

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Winter 2020

## GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER

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**Touching Lives**  
**Strengthening Families**  
**Transforming Communities**

Contact us:  
815-933-2493  
WWW.GOPYOUTHCENTER.ORG

### OUR PARTNERS

DCFS  
DHS  
I-KAN/ROE  
Southwest Organizing Project  
American Camping Association  
IL State Board of Education  
Local Business and Individuals



## Program Updates

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that was incorporated in March of 1995. We are a CARF and NAC 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”. We are proud to announce that Garden of Prayer Youth Center has received the mandated “Think Trauma” training and we are a certified Trauma Informed organization!

### Clinical Services

#### Juvenile Upward Mobility Program

Our boys are achieving their goals and reaching their milestones! All persons served are currently enrolled in school and attending regularly. We have a few persons served that are maintain jobs in the community! The purpose of this program is to provide a safe, 24-hour supervised housing for delinquent and at-risk youth ages 15-18 while providing them with access to education and other ancillary services.

GOPYC is excited to announce that our second group home passed all licensing inspections and is furnished and ready to house girls rescued from Commercialized Child Sex Exploitation.

#### My Second Home Foster Care

We currently have four (4) Emergency Foster Care Homes with six (6) persons served. We have three (3) Specialized Homes with a total of four (4) persons served. Garden of Prayer Youth Center, Inc. is looking for individuals or families that are interested in opening their home to foster children. We are actively recruiting loving homes for Emergency or Specialized Foster Care. If you are aware of potential foster parents, please have them contact us at 815-933-2493 ext. 730.

#### Hope Outpatient Behavioral Health

HOPE 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, Illini-Care, and Cigna Insurances. We are a proud partner of Choices Coordinated Care. If you or someone you know are in need of support, please contact GOPYC today!

### Educational Services

#### Early Education

We provide early education services to children 6 weeks—5 years at our centers. 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. Early Education Site 1 achieved accreditation from the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Program! We also achieved the Gold Circle of Quality. This year we will focus on achieving Accreditation for our Safe Haven Day Care Center. Through a partnership with the Southwest Organizing Project, we have implemented the Parent Mentor program to four (4) school this year; Millie Proegler, Taft, Montessori and Lorenzo Smith.



#### Out of School Program

Our S.E.F.E. Afterschool Program kicked off another educational and fun-filled year on Monday, September 9, 2019! Still looking for after care? Call 815-933-2493 to enroll your children! The program runs Monday-Friday from after school until 6pm.



Garden of Prayer Youth Center's S.A.F.E. Summer Camp 2020 will run from June 8 to August 6th! Campers will enjoy activities with educational, spiritual, and recreational enrichment. We will continue to provide three meals a day, educational and fun field trips, and life skills! Mark your calendars now as we will host our Camper Choice Awards to complete the 2020 Summer Camp on Thursday, August 6th!



**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

Residential Services  
Momence, IL 60954

Early Education Center Site 1  
381 S. Fourth Ave.

The Safe Haven  
Early Education, My Second Home  
Foster Care, Out of School Programs,  
R.E.S. Studio, and Vocational  
Programming  
101 S. Division St.  
Aroma Park, IL 60910



Thank you Dr. Stonewall  
McCuiston, Lisa Dugan and  
Family, Warren Moore  
& Alpha Phi Alpha,  
Kankakee Federation of  
Labor, Kankakee Fire  
Department for your  
continued support!



May 2020

GEMS Fashion Show

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-

Contact Vurnice Maloney  
Sign your children up with Mrs.  
Vurnice Maloney as we host our  
annual Fashion Show! Tickets  
will be available through Mrs.  
Maloney as well. More details  
TBA!



June 6, 2020

S.A.F.E. Summer (Camp)  
Kickoff, Cookout and  
Concert

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-  
Contact Kristi McBride

Join us for an eventful day  
from 12pm-4pm filled with  
face painting, video game  
truck, bounce houses, music  
and more! We will have our  
annual celebration at the Safe  
Haven! This event is free and  
open to the community!



June 8, 2020

S.A.F.E. Summer Camp  
Begins

Another 8 weeks of fun for  
campers filled with educational,  
spiritual, and recreational en-  
richment! Be sure to register  
your children! Registration will  
take place starting in April  
2020.

August 6, 2020

S.A.F.E. Summer Camper  
Choice Awards

Our Summer Camp will con-  
clude with our annual Camper  
Choice Awards! The awards  
ceremony is a great opportunity  
for our campers to showcase  
what they have learned and  
how much fun they had over  
the Summer! Also, we crown  
our Mr. and Miss. S.A.F.E.  
Summer Camp!

Save  
THE  
Date

Celebrating  
25 Years of

“Keeping Families Together”

Saturday, October 17, 2020

The Majestic • Kankakee, IL

Be sure you are on our mailing list by  
e-mailing [kmcbride@gopyouthcenter.org](mailto:kmcbride@gopyouthcenter.org)!