

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Summer/Fall 2022

## GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER



### Planting Seeds of Hope!

Contact us:

815-933-2493

WWW.GOPYOUTHCENTER.ORG

### 2022 PARTNERS

Dept. of Children & Family Services

Dept. of Human Services

IL State Board of Education

I-KAN/ROE

Van Drunen Farms

Kankakee County Board

Southwest Organizing Project

Child Care Resource & Referral

United Way of Kankakee

The Zonta Club of Kankakee

Local Business and Individuals



## Program Updates

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is a faith-based, nonprofit organization incorporated in March of 1995. We are a CARF and NAC accredited child welfare agency licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services.

### Clinical Services

The purpose of JUMP and GEMS Group Home programs is to provide a safe, 24-hour supervised housing for at-risk youth ages 12-17 while providing them with access to education and trauma informed mental health services. These youth are considered homeless, hard to place, victims of abuse and neglect and are in need of safe and therapeutic environment to address their trauma and grow.

### Group Homes

We provide loving homes for six female teens and nine male teens. They participate regularly in school as well as sports and social recreational activities in the community. Our kids receive individual and group therapy, case management, mentoring, and life skills development. Seven of our youth graduated high school and several youth transitioned to foster care, job corps, and independent living programs. We are proud that each youth has goals they are working towards!

### My Second Home Foster Care

We currently have three (3) Emergency Foster Care Homes. We have five (5) 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.



### Interim Care Center Services

We recently received approval from the Kankakee County Board to open a shelter for girls. We have started the renovation process and we appreciate the wonderful women of Zonta for supporting this cause. We are now accepting monetary donations for renovations costs.

### Educational Services

#### **Early Education & Parent Mentoring**

We provide early education services to children ages 6 weeks — 12 years at our centers. We provide safe and developmentally enriched caregiving and education that promotes the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. We have partnered with CCR&R to provide Preschool For All. We had a wonderful preschool graduation this year.



Through a partnership with the Southwest Organizing Project, we have expanded our Parent Mentor program to five schools this year serving Pembroke and Kankakee. We also provide resources for child care, job readiness testing, and other employment related needs.



#### **Out of School Programs**

Our S.E.F.E. Afterschool Program and SAFE summer camp programs were filled with learning and recreation. Our kids visited the zoo, museums, and participated in a number of fun-filled learning activities. Of course, we end every summer camp with a trip to Indiana Beach. We would like to thank I-KAN ROE, the United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, and individual donors for supporting our summer camp program.

