

April 7, 2022

Ribbon Cutting to Celebrate Opening of Alive Center for Teens in Hanover Park

HANOVER PARK, IL - On Thursday, April 21st, the Alive Center for Teens is celebrating the opening of its new center in Hanover Park at the Greenbrook Tanglewood Community Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on location at 12:00 pm. Alive Hanover Park is bringing free teen drop-in hours for 6th-12th graders every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-5:30 pm. The Drop-in hours will include art experiences, games, life skills, movies, STEM activities, other interactive activities and more. This is Alive's third location, others including Naperville and Aurora, Illinois.

With an initial invitation from Habitat for Humanity, the Alive Center is pleased to become a part of this community of young and vibrant individuals. The Greenbrook Tanglewood Community consists of 505 townhomes arranged in 76 separate buildings. Hanover Park is a family-centric community with a multitude of youth and youth activities.

Rod Craig, Hanover Park Mayor, adds, "We are pleased to welcome the Alive Center to the Village of Hanover Park. Hanover Park believes all children are capable of success, no exceptions! Having a teen center in the Greenbrook Tanglewood neighborhood will help to foster success in our children by giving them a safe, supportive environment where they can learn and grow and become future leaders of our community. I look forward to working with Alive Center staff, DuPage Habitat for Humanity, and Spring Wood Middle School to get our youth engaged in this wonderful opportunity that is available to them in our community."

In recognizing the impact and power that teens hold in their community, the Alive Center offers the platform for Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ (TLTD) programs where high schoolers create and lead clubs for younger kids. TLTD programs are designed to empower the youth to create, lead, and belong. Alive's goal is to help teens stop looking for acceptance outside of themselves and instead accept and embrace who they are. We encourage them to focus on their gifts and talents, develop what makes each of them unique, take risks knowing they are supported if they fail, and find that critical purpose in life... What makes them come alive?

Current resident and board member of Hanover Park's Greenwood Tanglewood HOA, Aldair Perez, says, "I'm excited to have The Alive center in the heart of our neighborhood! I believe this program will help kids in our community explore new opportunities and interests with the support of community leaders."

In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony, Alive Hanover Park is launching a GoFundMe to help support the center's initiatives. As a nonprofit organization, Alive relies on donations from

the community to support their programs. To support the Alive Center in Hanover Park, visit **<https://bit.ly/SupportAliveHP>**. Alive's goal is to raise \$15,000 towards the growth of the new center through the GoFundMe. You can donate, volunteer, or share our initiatives with local friends and neighbors in order to spread this amazing resource for local youth. In addition to donations, Alive Hanover Park is looking for volunteers to work with the teens. To apply to be a volunteer visit: **<https://bit.ly/VolunteerAlive>**.

Please join us on April 21st at Noon at 1211 Catalina Dr. Hanover Park, IL for the ribbon cutting, it is open to the public. The Alive Hanover Park Drop-in program is free of charge and available to all 6th – 12th graders. For more information the community can reach out to Beth Stremel at **beth@alivecenter.org** or 630.605.4133.

Centrally located in Naperville, with a satellite location in Aurora and soon Hanover Park, the Alive Center provides teens with a unique place to connect, discover and come alive! Our mission is to be Teen-Led, Teen-Driven© (TLTD) centers focused on empowering the youth of today to become the impassioned, resilient leaders of tomorrow. As a nonprofit organization, Alive offers free drop-in hours after school and over the summer as well as a myriad of programs, classes, and events, designed to build confident and resilient teens.

On any given day at Alive one will find teen-led tutoring, mentoring and clubs as well as life skill classes such as unstructured art and dance, nutrition and healthy cooking, stress management, open music venues, creative writing and just plain fun! Alive is a place to belong and learn important life skills. Alive's paid programming and facility rentals help fully utilize the space while allowing the community to support our local teens.