



**20
23**

ANNUAL REPORT

“What an incredible year!”

“2023 was full of NEW. New families coming to the DC, new programs forming, new staff faces joining the team, and new volunteers and donors fueling the dream forward. It is an honor for the team and me to be a small part of what families accomplished in the last year. It was possible because of their hard work and commitment, and your provision through time, talent, and treasure in making a space available for families to grow. This year we watched as families came to the Dream Center for a help program, and eventually moved into a hope program. These next steps are pivotal in their overall growth and future stability. Thank you for making it possible. As you read through stats and stories of growth in 2023, I hope you're reminded that each tiny step we take forward counts. Growth doesn't have to be leaps and bounds. Growth requires the constant mentality of "yet." I may not be there (yet) but I can get there by taking the next best step over and over again.”

JODY DOW
DREAM CENTER DIRECTOR



THE PLAYGROUND MODEL

Growth is often defined as “the act or process of development or gradual increase.” We are often asked what that looks like at the Dream Center, and the best way we can describe it is anything but linear. There is no one clear path to growth, and we would never want to limit a family’s growth to one pathway.

Instead, we compare our families’ growth paths to playing on a playground. Families can join in on the fun through different programs or pieces of equipment until they are ready for the next thing, and the Dream Center is here to coach them along the way and help them up when they fall. There is no timeframe or correct way to move from the swings to the slides, and we hope that one day they’ll join us in crossing the monkey bars – the pinnacle of the playground – and launch into full stability.



HELP

6,398 ••••• DINNERS SERVED

814 ••••• FIRST TIME DINNER GUESTS

810 ••••• HOUSEHOLDS SERVED WITH GROCERIES

1,740 ••••• BLOCK PARTY ATTENDEES

107 ••••• HOUSEHOLDS HELPED WITH SCHOOL OUTFITS

551 ••••• KIDS PROVIDED WITH CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

28,805 ••••• DIAPERS DISTRIBUTED TO 479 HOUSEHOLDS

This year was an incredible year in our Help programs as we got to focus on connection with our families. Something that was special about our Community Dinners this year was the opportunity to have seated meals, after nearly 2.5 years of drive-through meals due to COVID. This has allowed us to be intentional about our time connecting with guests, as well as meeting a practical need by serving a warm meal. As we sat around the circle tables, we got to see many new faces, hear their stories, and build treasured relationships. We hope that every individual and family that joined us for dinner this year left with a full belly, and a full heart!

- Sydney Johnson
Wraparound Care Coordinator

FOR TODAY

At the Springfield Dream Center, several of our programs would not exist if it were not for our fantastic community partners. For several years, we've been a diaper distribution site for the **Diaper Bank of the Ozarks**. We're grateful for the opportunity this gives us to serve the families in our community!

Another partner that we're incredibly grateful for is **North Point Church**! By mid-summer of 2023, we had used up our total allotment of available diapers from the Diaper Bank of the Ozarks. North Point Church's leadership gave us the opportunity to ask their congregation for diaper donations, and over 40,000 diapers were donated! This allows us to double the number of diapers we give families, and for the first time, allows us to give away wipes as well.

With this great opportunity to double our impact to young families, we sought more ways to provide Help for today and Hope for tomorrow! Included in each bundle of diapers are referrals to community partners that have resources available for these families.

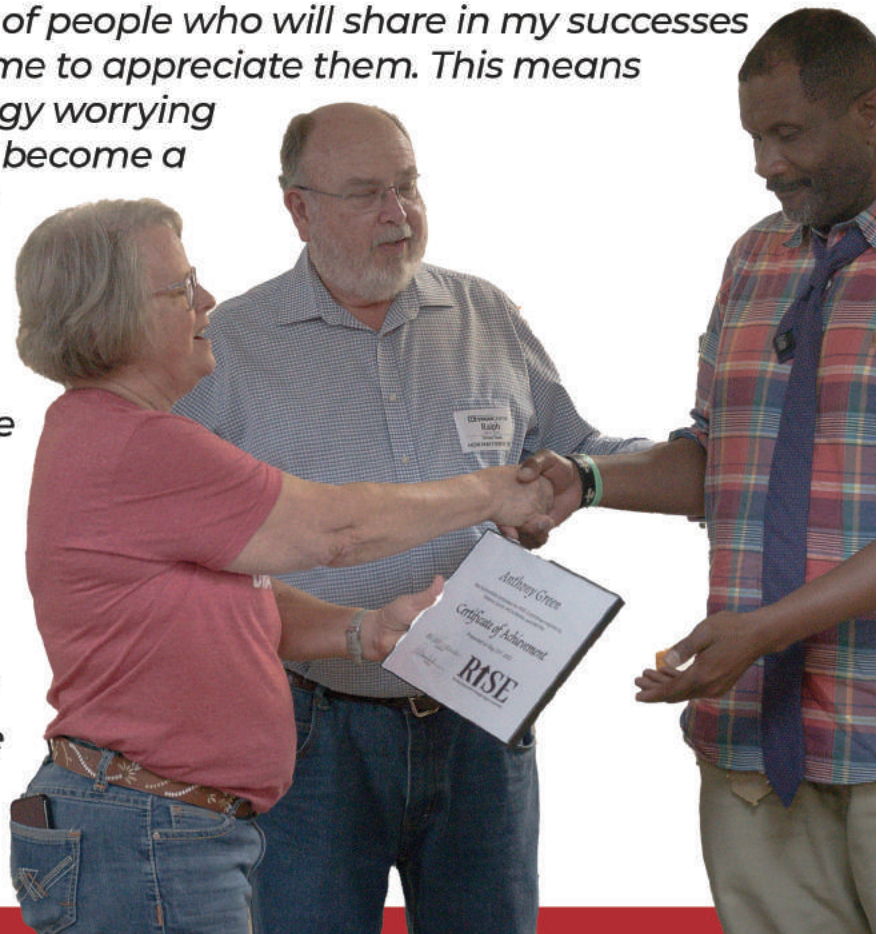


HOPE FOR

33 INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN RISE

- Enrolled **2 new cohorts** for RISE Core classes
- **77%** of RISE graduates have continued into the Maintenance phase.
- The average monthly income of members at intake is \$1,995 and the average monthly income at the 12-month mark is \$2,695.
- In 2023, six RISE members had set a goal to pay off/down their debt. These six members have a combined debt reduction of **\$41,388** in 2023.

"RISE has made me feel more secure with every aspect of my life. I know that I have a place to turn for resources or a shoulder to lean on. More importantly, I have a community of people who will share in my successes and encourage me to take the time to appreciate them. This means that I do not have to use my energy worrying about what I will do if a "what if" become a reality. Thanks to this class, I now believe that I will one day be a homeowner, a dream I thought was unattainable. I have watched my relationships with others become healthier as I have implemented the tools I've used in RISE. I have watched my children become more hopeful for the future – not just for our family, but for themselves individually. I am forever grateful for the empowerment that I have found in this community."



TOMORROW



DREAM CENTER ACADEMY

58 STUDENTS

ENROLLED IN DCA IN THE
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

629 HOURS

VOLUNTEERED BY OUR
READING BUDDIES



Say "Hello!" to our NEW DC STAFF!

Evie joined the DC team in January 2023 as an intern while pursuing her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Missouri State University. Upon graduation, she was hired as our full-time Communications Director, where she spends her days building relationships with our families, writing grants, collecting data, and keeping everyone up to date on the goings-on at the DC. When she's not at work, you can probably find her on the couch with a novel and her three dogs.



Sydney joined the team in August as our Wraparound Care Coordinator and she gets to spend most of her time in our Community Dinner and Community Care programs at the DC. She recently moved from Florida after completing her Masters in Human Services, because as much as she loved living by the beach, she says there is nothing that beats the Springfield community!



Matt grew up by Doling Park not far from where the Springfield Dream Center is today. He attended Reed Middle School and Hillcrest High School, so the area we serve is his old stomping grounds. He deeply believes in investing in students in middle school and high school. Matt has six children ages 14 through newborn and an amazing wife, Hilary.



*"Hello my name is **Terry Scott Jr** also known around here as "TSJ". I'm the proud husband of my amazing wife Janell Scott and father of two amazing kids Lyric and Remedy. My title here at the Dream Center is Facility Manager. I pretty much handle the building needs on a day-to-day basis, whether that's something that needs to be put together or something that needs to be fixed. I first started here at the Springfield Dream Center as a once-a-week front desk volunteer, then an opportunity came along where DC needed someone who could take control of the building and be comfortable with that responsibility. The incredible staff here at the Dream Center welcomed me with open arms."*



TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE

\$1,254,012.51
raised in 2023

\$327,043
from grants

\$49,892.76
donated to our new
endowment fund

228 GIFTS
with an average gift
amount of \$443.43

7,126 HOURS
time volunteered



NAP

A child's hand is visible on the right side of the image, holding onto a bright yellow metal railing. The railing is part of a playground structure, with blue and red components visible in the background. The background of the entire image is a solid red color.

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The Springfield Dream Center is excited to announce that we have been awarded **Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)** tax credits through the Missouri Department of Economic Development. These tax credits allow businesses to support the Dream Center while reducing their tax burden.

With this funding, the Springfield Dream Center will be renovating our basement. NAP will cover nearly half of this million-dollar project! This renovation will allow the Dream Center to expand classroom space to better serve our RISE and DCA programs.

Donors who have business income are eligible to receive this tax credit. Donations through this opportunity will reduce your Missouri State tax liability by 50% of the donation amount (i.e. a \$1000 donation will result in your Missouri tax liability being reduced by \$500). For more information, please visit **springfielddreamcenter.com/nap**

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