

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Spring 2015

GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER

GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER



Touching Lives
Strengthening Families
Transforming Communities

Contact us:

815-933-2493

GOPYOUTHCENTER.ORG

FUNDERS

DCFS

DHS

I-KAN/ROE

American Camping Association

Child Care Resource & Referral

Tallman Boy's Foundation



Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

Goldman Sachs
10,000
small
businesses
A L U M N I

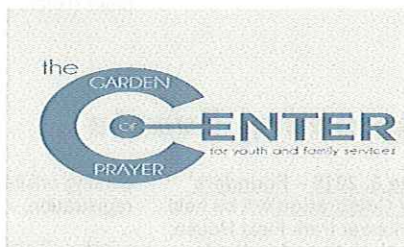
What's New?

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is preparing for CARF accreditation. We've been working tirelessly to ensure that our organization is providing the best possible services to those we serve. GOPYC will be under review May 13th - May 15th. We would like to thank our persons served, our families, funders and supporters for their input as we seek to improve our delivery of services.



Commission on Accreditation of
Rehabilitation Facilities

Garden of Prayer Youth Center had the honor of being chosen as the local non-profit agency that Olivet Nazarene University Media students chose to provide a media make-over. This project began late January and we are pleased to introduce our new logo that will be officially released this fall at our annual meeting. The students are also working on our video marketing, Facebook page and brochures. Let us know what you think about our logo.



We would like to thank GLK Workforce Board for selecting our organization for \$30,000 in funding for youth workforce development and employment readiness. Last year we provided 19 youth with job training and job placement during the summer with funding from the Department of Hu-

man Services.

In late March, we were notified by one of our funders that funding for Teen REACH afterschool programming would end April 5th. We decided to continue programming through May 15th despite the funding shortage. Through advocacy efforts and with the support of State Representative Kate Cloonen and State Senator Toi Hutchinson, the funding was restored on May 1st. This funding will ensure that our usual summer camp programming will continue as planned. We would like to thank our legislators for acting on behalf of our most vulnerable children.

 **Child Care
Resource & Referral**

■ WILL ■ GRUNDY ■ KENDALL ■ KANKAKEE COUNTIES

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is pleased to announce a new partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral of Will, Kendall, Grundy and Kankakee Counties. CCR&R received a \$1.4 million 5 year grant from the Office of Head Start Education to provide 104 infants and toddlers from low-income families in Kankakee County with an enriching early head start education. In addition to early education, early head start provides health, developmental and behavioral screenings, increased parent engagement, professional development for teachers. We are currently enrolling infants and toddlers ages 6 weeks to 3 years. We are also seeking to hire 18 professional and paraprofessional teaching staff.

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

815.933.2446

Early Education and
Intervention Center

381 S. Fourth Ave.

Kankakee, IL 60901

815.401.5671

Residential Program

16424 E. State Route 114

Momence, IL 60954

815.472.2490

Advocacy and Prevention Activities

All activities are free and open to the public, held at the Jordan Community Center from 10:00am-1:00pm with light refreshments served.

June 13— First Aide/CPR for Babysitters and New Mothers

August 1— Career Building

September 12— Child Development

October 3— Self Defense/Domestic Violence

November 7— Spiritual Awareness

December 5— Home Safety

January 9, 2016— Nutrition & Exercise

Agency Information

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that was incorporated in March of 1995. Garden of Prayer Youth Center is a child welfare agency licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services and governed by a Board of Directors that supports the center and its mission.

The mission of Garden of Prayer Youth Center is to improve the well-being of at-risk children, adults, and families by providing educational and mental health services that place them on a pathway towards success.

Starting Soon

Early Education and Intervention Center

Our goal is to provide children with educational and developmental support that lay a founda-



tion for life-long learning. We will assist them with reaching

Out-of School Programs

The S.E.F.E. program provides individual and group tutoring and mentoring services as well as social recreation. During the summer, we combine academics and athletics to facilitate healthy minds and healthy bodies. Campers are provided with academic enrichment, physical education, healthy meals, field trips, and arts and crafts for 7-8 weeks. We are an approved American Camping Association campsite.

their maximum learning potential. We provide safe and developmentally enriching caregiving and education that promotes the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and prepares them for future growth and development. We will serve children ages 6 months -5 years. We have partnered with CCR&R of Will, Grundy, Kendal and Kankakee Counties to provide Early Head Start. We are opening multiple sites in Kankakee and one site in Pembroke (Lorenzo Smith School).

Upcoming Events

June 6, 2015 – Founders' Day Celebration will be held at Pioneer Park Field House, 750 N. Hobbie. Ave Kankakee, IL. During this event we will celebrate the founders of Garden of Prayer Youth Center, share information regarding our organization and provide free food, fun, and games. The event will start at 12:00pm and end at 3:00pm. This event also kicks off our summer camp program. We will be con-

ducting onsite summer camp registration.



Summer Camp begins June 15th and will end August 7th. We are expecting 50 campers to participate in this years camp.

Community Youth Employment

The purpose of this program is to assist persons served with achieving independence and self-sufficiency by providing job readiness and employment opportunities. This program targets at-risk low income youth between the ages of 16-24 years.

Residential Services

The purpose of this program is to provide a safe, 24-hour supervised housing for delinquent and at-risk youth ages 15 -18. We provide them with access to education and other ancillary services to reduce the participants frequency of interfacing with the law, improve behavior, and improve relationships with parents or guardians.

HOPE

HOPE Behavioral Health Services (HBHS) is a community based outpatient behavioral health program. We strive to improve the overall mental and emotional well-being by providing mental health services that increase functioning and build resilience. This program is currently in development with roll out scheduled to begin September 1, 2015. We will be serving Medicaid recipients as well as those whose insurance providers include Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna, and Aetna. We are currently accepting applications and referrals for services. Enroll now.

On June 13th, we will be providing free First Aide and CPR training for Babysitters, New Mothers, and Mothers to be. Please contact our office at 815-933-2493 to RSVP for this free training. Limited slots are available.

This fall we will be celebrating our 20th year anniversary during our Annual Meeting Event. Date, location and time will be announced shortly.