

What started out as a vision in 2009 when Freedom through Christ Ministries began leasing 8.5 acres in Camdenton will soon become a reality. When the ministry purchased the land in November of 2012, the dream was in reach.

FTC Ministries currently serves 20 men in the Lighthouse Mission Transitional Housing Program and provides food to the community through the Lighthouse Mobile Food Pantry once a month. Soon FTC will be home to a permanent food pantry and more in the 17,500 square foot Lighthouse Community Center that will soon be built on their property.

The ministry recently was approved for a NAP grant that will bring their vision to life. The amount of the NAP grant is equivalent to \$500,000.

“I am so excited to be able to see the ministry grow over the years that I’ve been involved. Being able to announce the approval of the NAP grant to build the community center has been a vision of ours to be able to meet the much needed resources in our community,” FTC Director Jeff Hall said. “This will enable us to serve on a more continued basis”

The new facility will allow FTC to provide services to men, women and children in a relaxed, safe and comfortable environment. Clients will have the opportunity to become involved in activities that promote healthy life styles. Services offered will include but not limited to recovery support coaching, prevention, education, social and recreational activities, peer support and mentoring, spiritual life skill classes, parenting classes, nutrition workshops, and re-entry coordination. Resource connection and case management assistance in obtaining health, social, vocational and other community services will be provided. The center will also be a location that recovery groups meet throughout the week. Other community groups will have access to the building, as well.

Currently FTC hosts a mobile food pantry once a month. The community center will allow the ministry to provide food through a permanent food pantry that will be open every week. This is made possible through our partnership with the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

“We just want to step it up a notch,” Bob Willis, FTC Program Coordinator said. “We will be serving and empowering people. Expansion of our services and facilities will ensure a consistent and growing need is met in our community.”

FTC has four full time staff members that live on site; we are able to provide emergency services any time of day or night.

“For me personally and with being a part of something that’s so much bigger than me, it’s exciting to see the ministry grow. It’s really exciting to be able to announce the funding opportunity we have to help us provide much needed resources and reach a wider population of the community” Hall said.

Since the projected cost of the center is about \$1 million, the ministry will be kicking off its capital campaign including upcoming fundraising events, developing community partnerships and seeking supporting grants that will help provide the rest of the funds needed to see the community center come to life. For information on the Community Center Project, purchasing NAP tax credits, or ways to support the project through offers of donations, time, and talents contact Bob Willis, Program Coordinator at 573-286-1835.

