

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Summer 2016

## GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER

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#### Touching Lives

Strengthening Families

Transforming Communities

Contact us:

815-933-2493

GOPYOUTHCENTER.ORG

### OUR PARTNERS

DCFS

DHS

I-KAN/ROE

American Camping Association

Child Care Resource & Referral

Tallman Boy's Foundation

Local Business and Individuals



Commission on Accreditation of  
Rehabilitation Facilities



10,000  
small  
businesses

A L U M N I

## Program Update

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that was incorporated in March of 1995. We are a CARF accredited child welfare agency licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services. 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 places them on a pathway towards success.

It is our vision to become the leading child welfare agency that provides underprivileged youth and families with opportunities to succeed. We want to be the "Walmart of human services".

### Early Education and Intervention Program

Our goal is to provide children with educational and developmental support that lay a foundation for life-long learning. We provide safe and developmentally enriched 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.

Through our 5 – year partnership with



CCR&R, we have two well-equipped Early Head Start sites open to serve low income families. We have a site in Kankakee, a site inside Lorenzo Smith School in Pembroke, and our third site is scheduled to open this fall in Aroma Park. We are hiring teachers for our Early Head Start program. We are now enrolling children ages 6 weeks -5 years.

### Hope Behavioral Health Services

HOPE Behavioral Health Services is a community based behavioral health program. We strive to improve the overall mental and emotional well-being of individuals and fami-

lies. We currently accept Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Cigna. Our office is located at 1432 S. Fourth Ave., Kankakee, IL.

### Youth and Family Enrichment

The S.E.F.E. after school program provides tutoring, mentoring services, and recreational therapy to address the mental health and academic needs of students. However, our afterschool program was significantly impacted by last years budget cuts. This summer our summer day-camp program provided campers with academic enrichment,



physical education, healthy meals, field trips, and arts and crafts for 8 weeks to 43 participants. GOPYC crowned Aliyah Graham as Queen and Jaden Jones as King during our Campers' Choice Award Ceremony.

### 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.



## 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

Residential Services  
16424 E. State Route 114  
Momence, IL 60954  
815.472.2490

Early Education Center Site 1  
381 S. Fourth Ave.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
815.401.5671

Early Education Center Site 2  
4120 S. Wheeler Rd.  
Hopkins Park, IL 60944  
815.401.5671

The Safe Haven  
101 S. Division St.  
Aroma Park, IL 60910

### SAFE HAVEN WISH LIST

New Computer  
Gym Equipment (weights)  
Wood Laminate Flooring  
Computer Desks/Tables  
Gym Mats  
Kitchen Utensils (Pots, Pans, Bowls, etc.)  
Music Studio/Sound Equipment  
Video & Photography Cameras

### CHRISTMAS GIVE-AWAY WISH LIST

New Children's Coats  
New Toys  
Gift Cards

## Garden of Prayer Youth Center's Vision: The Safe Haven

Last November, we launched a Capital Campaign to garner funding to build and support, "The Safe Haven" Center. At that time we expected to open the building by 2019. Garden of Prayer Youth Center, Inc. is excited to announce that our plans have been moved forward and we will be opening the Safe Haven in the Fall.

Thus far we have raised over \$20,000, we are still accepting donations. Please visit our website, click the donate tab to contribute. All donations are fully tax deductible.

The Purpose of the Safe Haven will be to establish a center focused on offering vocational, educational, and recreational opportunities for at-risk children and families. Opportunities will include but are not limited to access to:

1. Early Head Start and Child Care
2. Group Fitness (Boxing, Yoga, Calisthenics)
3. Culinary Exploration
4. Media Arts and Performance Studios
5. Vocational Training
6. Financial Literacy & Entrepreneurial Education



## Upcoming Events

**October 22, 2016** – Garden of Prayer Youth Center will be opening our doors to the new Safe Haven and hosting a Reception and Tour for the Aroma Park Residents. If you are a resident of Aroma Park, please join us at 101 S. Division St. from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

**November 19, 2016** – Garden of Prayer Youth Center will be hosting our Mission Possible Annual Fundraiser where we will honor men that make our mission possible. Also during the event we will release our plans for the newest site! Tickets are only \$50 per person. The event will be at the Safe Haven from 5:00 p.m.--9:00 p.m.

**December 10, 2016**– GOPYC will host the 10th Annual Christmas Giveaway Extravaganza in the Lincoln Cultural Auditorium! Registration will occur from November 1-30, 2016. Parents and children must be present the day of the event which will occur from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

*See You Soon!!!!!!!!!!*