

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: Winter 2015-2016

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

2015 in Review

We had a very busy 2015! In January we partnered with Child Care Resource and Referral to provide Early Head Start. In April we opened our first child care center. In May, we successfully completed a survey and on-site review and became accredited under the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. GOPYC passed with an excellent review score and was awarded a 3 Year Accreditation.

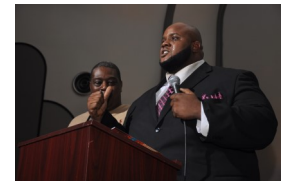
In October, Site 1 of 3 Early Education centers had their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Site 2 which will be housed inside Lorenzo Smith School in Hopkins Park will be opening soon. Site 3 will be open before the year ends which will also be located in Kankakee. In total we will serve 140 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

In November, Garden of Prayer Youth Center celebrated 20 Years by hosting a gala at the beautiful Majestic Theater downtown Kankakee honoring 12 dynamic Women of Impact that have Built Pathways to Success for children and families. Although we experienced our first major snow that

evening we had over 180 attendees. Along with our founder Vurnice Maloney, we celebrated the achievements of State Senator Toi Hutchinson, County Commissioner Pat Polk, DCFS Deputy Director Denise Murray, Lorine Samuels, Charleszetta Williams, Apostle Charlene Crossley, Officer Melvina Edwards, Terri Manard, Attorney J. Imani Drew, Lizzie Clark, and Carole Franke.

In December, we hosted our 9th Annual Christmas Giveaway Extravaganza at the Lincoln Cultural Center in Kankakee. We partnered with the Kankakee School District and over 560 children and their families were served. This year more coats, hats and gloves were asked for than toys! A special thanks to Dr. Stonewall McCuiston Jr. and Ms. Ketura Baptiste for serving as Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

Each year we serve dinner and delivered handmade gifts to seniors at Presence's Adult Daycare. This year we partnered with Aglow International and provided breakfast and grooming products to women residing in shelters.



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.

February 6— Marriage Tune Up

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.

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. Arts and Media Studios
4. Therapy, Recovery and Educational Facilities
5. Training and Development Classrooms



Upcoming Events

February 6, 2016 — We will be hosting a marriage seminar entitled a "Marriage Tune-Up". This is a free event held at the Jordan Community Center 1432 S. Fourth Ave. from 10 am—12 pm. Just in time for Valentine's Day come to learn how to improve your marriage relationship from a licensed Marriage Counselor.

February 7, 2016 – 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, Free for kids 5 and under.

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 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.

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!

See You Soon!!!!!!!!!!