

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Winter 2016-2017

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

Choices Coordinated Care

American Camping Association

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.



We have a site in Kankakee, and our second site is scheduled to open this Spring in Aroma Park. We are now enrolling children ages 6 weeks -5 years.

We will be starting our School Aged Child Care program at the Safe Haven this spring. GOPYC will accept ages 5-11.

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

We welcome Choices Coordinated Care as a new partner.

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. We will be partnering with King Middle School to provide in-school mentoring starting in January of 2017.

Our G.E.M.S. dancers continue to perform throughout Kankakee County.



Look for them at an event coming soon!

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.

We are looking for work sites for the youth enrolled in the program. Currently, we have 10 youth participating.

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

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
Cooking Utensils (Pots, Pans, Bowls, etc.)
Music Studio/Sound Equipment
Video & Photography Cameras

Garden of Prayer Youth Center would like to thank our partners and supporters for a successful 2016 year! We are excited about what 2017 will bring!

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

More details to follow!

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

In November of 2015, we launched a Capital Campaign to garner funding to build and support, "The Safe Haven" Center.

Thus far we have raised over \$45,000, and we are looking for reoccurring donors that will contribute at least \$25 a month for the 2017 calendar year. Please visit our website, click the donate tab to contribute. All donations are fully tax deductible.

The Purpose of the Safe Haven is 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 Childhood Education
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

April 22, 2017– Garden of Prayer Youth Center's first annual COOK OFF! The top 12 dishes will be featured in our 2018 Agency Calendar. The event will be held at the Safe Haven from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. More details to come!

May 6, 2017 – Annual G.E.M.S. Fashion Show from 3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. at the Jordan Community Center
Tickets: \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Children

June 10, 2017– GOPYC will host our Annual S.A.F.E. Summer Founders Day Festival at the Safe Haven. We will be providing FREE food and fun for all ages! Join us from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 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.