

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Spring 2017

## GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER

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**Touching Lives**

**Strengthening Families**

**Transforming Communities**

Contact us:

815-933-2493

GOPOYOUTHCENTER.ORG

### OUR PARTNERS

DCFS

DHS

I-KAN/ROE

Choices Coordinated Care

American Camping Association

Tallman Boy's Foundation

Local Business and Individuals



Commission on Accreditation of  
Rehabilitation Facilities

Goldman  
Sachs

10,000  
small  
businesses

A L U M N I

## Program Updates

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.

### Early Education Program

Our goal is to provide children with educational and developmental support that lay a foundation for life-long learning. We have two sites that provide safe and developmentally enriched caregiving and education as well as before and afterschool care. We also provide engaging family activities such as literacy nights, math nights, and we recently celebrated week of the young child. We serve ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Our child care program was awarded the Bronze Level Circle of Quality and we are now partnering with PNC Bank's Grow Up Great Program. We have sites in Kankakee and Aroma Park.



### 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 families. At your request, we can provide in home therapy. 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

Our Summer Camp program which is set to start June 12, 2017 provides tutoring, mentoring services, and recreational therapy to address the mental health and academic needs of students. We would like to thank Elain Bradley and our local Ross Department Store for their generous donation of \$1,860

for Summer Camp. Thank you to Greg Chambers and the Eastridge Nazarene Church for their donation of Culinary supplies!

We would like to thank those that attended our Annual Fashion Show that was held on May 6th. A special thanks go to Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong and Judge Imani Drew for the encouraging words they shared to empower our young ladies.



### 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. Youth are provided work opportunities in child care, food service, maintenance, customer service, and construction.

### Residential Services

The purpose of this program is to provide housing, case management, and mental health services for delinquent and at-risk youth ages 15-18.

### Foster Care

Foster Care Services is provided for youth in care of DCFS. We provide Emergency Foster Care and Specialized Foster Care Services. We are looking for those interested in becoming foster parents. We have foster parent meetings the last Thursday of every month from 5:30 pm—7 pm. If interested, contact Dennisha Veal-Lowe @ 815-933-2493.

**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

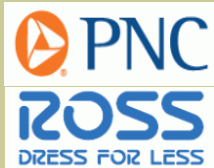
Early Education Center Site 1  
381 S. Fourth Ave.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
815.401.5671

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

**SAFE HAVEN WISH LIST**

- New Computers
- Gym Equipment (weights)
- Computer Desks/Tables
- Gym Mats
- Music Studio/Sound Equipment
- Video & Photography Cameras

Garden of Prayer Youth Center would like welcome our new partners Ross and PNC Bank.



Our next Annual Fundraiser will be held on October 28, 2017. We will be "Celebrating the Arts: Kankakee".

More details to follow!

**You're Invited to the Safe Haven's Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!**

We will be celebrating the start of our Early Education & Foster Care Program.

**Friday, June 9, 2017**

**11:00 a.m.**

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

*\*Reception and Tours to Follow*



**Enroll your child today!**



**Become a Foster Parent!**

**Upcoming Events**

**June 9, 2017**– GOPYC will host our Annual S.A.F.E. Summer Founders Day Festival at the Safe Haven. Partnering with African American Improvement Association, we are co-hosting the "Stop the Violence" rally. Join us for **FREE** food and fun for all ages! Join us from 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

**June 12, 2017**– S.A.F.E. Summer Camp will be held for 8 weeks, Tuesday-Friday from June 12, 2017– August 11, 2017 at the Safe Haven. We provide breakfast and lunch, transportation, two field trips per week; as well as educational, recreational, and spiritual enrichment.

**August 10, 2017**– Camper Choice Awards will be held as a close to S.A.F.E. Summer Camp. During this event we will crown this years Mr. & Mrs. S.A.F.E. Summer Camp as King and Queen.