



Harborcreek Youth Services
5712 Iroquois Avenue • Harborcreek, PA 16421

Harborcreek Happenings

HYS Open House

You are cordially invited to attend the Harborcreek Youth Services Open House on Friday, May 4 from noon to 4:00 PM. We will be highlighting our services and capabilities, and celebrating our recent accreditation by the Council on Accreditation.

Please join us!

Refreshments will be served.

5712 Iroquois Avenue
Harborcreek, PA 16421

We are accredited by



Questions?

For more information about our treatment programs and services, visit our Web site at www.hys-erie.org or call Amy Daley, Director of Intake and Case Management, at (814) 899-7664, Extension 411.

WEP PREPARES BOYS FOR LIFE

Harborcreek Youth Services' Work Experience Program (WEP) was established as part of the agency's educational program for clients who have already earned a diploma or a GED. It also accepts clients who are studying for a GED, but for whom acquiring work experience is a priority.

Because WEP emphasizes work experience, most of the clients' time is spent on job sites. While it is more important to develop a good work ethic than to acquire specific job skills, WEP partici-

pants gain valuable experience in a variety of fields. These include commercial kitchen/laundry, housekeeping, landscaping/lawn maintenance, general maintenance, painting, demolition/salvage, woodworking, auto detailing, basic construction, and general labor.

For the past several years, WEP clients have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. In this capacity, clients gain a wealth of knowledge related to construction and building rehabilitation; however, Habitat for Humanity projects are much more than opportunities to acquire new skills. Of greater importance is the lesson that all of us have an obligation to contribute to our communities and to help those in need. WEP participants donate an average of 80 to 120 hours a month to Habitat for Humanity, and we look forward to maintaining a positive relationship with that organization for many years to come.

The overwhelming majority of clients who participate in WEP leave Harborcreek Youth Services with feelings of confidence, pride, and satisfaction in what they have accomplished.

To learn more about WEP, contact Gary Licata, WEP Coordinator, at (814) 899-7664.



Shown in these photos are HYS clients hard at work on behalf of Habitat for Humanity



HYS Offers Parent Support Groups



Parent groups meet on the first Thursday of every month at the “Choices” office in the Professional Building at 1611 Peach Street in Erie. Meetings begin at 6:00 PM and last about an hour and a half

John Petulla, Harborcreek Youth Services CEO, was selected for a Lifetime Achievement Award by Erie County’s Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The award recognizes John’s many years of service to the children of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Parent group meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month for parents or guardians whose children are in placement at Harborcreek Youth Services. The meetings begin at 6:00 PM and last for about an hour and a half. The location of the meetings is the “Choices” office on the first floor of the Professional Building at 1611 Peach Street in Erie.

Group meetings are facilitated by HYS therapists, but parents are encouraged to propose the topics for discussion.

In the past, groups have discussed issues such as the connection between video games and violence; child and adolescent development; guidelines for good communication with children; grief and loss; and setting limits and boundaries. Regardless of the topic, group meetings are centered on the needs of parents, and parents control the focus of the group.

The benefits of parent groups are many. For example, parent groups can

- Help parents feel less alone in dealing with their problems
- Provide a wealth of information from staff and other parents about dealing with a particular problem regarding their son, from recommended reading material to information about dealing with agencies, courts, and other institutions
- Reassure parents that other people care about their feelings, and are willing to share their knowledge and experience
- Give parents courage and support in taking difficult steps that may be necessary to bring about change in themselves and/or their child
- Help parents to express their feelings with a “safe” group that understands and admits to having the same or similar

feelings at various times

- Give parents the feeling of empowerment that comes from taking constructive action on a problem, rather than denying it or feeling helpless about it
- Offer ideas that have worked successfully for others on approaches to specific problems.

Parent groups cannot provide quick solutions to problems; however, they can be a source of comfort and support to parents whose children have been removed by the courts from the family home.

There is no charge to parents for this service, but the benefits can be invaluable.

For more information about parent groups at Harborcreek Youth Services, please call Dr. John Knouse, Director of Mental Health Services, at (814) 899-7664, Extension 333.

Annual Trout Derby Scheduled for May 9

For more than 30 years, Trout Derby Day has been an annual event at Harborcreek Youth Services. This agency-wide recreational activity gives every client the opportunity to learn to fish, and teaches important social skills such as patience and

cooperation. This year, Trout Derby Day will be held on Wednesday, May 9.

As in years past, the boys will fish at Camp Glinodo in Harborcreek, which is owned by the Sisters of Saint Benedict. The Glinodo stream is stocked with

trout provided by the Wesleyville Conservation Club. Fishing boots and gear were donated by the Kiwanis Club of Erie. Community involvement in this project is an important factor in its longevity and its continuing popularity among our boys.

