



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, 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.



Dear Cherry Street Supporters and Contributors,

My prayer is that each of you are healthy and are following the guidelines to keep you and your family safe. The last few weeks have just been crazy for everyone. It feels like things change daily on how best to deal with our global pandemic.

I wanted to update everyone, as best I can, on what's happening here at Cherry Street for our youth. We are working with our school district to be a distribution site for the meals they are providing to children. I am told they are averaging about 60 children per day that come for breakfast and lunch. This is such a wonderful thing the district is able to provide. Our God is such a good father! He provides light in the darkness!

When Governor Kelly closed every school building in Kansas, she did NOT cancel the educational expectations for every school district. Our district has been working very hard to determine the best way to continue teaching children with out meeting in a building face to face. Our district has asked several area businesses and churches to help fill this gap for them to successfully continue to educate our students until May 22, 2020. We are working hard to figure out a safe way to allow children into our buildings so they can have internet access. I have been working with the Neosho Co. Health Department to be sure all safety and health precautions are implemented. We have been given the guideline of no more than 10 per class and each person must have 6 feet of space. Each space/chair/surface must be cleaned between uses.

I am taking the health and safety of our staff members as my number 1 consideration and priority in all of my decision making on how best to use the Cherry Street Youth Center ministry to support our community and the children. The Board of Directors are very supportive of us thinking outside of the box to be a light for Christ.

Our staff members are busy maintaining the greenhouse and garden so it will be ready when the children are able to return to us. They are cleaning and organizing to prepare for kids to use our internet, and they are learning our new procedures for social distancing at Cherry Street. Our Bible teachers are using our Facebook page to continue to share Bible stories and lessons with our children. Our STEM teachers are offering links for experiments for kids to try at home. We are trying to connect with our children any way possible during this crazy time. We love and miss each one of them!

You might be wondering how you can help? Well, please continue to pray for our Cherry Street children. As you know many of them are already living in not the best situation. Attending school provided an escape and teachers were able to watch for signs of abuse, neglect, or social emotional concerns. I would like to think seeing our staff here at Cherry Street helped fill them with love each day. The kids have lost 2 significant supports in their lives due to the pandemic.

Also, please continue to send your donations of financial support. We are still driven by our mission to help children develop spiritually, emotionally, physically, and academically. Our delivery is just a bit different at this time. But, we WILL get to reopen our doors to our children. We need to be sure we are prepared to hit the road running when that day comes.

Thank you for your support and prayers. Our God is mighty and we can overcome any obstacle with him.

Much love,
Jennifer

Due to additional cleaning procedures the following items are needed at our centers: Paper towels, Clorox wipes, pump bottles of hand sanitizer (must have at least 60% ethyl alcohol as the active ingredient). I realize these items are difficult to find at our local stores. We are not able to purchase more than one at a time, so you know how helpful your donation will be to us at this time!!
Thank you!!!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Update on our spring challenge

In last months issue of the newsletter, I shared that we had the opportunity to receive a \$5000 match for donations we received in the month of April. These funds would be used to help fund our summer program as we planned to be open an additional 5 days. Due to the Covid-19 virus and current social distancing orders we are unsure of what our summer will look like.

Please know, our goal is to still have our summer program! I have our directors planning as if we are still good to go. But the reality is fairly slim for us this year.

It is unfair to ask for additional funds for a project we may not be able to provide. Our challenger has agreed to reschedule the match opportunity. We have many projects that we are trying to complete while we are not able to provide after school services. Our most expensive project is updating our playgrounds at our East and West locations. Safety standards require a specific level of safety material/mulch to be under our play structures. We currently use special wood chips, but those deteriorate and get compressed very easily. We would like to move to a rubber mulch product.

I am currently looking for grant funds to help with this project. We have received an estimated cost of \$36,000 to update both playgrounds. Most grants require some “start up” money. If you know of any funds that we could apply for please let me know. If you would like to contribute to this specific project, just write “play ground” on your check.

Items needed for Christmas
Baskets
Dish Soap and Shampoo

RAWIN
PRINTING



Special Thank You

As most of you know we have honey bees on our West campus that older students can help care for. We are still very much in our “learning curve”! We simply would not be as successful as we have been with out the help of Ron Smail. He has been a great mentor!

