Candace Porras, Co-founders



*We exist to bring hope & restoration through  
the message of the Gospel for people in the Triangle area.*

# FOOD OUTREACH

## *Meeting Practical Needs*

### ADOPT-A-BLOCK & MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

In North Carolina, about 10.9% of the population (**about 1.2 million people**) are experiencing food insecurity. About 394,000 of those individuals are children, with about 1 in 6 children facing hunger. We have seen an increase in people coming to our food outreaches. We see people lining up as early as 5am to receive the free groceries.

Our Adopt-A-Block and Mobile Food Pantry outreach reached 36 under-resourced locations. 5,397 volunteers came out to serve and distribute 1,160,216 meals!



**1,160,216**  
Total meals served



**12,690**  
Average amount of people reached each month



**1,392,259**  
Pounds of food distributed



**50,761**  
Families served across the Triangle area



**36**  
Communities impacted



**71**  
Salvations across our food outreach ministries



*The power of these outreaches is consistently meeting physical needs while sharing hope, prayer, and the gospel*

# KIDS OUTREACH

## *Ministering To Children*

### KIDZZJAM

KidzJam focuses specifically on the children in the communities we serve and seeks to meet their emotional, spiritual, and physical needs by building relationships through activities and lessons. KidzJam takes place at afterschool in certain communities, Family Night, and Adopt-A-Block. Through KidzJam, 1,300 children were impacted across 22 different communities.



### SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

We had the opportunity to have 7 interns in our Summer Leadership Program, who stepped up to impact 8 communities. This 8-week internship gave the interns professional experience in ministry while growing in their faith. This year, interns shared the gospel with 161 students through KidzCamp, which led to 3 salvations, and the hand-delivery of 1,061 meals!



**2,068**

Children heard the gospel



**1,008**

Backpacks were distributed at Back-2-School-Bash



**76**

Salvation responses from children



**3,736**

Presents were gifted at Christmas Adopt-A-Block



*"We have seen tremendous growth in the children. The Lord has blessed our mission in being able to show these children that they are loved." - Grace, SLP 2024*

# FAMILY NIGHT

## Street Outreach

Every Tuesday our Family Night outreach consists of reaching out to people experiencing homelessness and transporting them from Moore Square to RDC to enjoy a hot meal and worship service.

This year we expanded our programming with a public recovery class and a discipleship class. We also offer childcare for the families in attendance. This ministry is at the frontline of relationship building with people in difficult circumstances such as addiction, trafficking, and homelessness.

In 2024, we had an average weekly attendance of 175 guests. We witnessed 150 salvations and 45 baptisms, doubling our previous year's numbers. 365 volunteers made an incredible impact.

We invite you to participate in this ministry by preparing the food, leading a recovery or discipleship class, or simply listening and praying for guests,



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..."

Matthew 25:35

 **150**  
Salvations

 **365**  
Volunteers served

 **45**  
Baptisms

 **9,122**  
Attendance Overall

*"I came tonight just for a hot meal, but Jesus provided me with what I really needed."*  
- Attendee





## DREAM CENTER DISCIPLESHIP RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

### Testimonies

#### JARED

While serving in the Army, Jared experienced extreme trauma and turned to drugs as a result of dealing with the pain, guilt, remorse, and confusion. He ended up losing his wife, children, and family support due to his addiction and attempted to end his own life. Once in the DCD program, Jared was allowed the time to unpack his pain and pride and allow God to transform him. In Jared, we saw a life truly restored with a family and marriage reunited and a father returning to his sons.

Jared said it best at his graduation *"Satan should have killed me while he had a chance, now I am living for the Lord and will walk out the plan he has for me. Above all else, my salvation is the single most important thing in my life."*



#### JERMAINE

Jermaine was homeless for years and attended our Family Night outreach. He was at the end of his rope. He knew his addiction was going to kill him. He said, "I need God if I ever want a life." Early on, Jermaine felt guilty about having a place to stay and food to eat. He still saw familiar faces from the streets. Jermaine struggled until he realized the true gift God was giving him. Jermaine has now reunited with his family. We witnessed a mother praising God for bringing back her son.

We saw God transform him from a man with his head hung low into a man with his head held high with purpose. Jermaine is currently in our graduate transitions program and is one of our employed Outreach Interns.



5  
Salvations



8  
Baptisms



7  
Graduates



23  
Men & Women



# SERVING BOTH MEN & WOMEN

EXPERIENCING FREEDOM FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTIONS

## AMANDA

*"My entire family was baptized here; four of my kids, and my husband who came through the program before me. This program has not only changed my life but also my family unit. Through marriage counseling with Pastor Jeremy, parenting classes, learning to budget, and learning about recovery, my walk with Christ and this program has changed everything for me."*



Amanda came into the DCD program a year ago and she is starting 2025 with graduation on the horizon! Her hard work, perseverance, and cultivating her relationship with Christ have allowed her to experience the awakening that Christ-centered recovery brings. Amanda is currently interning in the DCD Apprenticeship, gaining clerical experience in our front office. She has gained confidence from volunteering within the community, rediscovering her passions, and setting a vision for the year.

## DAVE

2021 graduate & now DCD House Manager



I was so sick of my obsession to get high every day, that it consumed me. For 30+ years, my addiction to alcohol and drugs owned and ruined my life. I decided to leave Connecticut and just get on a bus to Raleigh. After one of the worst nights ever on drugs, I cried out to God asking for him to help and to save me. The next day, an RDC staff member saw me at Moore Square and he said, 'Dream Center has a men's recovery program, are you interested?' I knew this was God.

My dream is to now lead other men into freedom from addiction by the Holy Spirit. I understand their suffering and I want them to experience this kind of deliverance.



# DISASTER RELIEF

## *Hurricane Helene ~ Western NC*

### “FIND A NEED & FILL IT, FIND A HURT & HEAL IT”

We partnered with Asheville Dream Center to send products and volunteers to assist in the disaster relief of Western NC due to Hurricane Helene. Through multiple trips, we were able to supply them with **14 volunteers** and **155,000 pounds of food, water, and supplies**, as well as roughly **1,000 wrapped Christmas toys** for children in December.

The volunteers provided potable and nonpotable water, along with product organization and distribution for the local communities. We even loaned our refrigerated truck, which is still currently there, to quickly serve their under-resourced neighborhoods.

*A special THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered and gave a donation through our Disaster Relief campaign to purchase the most needed items!*

“Witness people’s suffering, despair, and tiredness changes you. From hearing the first-hand accounts of loss and trauma to the background noise of endless helicopters overhead, it impacts your resolve to help by whatever means necessary. There is a profound sense of God, what He is doing, and how He makes beauty from ashes. When everyone comes together, worshiping and providing aid, hope is restored and strength is renewed.” - Volunteer



Hurricane Helene  
Water Rose ~15ft

Average Height  
of a Home ~10ft



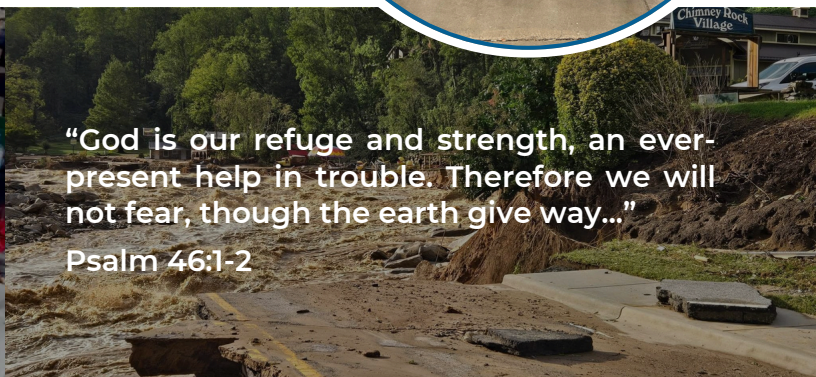
**155,000**

Pounds of product sent



**14**

Volunteers traveled to provide aid



“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way...”

Psalm 46:1-2

*“It is a beautiful thing to watch the Lord use people to show his love and goodness to them in difficult times and how He will never leave them or forsake them.”*



# PROJECT LIGHT

## *Anti-Trafficking Ministry*



Raleigh Dream Center is answering the call for those exiting sex trafficking. As the Project Light staff and volunteers are trained, and funding partnerships continue to grow, we will be ready to open early in 2025!

Our emergency safe home will provide beds for women survivors for around 30-45 days. Simply opening one home, equates to the potential of helping up to 48+ women a year!

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

Raleigh Dream Center relies on individuals, churches, and business partners for the majority of their funding. We need financial partners and volunteers to launch and sustain this ministry.

You can purchase specific items for the safe home directly from our Needs Wishlist on our Human Trafficking webpage, or provide needed inventory from our "Gift A Bin" list.

Would your church or business be interested in funding and partnership opportunities?

Email:

**[info@raleighdreamcenter.org](mailto:info@raleighdreamcenter.org)**

Scan to financially donate towards

***PROJECT LIGHT***



### ANTI-TRAFFICKING DIRECTOR, CANDI SCOTT

"We are pouring into others as Christ has poured into us. As the lives of those we serve transform, God's grace is poured out unto us as we continue to become more like Christ."

*NC is ranked #9 nationally, with roughly 23,000 people trafficked annually.  
80% of survivors can be revictimized if they don't have a safe place to go.*

# THANK YOU

## *Volunteers & Donors*

"Serving has allowed me to see the needs directly in front of me, giving me a greater understanding of God's love and compassion. I'm able to then live out my response. My children are even excited to serve, and seeing their child-like faith grow has been a great source of encouragement for me.

Volunteering with Raleigh Dream Center has helped me see people the way that God sees them - as image bearers that He loves, but who become stuck in inescapable circumstances, struggling to break free. - Dana, Volunteer

## 2024 FINANCIALS

Revenue - \$1,798,654

Individuals	72%
Foundations/Grants	11%
Churches	13%
Businesses	3%

Expenses - \$1,405,705

Outreach	81%
Capital Purchases	5%
Fundraising	9%
Administration	5%

Value of Donated Items  
\$2,924,083

**TOTAL REVENUE & DONATED ITEMS**  
**\$4,722,738**



**5,397**  
Volunteers served

**22**  
Short Term  
Mission groups served

**492**  
Donors gave



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## *In 2025*

Seeing all that the Lord is doing to set the captives free,

**WE INVITE YOU TO IMAGINE...**

***A 24/7 "CHURCH THAT NEVER SLEEPS"***

A place where people could go when they are experiencing life's toughest challenges. There are over 100 Dream Centers nationally, transforming hospitals, hotels, and even warehouses into healing places for the hurting.

Raleigh Dream Center is in search of a permanent facility to continue our impact in Wake County and beyond with our outreach and residential programming.



Los Angeles Dream Center transformed a hospital

### **THIS INCLUDES:**

- Having Residential Housing: 400+ People
- Expanding Residential Recovery Programs
- Transitional Living Programs for Homeless Families & Veterans
- Offering Long-Term Care for Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Commercial Grade Kitchen to serve 1,500+ Meals Daily
- Indoor/Outdoor Workout & Sports Facilities
- Thrift Store for Sustainable Income & Residential Job Training
- On-Site Class in Parenting, GED and Job & Life Skills
- Food Warehouse: Supplying "Food Deserts" Hunger Relief
- Ministry Space for At-Risk Youth & Transitional Housing Residents



Phoenix Dream Center transformed a hotel

### **MAKING THE DREAM A REALITY**

#### **DONATE**

Consider becoming a part of our **DREAM TEAM** of supporters by becoming a monthly donor to help build a sustainable income.

#### **PRAY**

The biggest need we have that you can fill is to continually pray for this ministry.

#### **VOLUNTEER**

You could also commit to volunteering once a month or more to increase the much needed workforce in ALL departments.

#### **AWARENESS**

Invite your small groups, church, & businesses to join our yearly partnership opportunities by volunteering, donating or sponsoring.



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RALEIGH DREAM CENTER  
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*Annual Night of Dreams Gala 2024*

## GIVE NOW & PARTNER WITH OUR MISSION

We desire to remove the barriers for people to serve in “local missions” by creating outreach opportunities to help reach our communities for Christ. We are called to be an inner-city resource center bringing Christ-centered solutions to addiction, hunger, trauma, homelessness, and unemployment through residential and community outreach programs.

Because of our commitment to stay Christ-centered and gospel-focused, we are looking to partner with individuals, churches, and businesses to collectively **REACH OUR CITY**. Go to our website to find out how you can partner with our mission and make a difference today!

***RaleighDreamCenter.org***



***DONATE HERE***



### Cover Photo Story

*"All this guy cared about was obeying the Lord and making his commitment to Christ public. So much so that he quickly emptied his pockets, kicked off his boots and got into the tank and declared his faith!"*