

Teens in Our  
Region are  
Counting on  
All of Us

Discover How You Can  
Make a Real Difference

[ProDeoYouthCenter.org](http://ProDeoYouthCenter.org)



ProDeo

YOUTH CENTER

@the  
Wesley  
PLACE

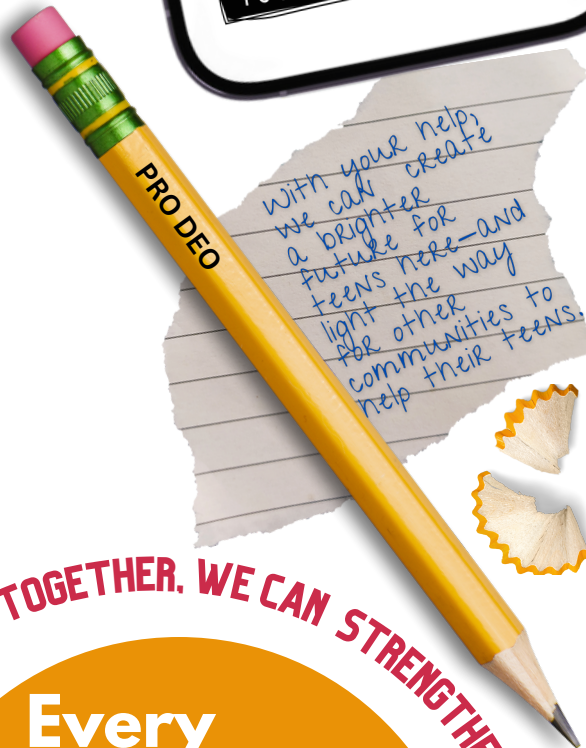


WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Changes Lives for Teens in Lee's Summit, Jackson County, and Across Missouri



Pro Deo Youth Center has important news about how you can help our community's teens.



With your help,  
we can create  
a brighter  
future for  
teens here—and  
light the way  
for other  
communities to  
help their teens.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**Every teen loved, valued and equipped for change.**

## Dear Friends,

In 2018, when I joined this incredible organization, the Board set a bold goal: Pro Deo Youth Center would redefine what a nonprofit could do by providing teens in Eastern Jackson County with free counseling and tutoring services.

**Today, we know that Pro Deo's bold goal has saved lives.**

**Meet John.** Like many teens, he arrived at Pro Deo burdened by isolation and battling depression. He'd been cruelly teased and bullied for such a long time that he was about to give up on himself and everyone around him. It took over a month for John to begin to trust the genuine kindness and acceptance he found at Pro Deo. Eighteen months later, John enjoys playing pool with volunteers and he shares fun activities with other teens, who he now counts as close friends. He is actively charting his own path to a brighter future. His life changed when he discovered that Pro Deo is a place where he's welcome, no matter what kind of day he's having. Pro Deo is where trust is nurtured, and support is readily available, including access to a dedicated youth mental health coordinator when life's burdens are too heavy to bear alone. John is just one example of the many teens Pro Deo has had the privilege to help.

**Because our help changes lives, Pro Deo Youth Center is now being recognized** as a transformational program by the state of Missouri and the City of Lee's Summit for our role in building resilience among underserved teens. As a direct result of this recognition, our teen center is now poised to be the model for after-school programs in communities across the country. With that kind of momentum in a world where teens desperately need support, we believe it's time for Pro Deo to set another bold goal. We are planning to move into our own building. This new space will be thoughtfully designed to help teens spend their after-school hours in ways that empower their well-being and growth.

**We cannot achieve this vision alone.** Pro Deo has a time-sensitive and very important need for a special kind of assistance that your generosity and partnership can provide. Our teens and their families face unique challenges – from family instability to food insecurity, from developmental differences to mental health struggles. We need your partnership to ensure equitable access to services for this vulnerable population. We need your support as our organization enters its own teen years with a deep passion to help our community's teens as they grow.

I warmly invite you to continue this important journey with us. With immense gratitude and anticipation for the road ahead,

**Dr. Elaine Metcalf**  
**Executive Director, Pro Deo Youth Center**

Pro Deo teens go  
fun places!

**FUN**

## Pro Deo builds relationships to empower teens in a safe and inclusive environment

Teen-focused programs are created using five "Pillars of Learning" that include Creative Arts, Personal and Social Skills; Sports, Health, and Wellness; College, Career, and Job Skills; and Academic, STEM, and Service Learning.

## Expanding to Grades 8 thru 12

Pro Deo Youth Center is a relational organization expanding to serve and engage with teenagers in grades 8th-12th. At its core, Pro Deo is a people group, a family, a home away from home. We provide after school and Friday night programming to help teens enjoying their teen years in a safe and fun environment.

LET'S  
GO



We give teens opportunities to set goals while providing the support and accountability they need to be successful. We are building a legacy of excellence in loving teens and empowering them to dream & achieve.

Through structured activities and unstructured time with their peers, Pro Deo teens don't have to figure it out on their own! Fun activities are planned by the teens and supported by staff and volunteers from the community.

**WHO?**  
Teens from  
Lee's Summit and  
Eastern Jackson County

**WHAT?**  
Fun Activities Five Days a Week,  
Free Tutoring, and Counseling

### Trained to Help Teens Thrive

- Loneliness
- Isolation
- Depression
- Difficulty Navigating the Issues at School
- Social Pressure
- Understanding where you currently fit in the world
- Tutoring for Academic Success
- Anxiety and Fear
- Grief
- Hunger
- Homelessness
- Mapping out the Future



**BUILDING A MODEL OF SERVICES NATIONWIDE.**



## OUR HISTORY: How Pro Deo Got Its Start

In 2009, Andy Ewing was a 25-year-old police officer with the Lee's Summit Police Department. Andy was routinely sent out to a local park to check up on teens who "looked like trouble." He soon discovered that some teenagers were practically living at the park, staying on the playground from the time school got out until the park closed...and not just in the Fall or Spring, pretty much all year long, even when it was raining or snowing. As Andy got to know the park regulars, he began to suspect a painful truth.

Right in plain sight, an extraordinary tragedy was unfolding. For some teens, the outdoor playground routinely provided more safety and shelter than their own homes.

Andy shared his growing worries with his wife. Twenty-five year-old Kylie not only had a heart to help abused and neglected children, she also had professional training as an elementary school teacher and youth pastor. Together, the young couple—not much older than the teens in the park—decided to do something simple to help. Kylie began serving 21 packages of hotdogs to teens one night a week. Soon, hotdogs in the park morphed to 50 kids coming to the Ewing's home for dinner every Thursday. Compelled to help teenagers in need, they turned to the local library and researched how to create a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

**With herculean effort and unrelenting willpower, Pro Deo was launched in 2010 and keeps growing.**

Pro Deo became the place teens could call home...a safe, loving, welcoming, and nurturing environment for youth who were struggling at home, school, or in life. This nonprofit has strong partnerships with the school district, local churches, and other businesses and organizations across the community.



**While the teens ate hotdogs, they talked about their lives. The stories they told were often heartbreaking.**

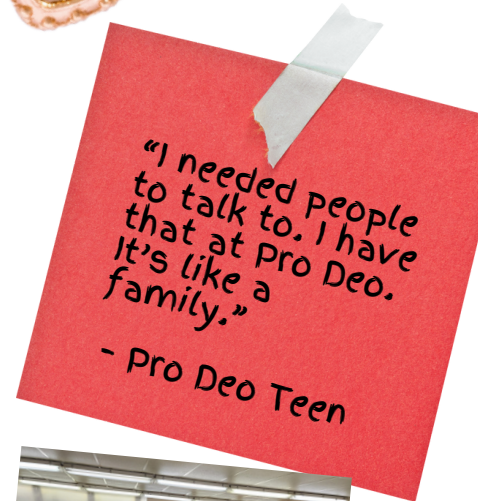
Teens were hungry, depressed, suicidal, feeling isolated, struggling in school, abused, homeless, or had experienced traumatic events in their lives.





## TODAY: Our Core Values Remain Strong

1. We believe teens have a voice which needs to be heard and valued in the community.
2. We believe every teen deserves to have someone in their corner.
3. We believe goals and dreams are admirable and to be encouraged.
4. We believe young people need to have character development encouraged, taught, and lived out by example.
5. We believe there should be a safe, fun, empowering environment for teens to grow and develop.
6. We believe the basic needs of teens need to be met if we expect them to function in the community in a healthy manner.
7. We believe teenagers deserve to be surrounded by their community, their family, and caring adults.
8. We believe it takes a village to raise a family. Therefore, Pro Deo is not only here for teens but for parents and the community.



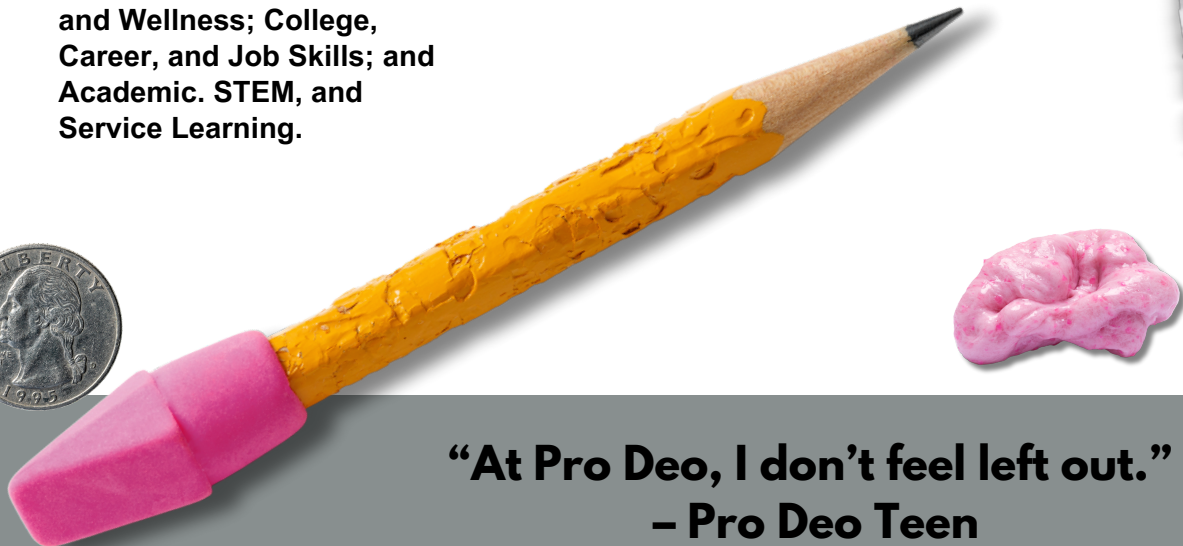


**Pro Deo is built on fun, engaging activities for youth. Activities bring students in the door and help them build relationships.**

Teen-focused programs are created using five “Pillars of Learning” that include Creative Arts, Personal and Social Skills; Sports, Health, and Wellness; College, Career, and Job Skills; and Academic, STEM, and Service Learning.

**Pro Deo Youth Center could not operate without the generous contributions of individuals, families, businesses and volunteers in our community.**

Pro Deo has two pockets of simultaneous need. One pocket is about funding the yearly operation costs that provide the direct program services to our teens year in and year out. The other funding pocket is new to us all, and it is focused exclusively on the construction costs of the new building so that we can make The Wesley Place a reality at 902 SE Douglas.



**“At Pro Deo, I don’t feel left out.”  
– Pro Deo Teen**

# Groundbreaking Begins When The \$4.9 Million Goal is Reached

As of October 2023, we have reached 27% percent towards our goal of \$4.9 Million





**Concept Art  
for Pro Deo  
Youth Center  
@ The Wesley  
Place**

Design by Collins | Webb Architecture





# Groundbreaking for the Wesley Place Begins When the \$4.9 Million Goal is Reached

## **ESTIMATED COSTS**

**4,000,000 Construction**

**185,000 Architecture and Engineering**

**200,000 Furnishings, Fixtures and Equipment**

**50,000 Permits Testing**

**50,000 TAP fees**

**200,000 Land Acquisition**

**235,000 Administration and Campaign Costs**

**4,920,000 TOTAL COST**

**As of October 2023, we have reached  
27% percent towards our goal of \$4.9 Million**

# Stay Tuned for More News!



# Updates Coming Soon!