

Harborcreek Youth Services is a Type 56 residential treatment facility licensed by the Department of Public Welfare; Office of Children, Youth, and Families; and approved by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Harborcreek Youth Services is credentialed to provide services for fee for service counties and/or members of managed care organizations, including Community Care Behavioral Health Organization (CCBHO), Value Behavioral Health (VBH), and Community Behavioral Health Network of Pennsylvania (CBHNP). Youth must meet medical necessity criteria and services must be prescribed by a licensed psychiatrist. Harborcreek Youth Services provides treatment to male youth ages 10 to 18 years who demonstrate mental health, behavioral, and/or legal problems.

Our program provides a clinically-based continuum of services that are delivered at both on-campus residential facilities and off-campus group home settings. The three levels of care within the continuum vary in intensity and are individualized to meet our clients' needs.

Our mission is to help youth and families build positive futures within a Christian environment that celebrates individuality and strengthens community.

Harborcreek Youth Services is affiliated with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, the ultimate authority over the Agency. The Agency has a Board of Directors that has responsibility for the business and operations of Harborcreek Youth Services. The Agency and Board submit a formal report to the Diocese twice a year. The activities of the Board of Directors include strong involvement on the committees: Finance, Personnel, Program, Development, and Building and Grounds. The governing body uses both financial and programmatic data and reports for analysis of Agency operations and future directions.

In May, Harborcreek Youth Services hosted a 95th Anniversary Liturgy, which was celebrated outdoors by Father Michael Kesicki. It was fitting that our Anniversary Celebration was held on "Good Shepherd Sunday." The Liturgy was followed by a rededication, an historical overview of the Agency, and a brunch in the gymnasium. There was strong community participation by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and local officials, including the County Executive, County Council chairperson and members, Harborcreek Township Supervisor, Director of Human Services, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Children and Youth Administrators, Director of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Barber National Institute, and Case Management Support Services. Our Youth Advisory Board participated and a number of corporate sponsors hosted the event.

In addition, we rededicated the following units: the former Senior Unit was renamed Wagner House in recognition of Sr. M. Philomena Wagner, the first Superior at Harborcreek. The former Intermediate Unit was renamed Conway House in recognition of Fr. Walter Conway, who oversaw construction of the school and main building in the 1930s. The former Junior Unit was renamed Hastings House in recognition of Msgr. William

Hastings, the Agency's first full-time administrator, who also oversaw construction of the chapel and the annex connecting it and the main building in the 1950s. The construction projects from the 1930s and the 1950s left the Harborcreek Training School for Boys with a significant debt. Archbishop Gannon turned to the Knights of Columbus, who adopted the debt in 1955. In appreciation for this gesture, the former E/F Unit was renamed Columbus House.

A significant achievement for Harborcreek Youth Services was the notification late in the year of the agency being accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). This accreditation represents the fulfillment of many hours of hard work and dedication by many people – most notably the staff, the Board of Directors, and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie. The Self-Study and Site Visit were thorough reviews of all of the operations of the agency. This accreditation attests that our organization met the highest national standards for residential and substance abuse services. It also provides assurance that our organization provides services which the community needs, conducts our operations successfully, and manages our funds effectively.

Other notable achievements this year included receiving licensing approvals from the Pennsylvania Office of Children, Youth and Families; the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and the Department of Health, as well as being credentialed by managed care companies. As a part of the Council on Accreditation process, we completed a successful reorganization to manage and deliver services more effectively.

Finally, in 2006, Harborcreek Youth Services started a Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Program for Erie County. MST is an intensive, family-based treatment program for adolescents and their families. Also, our agency was approved and our staff was trained for the National Youth Project Using Minibikes, which is a program using the privilege/incentive to ride Honda minibikes.