

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Winter 2014-2015

## 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



## 8th Annual Christmas Giveaway Extravaganza

GOPYC hosted the 8th Annual Christmas Giveaway Extravaganza on Saturday, December 13, 2014 and had a very successful day! All gifts were passed out to the registered families at the Lincoln Cultural Center Auditorium, 240 Warren Ave. Kankakee, IL. GOPYC provided 587 individuals with toys, coats, gift cards and more! Sara Lee donated snack cakes for all the children that attended the giveaway.



Mrs. Kristi McBride would like to thank all the sponsors and volunteers who helped make this event a success! GOPYC received sponsorship from Peddinghaus,

Marine Corps Toys for Tots, Stevie Hunter, Riverside Medical Center, Presence St. Mary's Hospital, Kankakee School District 111, Kankakee Police Department, Kankakee Fire Department, Richton Park Dollar General, Concord Cleaners, Carole Franke, Ruby Maloney, Judy Martin, Peoples Bank, Senator Toi Hutchinson, Citizens for Al Riley, Ladies of Score, Santa, Inc, BBCHS, Sara Lee and the Mense Family.

A special thanks to Dr. McCuiston and Ketura Baptist for serving as our 2014 Santa and Mrs. Claus!



## 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

Early Education and  
Intervention Center

381 S. Fourth Ave.

Kankakee, IL 60901

815.401.5671

Residential Services

16424 E. State Route 114

Momence, IL 60954

815.472.2490

### 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.

February 7— Marriage Tune Up

March 7— Home Buying Seminar

April 4— Financial Literacy

May 9— Gang Awareness

June 13— First Aide/CPR for Babysitters and New Mothers

August 1— Career Building

September 12— Child Development

October 3— Self Defense/Domestic Violence

November 7— Spiritual Awareness

December 5— Home Safety

January 9, 2016— Nutrition & Exercise

## Agency Information

Garden of Prayer Youth Center is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that was incorporated in March of 1997. 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 and families by providing educational and mental health services that places them on a pathway towards success.

### 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.

### 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.

### Community Youth Employment

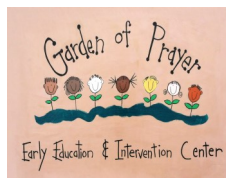
The purpose of this program is to assist persons served with achieving independence and self-sufficiency by providing job readiness and employment opportunities. This program targets at-risk low income youth between the ages of 16-24 years.

### 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.

## Coming Soon to Garden of Prayer Youth Center

### 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 enriching 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 will serve children ages 6 months -5 years.

### HOPE

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.

## Upcoming Events

February 1, 2015— Super-Bowl Party Fundraiser will be held at the Jordan Community Center, 1432 S. Fourth Ave. Kankakee, IL starting at 6:00pm until the end of game. Come and enjoy food, fun and the game while supporting our After School Program. Tickets are \$10.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for 6-16 years, \$1.00 for kids 5 and under.

March/April 2015— Grand Opening of the Early Education and Intervention Center and HOPE Behavioral Health Program. Date and Time are TBA.

May 2, 2015— GOPYC will be hosting 3rd 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 6-16 years, Free for kids 5 and under. Light refreshments will be served after the Fashion Show.

June 6, 2015— Founders Day Celebration will be held at Pioneer Park Field House, 750 N. Hobbie Ave Kankakee, IL starting 12:00pm-3:00pm. FREE food, fun and games!