



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.

HISTORY of Pro Deo

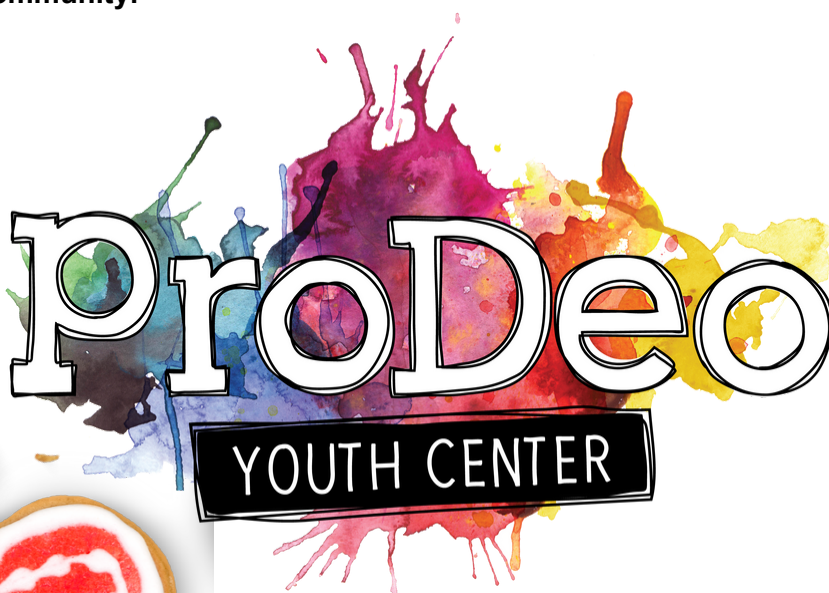
In 2009, Andy Ewing was a 25-year-old police officer with the Lee's Summit Police Department. Andy was routinely sent out to a local park to check up on teens who "looked like trouble." He soon discovered that some teenagers were practically living at the park, staying on the playground from the time 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.





Teen-focused programs are created using our five Pillars of Learning:

- 1 Creative Arts
- 2 Personal and Social Skills
- 3 Sports, Health, Wellness
- 4 College, Career, and Job Skills
- 5 Academic, STEM, and Service Learning



LET'S GO

Providing Social, Emotional and Academic Support for Teens

Pro Deo helps teens find their “place” by creating an environment where they feel valued for who they are, regardless of challenges they may be experiencing. For some, Pro Deo is a friend group. For others, Pro Deo represents family.

Pro Deo provides fun activities after school and on Friday nights that help build friendships while supporting talents, encouraging curiosity, providing pre-career skills, and building character. Through after-school tutoring programs, teens are supported in their academic efforts. By encouraging them to dream while providing the supports to make their dreams achievable, Pro Deo is changing lives.



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

OUR CORE VALUES

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.

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

