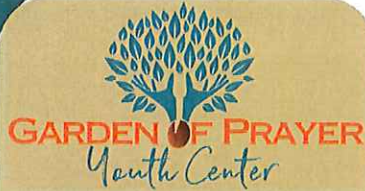


COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Spring 2021

GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER



Planting Seeds of Success!

Contact us:

815-933-2493

WWW.GOPYOUTHCENTER.ORG

OUR PARTNERS

DCFS

DHS

I-KAN/ROE

Southwest Organizing Project

American Camping Association

IL State Board of Education

Tallman Boys Fund

United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties

Catholic Diocese of Joliet

Local Business and Individuals



Program Updates

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that was incorporated in March of 1995. We are a CARF and NAC accredited child welfare agency licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services. We've just completed our 5-year strategic plan that will guide our organization's steps up to the year 2025. Soon we will be sharing our future endeavors with you. Thank you for supporting us these past 25 years.

Clinical Services

The purpose of JUMP and GEMS is to provide a safe, 24-hour supervised housing for at-risk youth ages 12-18 while providing them with access to education and other ancillary services.

Juvenile Upward Mobility Program

Our boys are achieving their goals and reaching their milestones! All persons served are currently enrolled in school and attending regularly. We have a few persons served that are maintain jobs in the community as well as practicing for the schools football team. We are proud of our youth as we have quite a few persons served to return to their families! We are also excited to report that some of our young men have reached their goal and returned home!

GEMS

We are currently serving six (6) female youth in care through DCFS that participate regularly in school as well as yoga, equine therapy and activities in the community. We are proud that each youth has goals they are working towards!

My Second Home Foster Care

We currently have four (4) Emergency Foster Care Homes. We have three (3) Specialized Homes. Our goal is 15 homes. We are actively recruiting loving homes for Emergency or Specialized Foster Care. If you are aware of potential foster parents, please have them contact us at 815-933-2493 ext. 730.



Educational Services

Early

Education

We provide early education services to children 6 weeks—5 years at our centers. Our goal is to provide children with educational and developmental support that lay a foundation for life-long learning. We pro-

vide safe and developmentally enriched caregiving and education that promotes the physical,



cognitive, social and emotional development of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Early Education Site 1 achieved accreditation from the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Program! We also achieved the Gold Circle of Quality. This year we will focus on achieving Accreditation for our Safe Haven Day Care Center.

Through a partnership with the Southwest Organizing Project, we have implemented the Parent Mentor program to four (4) school this year; Millie Proegler, Taft, Montessori and Lorenzo Smith.



Out of School Program

Our S.E.F.E. Afterschool Program has been operating with limited capacity at our Safe Haven location. We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with schools in the local school district to provide remote learning to their students at our Safe Haven!



Garden of Prayer Youth Center's S.A.F.E. Summer Camp will begin next year on Monday, June 14, 2021. If you are interested in additional information for this program please contact Alex Graves at 815-933-2493!



Garden of Prayer Youth Center would like to thank all of our friends, families, and stakeholders that support us by utilizing our services, participating in our programs, and by donating to our mission. 2020 was challenging to us all, however, you remained committed to Garden of Prayer and helped us have a successful year despite the fear and worry created by the pandemic. Your support helped us achieve the following:
 On December 1, 2020 we opened a congregate care facility for troubled girls in need of a loving home. We had

Number of Youth Placed in our homes	Days of Care	Hours of Mental Health Services Provided	Number of Kids served in our Education Program	Number of Instructional Hours Provided	Number of Parent Mentoring Hours Provided	Hours of Free Summer Camp	Number of Meals Served
48	4,008	9,026	102	102,765	6,400	7,840	6,839

many partners to step up and step in to help us get the vehicles, equipment, furnishings, and home goods we needed to make their house a home and launch our program entitled GEMS. On behalf our Board of Directors, would like to give special thanks to Jeff & Amy VanDrunen, Jim Bridgewater, Brad Hove, Lisa Dugan, Stevie Hunter, Zonta, Jeff Hammes & Peoples Bank, Andy Wheeler & the Kankakee County Board, Sheriff Mike Downey, Matt Olszewski, Dr. Genevra Walters, Dr. Marcus Alexander, Larry Enz, Mayor Chasity, Mrs. Deloris Potempa, Dr. Deb Baron & Project SUN, Sam Payton, Vincent Clark & KCCSI, Judge Imani Drew & KCWAT, Kristin Giaccino & Clove Alliance, Carole Franke & I-KAN ROE, Kankakee Federation of Labor, Jim Rowe, Patrick Joyce, Lindsey Parkhurst, and the Catholic Diocese of Joliet. We love our children, families, and our community. We would also thank all those that pray for us weekly. Garden of Prayer is only as strong as our community.

LOCATIONS

Administrative Office
 657 E. Court St. Suite 200
 Kankakee, IL 60901
 815.933.2493

Jordan Community Center
 1432 S. Fourth Ave.
 Kankakee, IL 60901

Congregate Care Homes (2)
 Momence, IL 60954

Early Education Center Site 1
 381 S. Fourth Ave.

The Safe Haven
 Early Education, Site 2, My Second Home Foster Care, Out of School Programs, R.E.S. Studio, and Vocational Programming
 101 S. Division St.
 Aroma Park, IL 60910



June 14—August 6, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Safe Haven 101 S. Division St. Aroma Park IL
A.M. Snack, Lunch and Supper Provided
Educational, Recreational and Spiritual Enrichment
PLUS Field Trips Weekly!
Registration Now Open

Additional information can be obtained from Alex Graves at 815-933-2493 or agraves@gopyouthcenter.org

Back to School Cookout & Movie in the Park

More Information to Come



Friday, August 6, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Location to be determined!