



**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 fulfill our mission statement and share love with the children by being positive influences in their lives and by offering classes in Bible, character, art, computers, physical education, reading, math, social skills, anger management, drug awareness, cooking, music, and more!

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-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.



**Easter**

April is always an amazing time at Cherry Street. Spring has sprung, the kids and staff are re-energized from spring break, and we have a special holy week! Holy week is our opportunity to teach children about Jesus' final days before his crucifixion and resurrection.

Keep in mind most of our children do not attend church, so the experience they have here at Cherry Street can be very powerful. Each year our bible teachers take over planning activities for the whole center focused on lessons to reflect on Jesus' journey. We want the children to understand Christ's sacrifice for each of us.

I have seen children react in anger over the treatment of Jesus. I have helped dry the tears of a little girl who was so upset. I have watched the light of understanding come into the eyes of some of our students. That moment when they truly start believing they are so loved by our mighty God. It's like you can see those seeds that have been planted through the school year start to take root!

I just want to thank everyone that financially supports our ministry. We could not do our work without your resources. We certainly would not be able to impact over 100 children a day. Our God is beautiful plans for each one of our children.

**Learning to Lead!**

The leaders here at Cherry Street had a great opportunity to attend the Kansas After School Educators Conference in Kansas City. They took a Saturday out of spring break to hone their skills. It is always important to learn new and innovative ways to instruct our children and to effectively lead their staff.

Topics included: how to avoid burn out, digital planning and technology use, teen issues with vaping, fun with fitness, and how to engage parents to be more involved.

Each leader will share information with all program staff members to grow our knowledge.



East students praying and eating the last supper with Jesus.

**Items needed for Holy Week**

- 45 Easter Baskets
- 20 bags of individually wrapped candy
- 4 bags of large marshmallows
- 7 cans of refrigerated crescent roll dough
- artificial palm leaves
- 3 gallon bottles of grape juice



**RSVP Partnership**

We are very excited to share that we are now a part of the NCCC RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) grant. They have just been awarded funding to continue their program. Seniors participating in the RSVP program that come to Cherry Street and volunteer can now count those hours for the RSVP grant!

We are always needing volunteers to help in a variety of ways. We have volunteers come each Monday and Tuesday to our East location and read to children. We would love to have 1 adult for every child. We currently have 6 regular volunteers but we could use 6 more! We need help with our new green house and our garden always needs watered & help with the weeds is also much appreciated. Our middle schoolers are interested in learning more cooking skills, handy skills like changing a flat tire, or building a birdhouse. The volunteer opportunities are only limited by what you are willing and able to do! Call Jennifer at 431-2161 for more information.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Warehouse Happenings**

There has been a changing of the guard with our Warehouse program. Kayla Stewart has been the program director since the Warehouse began in 2016. Kayla and her husband are expecting a baby soon. We will greatly miss her guidance and heart for Christ.

I am happy to share that Tyrah Walls is our new program director. She actually worked for Cherry Street several years ago at the West location. God has created opportunities in Tyrah's life that have grown her faith and desire to work with children that need extra guidance. Middle schoolers definitely need all the adult guidance they can get.

Please pray for both Kayla in her new journey as a mother and for Tyrah as she is lead to work with middle schoolers in our Warehouse ministry.



**Items needed at the Centers this month**  
-construction paper  
-tissue paper (pink, yellow, blue, purple, green)  
-Pine cones

We are accepting new and gently used items for our Mother's Day store. Until April 26th Please drop them by 710 N Forest.

**Summer Prep**

-We have a ton of fun ideas planned for our summer programs! One of our STEM projects requires 3/4 inch PVC pipe, 3/4 inch clear vinyl tubing, and PVC fittings such as elbows, tees, and crosses. If you have some unused PVC pipe laying around, we can use it!!

-We will also be making some bug catchers! We need 60 clear plastic cups with clear lids (solo cups but clear will work), gauze pads, and drinking straws.

We will be doing some projects with light. We need lots of glow in the dark sticks, necklaces, etc.

Thank you for all your help in making Summer a Success!!



**Items we need for Christmas 2019 baskets: household cleaner (409, Mr. Clean, etc.)**

