



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Connection Series Features the Dream Center

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Paul Harris, founder and director of Knoxville Dream Center, a local operation that shares faith and provides food and opportunities for a brighter future for those who need it most.

The interview is part of Community Connection—a spinoff from the Mayor’s small business series that provides owners the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees and helping them share any plans they hold for the future.

For the next couple of months, Mayor Jacobs will focus on local charities and non-profits. A new vignette will run week on the county and Mayor’s various social media platforms.

The Knoxville Dream Center grew out of an organization created by the late Maxine Raines called Lost Sheep Ministries, which served dinner to Knox County homeless under I-40. Over time, the ministry grew to include the donation of free, gently used clothing for job interviews or work, a mobile dental trailer, a medical station to screen for blood pressure and diabetes, physician visits and annual flu shots.

“The church I’m from, we actually helped her in the very earliest of days with sandwiches out of the trunk of a car,” said Harris.

Now the organization has partnered organizations around the county to grow their service capabilities. They also have a food truck on UT campus so they can serve and connect with students who are more isolated than ever because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Harris believes that most people want to give back and they are moved by needs they see. He said, even if you don’t need anything from us you might have something to give.

“When you give back, when you do things to contribute to community and the people around you, what you will see, emotionally, is so much greater than the investment you make,” said Mayor Jacobs.

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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