

Cherry Street
Youth Center
Newsletter
March 2024

MISSION STATEMENT:
Cherry Street Youth Center, Inc., is Christian based ministry formed to help children develop spiritually, emotionally, physically, and academically within their community.

We are a non-profit, faith-based youth center. Our focus has been to share the love of God through Jesus Christ with the elementary and middle school aged children in Chanute by providing them with a safe, secure, and fun place to go after school that offers a wide variety of learning experiences and opportunities.

Here's a fast and easy way to make your donation to Cherry Street. Use your PayPal account and scan our QR code



Main office #
620-431-2161



Easter 2024

Our Bible teachers are planning some powerful experiences for our children during Holy week. The greatest sacrifice made by Jesus for each one of us is quite literally the most important lesson we have here at Cherry Street each year. The center will share the story a little differently taking the ages of their students into account.

There are a few items we will be needing to make this Easter special for the kids. Please look at the items in the box to the right. IF you are able to provide an item, we will need them here by March 18th. All items can be brought to 710 N Forest Ave. Thank you for your generosity!!

- Items needed for Easter
- empty baskets (60)
 - decorative grass for Easter Baskets
 - several bags of Jelly Beans
 - individually wrapped Easter candy
 - 150 3 oz. Dixie cups
 - 4 64 oz bottles of grape juice
 - 100 wooden clothes pins w/ springs
 - 2 packages of baby wipes

Exciting News!

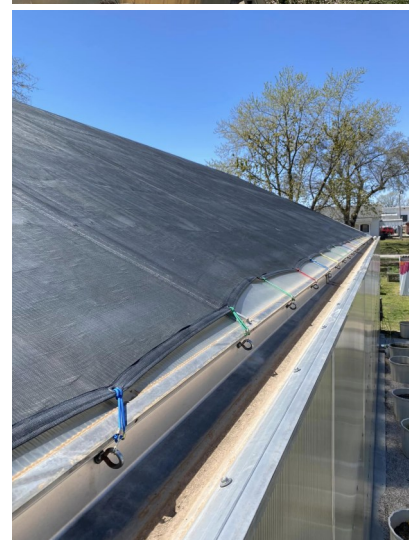
Our greenhouse is in need of a new shade system. We built the greenhouse in 2018 and chose to go with the cheapest shade system which is installed on the outside over the roof. It is put on in the spring to shade our new seedlings and tender plants and taken off in the late fall to let more sunlight through the winter months into the greenhouse. The process of putting on the shade cloth and taking it off is actually quite laborious and not the most energy efficient set up.

Our operating system inside the greenhouse which controls the temperature and humidity can also control an internal shade system! The internal "curtain" system is supposed to be much more energy efficient as the temperature increases or decreases, the control center will activate the internal curtain to extend or retract to help cool our crop or hold the heat lower to the crop which helps our heating and cooling cost!

The overall project of purchasing and installing this system is \$21,800. Well, we don't just have that laying around. I was able to find a grant funded through Farm Credit Services of America for \$10,000! I connected with Tim Fairchild with the Chanute Community Foundation to see if he was aware of any grant options. He spoke with the CC Foundation board and they have awarded us up to a \$5,000 matching grant!

I needed to locate matching funds!! Our delegate, Mary Dawson with the 1st Presbyterian church called me a few days later to share the church had recently been blessed with funds and they hoped to support Cherry St. I shared the matching grant requirements and she said we could count on them to match the funds!!!! GOD IS GREAT!!

We still need an additional \$1800 to cover the entire project. Please contact me if you are aware of a funding source we could connect with. IF you are able to help checks can be mailed to us at PO Box 414. Please put "shade" in the memo line. Thank you for your support and prayers in all we do for the kids!



Fresh Fruit Friday
We would like to thank the New Hope Church for sponsoring the month of March!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Warehouse Happenings

The middle schoolers never miss a change to cook or celebrate so they made some tasty brownie cakes for Valentines day. They have also been busy making sure our bees have what they need to make it through the rest of winter fat and happy! The hives start running low on their honey stores that help provide them the energy to keep warm and to sustain them until spring. The kids made “candy boards” for each hive. Each board is a mixture of sugar, water, vinegar, and pollen. The bees will use what they need until spring comes and they can collect pollen. The queen will start laying LOTS of eggs to start the spring brood of bees. The nurse bees will be very busy soon and the “candy boards” will help the spring transition go a bit better.

The big kids also helped get the greenhouse ready for spring planting by constructing the benches and cleaning the equipment. The work is never done in the greenhouse!

Planning for Next Year

I am currently working on the budget proposal for the Board of Directors for next school year. I have been told the school district will most likely NOT have their after school program due to no longer having the current funding source.

They have been using ESSER funds (in short it was left over Covid funds). We also received \$18,000 in ESSER funds which will no longer be available to us. We used the funds to install a Reading Lab and upgraded our 3D printing lab.

I am requesting your prayers for discernment and guidance for the direction we need to head for next year to best support our kids. We would love to help fill the gap left in our town if the district no longer provides after school care. That would require at least 3 additional staff members to add classes at East & West. That would also increase our classroom supply needs. We are already very limited for classroom space and adding more student’s and classes creates a scheduling nightmare.....Eeek! Bottom line, I do not want to sacrifice quality of care and programming for quantity. Let His will come through!



Cherry Street will be closed March 8th - March 15th for Spring Break. Please contact Jennifer at 636-357-2118 for anything requiring immediate attention. Please call our office at 431-2161 for all other needs. We will return all calls March 18th.

Items needed for the centers
-2 cases of 16 oz water bottles
-4 packages of 9 inch uncoated paper plates
-3 boxes snack size baggies

Items we need for Christmas 2024 baskets: Household cleaners (409, Mr. Clean, etc.)



We are accepting new and GENTLY used Mother’s Day gift items. Bring them to 710 N Forest Ave. Thank You!