

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Summer Issue 2015

## GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER

### What's New?

#### 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



We cordially invite you to join us as our agency celebrates 20 years of keeping families together. On November 21st at 6 p.m., Garden of Prayer Youth Center will be hosting a Gala at the Majestic Theater in Downtown Kankakee. Enjoy an evening full of food, fun, and live entertainment as we launch our Believe and Build Capital Campaign and as we honor 9 dynamic women of impact that have "built pathways to success for children and families". These powerful women exemplify the high ideals of Garden of Prayer Youth Center and their hard work and dedication continues to touch lives, strengthen families, and transform communities. Honorees include our agency founders Vurnice Maloney and Lorine Samuels, Senator Toi Hutchison, Commissioner Pat Polk, Denise Murray of DCFS, Attorney Imani Drew, Lizzie Clark, Carole Franke, and Terri Manard. Tickets are \$75.00 and can be purchased through our website. Look for our invitations.



Commission on Accreditation of  
Rehabilitation Facilities

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is now accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities. Our Board and staff worked tirelessly and achieved the highest rating, a 3 year full accreditation. We would like to thank our persons served, our families, funders and supporters for their participation in the survey and the accreditation process.



Garden of Prayer Youth Center is pleased to announce that we have officially opened our first of three child care centers that will offer Early Head Start. Join us along with Alderwomen Chasity Armstrong and State Representative Kate Cloonen for our ribbon cutting and open house on October 2nd at 381 S. Fourth Ave. from noon to 1:30 pm.



■ WILL ■ GRUNDY ■ KENDALL ■ KANKAKEE COUNTIES

Through our partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral of Will, Kendall, Grundy and Kankakee Counties (CCR&R) we have begun classroom renovations in Pembroke's Lorenzo Smith School located at 4120 S. Wheeler Road. We will be enrolling infants and toddlers ages 6 weeks to 3 years.



This summer we provided summer day camp to 50 children and youth at Pioneer Park. We would like to thank I-KAN, Kankakee Valley Park District, Kankakee Police Department, Perry Farms, Peoples Bank, KSD 111, Webster's Plumbing, American Camping Association, Strategic Business Solutions, and individual donors for their support. We congratulate our King Jaylin Hairston and Queen Jalisa McGee.



## 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.

October 3— Self Defense/Domestic Violence

November 7— Spiritual Awareness

December 5— Home Safety

January 9, 2016— Nutrition & Exercise



Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

## 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.

## Now Open

### Early Education and Intervention Center

Our goal is to provide children with educational and developmental support that lay a foundation for life-long learning. We will assist them with reaching their maximum learning potential. We provide safe and devel-



### 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.

opmentally 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).

### 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.

## Upcoming Events

**October 2, 2015 – Child Care Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House** will be held at Garden of Prayer Early Education Center 381 S. Fourth Ave. from 12 pm—1:30 pm.

**October 3, 2015—Domestic Violence Awareness and Self Defense.** At our monthly community engagement activity, we will discuss the signs of domestic violence as well as provide information regarding local service or-

ganizations that provide assistance to victims of DV. We will also provide basic training in self defense. Please contact our office at 815-933-2493 to RSVP for this free training.

**November 21, 2015—20 Year Celebration.** We will be hosting a gala with fun, food, and live entertainment at the Majestic Theater in Downtown Kankakee at 6 pm. Tickets are \$75. Visit our website for more information.

**December 12, 2015— 9th Annual Christmas Extravaganza and Toy Giveaway** will be held at the Lincoln Cultural Center 340 Warren Ave. Kankakee, IL. Beginning at 10 am, we will be giving away toys, coats, food and much more to families in need. Registration will open November 2, 2015.

