

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Spring 2016

## GARDEN OF PRAYER YOUTH CENTER

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#### 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

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. 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 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 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 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.



Currently, Site 1 of 3 is fully operational. Site 2 is scheduled to open in May and Site 3 will be opening in July of 2016. GOPYC is hiring teachers for our Early Head Start program. We are now enrolling children ages 6 weeks-5 years. Please contact our Child Care Center for events regarding "The Week of the Young Child" which is April 11-15, 2016.

#### Hope Behavioral Health Services

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

by program individual, group, and family therapy.

#### After School Programs

The S.E.F.E. program provides individual and group tutoring and mentoring services in order to decrease school suspensions and address the mental health and academic needs of students.

Our performing arts group has performed during the following events: KCCSI Black History Program, the Momence Black History Program, the Presence St. Mary's Senior Citizens Home and the Youth Symposium at the Kankakee High School.

#### Summer Day Camp

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 8 weeks. We are an approved American Camping Association campsite.

Registration will be from April 25, 2016-May 20, 2016 at our Administrative Office, 657 E. Court St. Suite 200 Kankakee, IL 60901. Summer Camp will begin Tuesday, June 14, 2016 and end on Friday, August 13, 2016.

#### 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. Currently we have 5 young adults actively participating in our work program.

#### 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.

In May of 2016, 5 of our persons served will graduate with their High School Diploma. Within the last year we've had 5 youth return to their families.

## 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 and  
Intervention Center Site 1  
381 S. Fourth Ave.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
815.401.5671

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

## 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.

May 9— Financial Literacy

June 4— Summer Safety

November 5— Spiritual Development

Do you have a topic that should be addressed? Would you like to lead a Advocacy and Prevention Activity? Please contact Mrs. Vurnice Maloney at 815-933-2493 ext. 102.

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

On November 21st, we launched a Capital Campaign to garner funding to build and support "The Safe Haven" Center we are planning to open by the Year 2019. 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 community center focused on offering vocational, educational, and recreational opportunities for at-risk children and families. This center will also provide access to mental health services and various trainings to assist attendees with achieving success.

The Safe Haven will have the latest technological infrastructure and designs and will include but will not be limited to the following:

1. Fitness Center and Gymnasium
2. Culinary Training Kitchen
3. Media Arts and Performance Studios
4. Training Classrooms



## Upcoming Events

**April 30, 2016** – GOPYC will be hosting the 4th Annual Performing Arts Fashion Show starting at 3:00pm at the Jordan Community Center, 1432 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets are \$10.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for ages 6-16 years, Free for kids 5 and under. Light refreshments will be served after the Fashion Show.

**May 9, 2016** — Attend a free seminar and gain valuable information from licensed and experienced financial planners regarding financial planning, wealth management, and college savings plans. This is a free event held at the Jordan Community Center 1432 S. Fourth Ave. from 10 am—12 pm. Please R.S.V.P. by Saturday, April 30, 2016 at [events@gopyouthcenter.org](mailto:events@gopyouthcenter.org).

**June 4, 2016** – S.A.F.E. Summer Founders Day Festival will be held at Pioneer Park Field House, 750 N. Hobbie. Ave., Kankakee, IL starting 12:00pm-3:00pm. FREE food, fun and games!

**June 14, 2016**– S.A.F.E. Summer Camp Begins. Summer camp is offered to youth ages 5-15 at Pioneer Park Field House, Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.