



FUNDRAISING TIME!

THE 2026 CHALLENGE IS \$250,000!

October kicks off our annual fundraising challenge. These next three months are quite a big deal for us when it comes to the continuation of our programs. We will receive nearly half of our annual operational funds during the challenge. \$250,000 is our largest match opportunity ever for us! Each donation we receive October 1st through December 31st will go towards our match contribution up to \$250,000.

Like everyone, we have seen significant increases in our food costs for the children and our utilities for the centers. Our participation in the Child and Adult Food Program & the Summer Food Service Program through the State of Kansas greatly help us stretch our food budget. We don't have control over our actual food costs, but we are looking into ways to help our utility costs. Small things like programmable thermostats and bigger options like looking into solar options for our centers.

We have the lowest numbers of enrolled elementary students in our district since I have been here at Cherry Street (going on 12 years). That obviously reflects the number of students that would be interested in attending our after school program. We currently have 90 elementary students registered and 23 middle schoolers registered to attend. This year's Kindergarten group is the smallest we have had in several years. We currently have 8 open spots for Kindergarten and 1st graders at our East building. We typically have a significant waiting list by this time of year. It will be interesting to see how our the district's enrollment numbers impact our program over the next few years.

We have added some Character Development curriculum back into our day to day programming for our elementary students at East and West. We have seen increased issues with children not getting along well with very weak social skills when navigating friendships. A lack of empathy for others and kids not having the ability to bounce back (resiliency) from tough situations is another concern. Our Christian values gives us a strong foundation to help our kids develop strong individual character traits that will help them through out life, not just elementary school.

Our Warehouse middle school program is focusing more on service to our community. Have volunteered at a local nursing home and are looking for more ways to help. Please reach out if you have a need or ideas for our kids.

Our over all goals here at Cherry Street is to provide a safe after school option for any child that needs one and to help children know Jesus and grow their relationship to him. Your donations help us achieve those goals! This year's challenge of matching \$250,000 is a big one. We can do all things through Christ Jesus!! All donations can be mailed to PO Box 414 Chanute, Ks 66720. You can also donate online through our Facebook page (Cherry Street Youth Center) or our web site at www.cherrystreet.org. All donations made to us count towards a tax deduction for you. We will mail tax documentation automatically for annual donations of \$200 or more after the first of the year.

Your Sister in Christ, *Jennifer*

MISSION STATEMENT:

Cherry Street Youth Center, Inc., is an ecumenical 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



LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK!

Items needed for the After School Program

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| -individually wrapped candy | -50 glow sticks |
| -Clorox wipes | -Appliance size cardboard boxes |
| -4 bags of Candy Corn | |
| -25 full size candy bar (avoid nuts) | |
| -small prizes for our fall parties (plastic spider rings, pumpkin/Halloween themed toys, tiny bottles of bubbles, tiny containers of slime, candy, etc. (Amazon and Oriental trading has some great ideas.) | |



Fresh Fruit

Friday

We would like to thank St. Patrick's Catholic Church for sponsoring October!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Warehouse Happenings

Our new 6th graders are getting the hang of things at the middle school. Life is much less stressful when you know your schedule and where class is located. Our 7th graders are going with the flow and ready to be 8th graders, lol. Why is it we want to grow up so fast when you are young?

The kids are LOVING the new Gaga Pit that we were able to purchase using funds provided by the Community Foundation of SEK through their Community Impact grant! Cooking class has been interesting...did you know touching raw chicken is "traumatizing" according to a couple of 6th grade girls? They did however like the end result of copy cate Cane's Chicken tenders!

We are look for service projects that could be a good fit for our middle school program. We are hoping to serve two times a month and it could be a different locations/programs. If you are aware of something that could fit into our schedule, please reach out to Hailey, our Warehouse Program Director, by email at hshields@cherrystreet.org.



East Bible

The kids learned how God made mankind. They learned Adam was the first man and Eve was created using a rib from Adam. The kids each made their own people.



West Character Class

The kids created individual kindness flowers. Their name goes in the middle of the flower and each petal has ways they can be kind to others.

RAVIN
PRINTING

Items we need for
Christmas 2026
baskets: full/family
size toothpaste