



Harborcreek Youth Services  
5712 Iroquois Avenue • Harborcreek, PA 16421

# Harborcreek Happenings

## Looking Forward...

- Harborcreek Youth Services' administrative offices will be closed from Friday, March 21 through Monday, March 24 in observance of the Easter holiday.
- Our annual Yard Sale will be held in the HYS gymnasium on Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18. We will be collecting clothing and household items beginning in mid-April. All proceeds will benefit our boys.

We are accredited by



## Questions?

For more information about our treatment programs and services, visit our Web site at [www.hys-erie.org](http://www.hys-erie.org) or call Tim Borgia or Kirsten Turowski, Intake Coordinators, at (814) 899-7664.

## HYS Forms New Football Team

We at Harborcreek Youth Services are looking forward to August 16, 2008. That's the date of the initial scrimmage for the HYS Spartans, the first football team in HYS history. The scrimmage will take place at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, Pennsylvania. The HYS Spartans have been accepted as a District 10 team of the PIAA and will play at the Class A level.

The new football team resulted from discussions among HYS employees who sought to offer our clients an additional opportunity to develop their athletic skills and their ability to work as a team.

According to HYS Child Care Counselor Rob Matz, "This is about giving these kids a second chance. Many of these boys have not had an opportunity to play organized sports." Matz, who serves as the Spartans' head coach, has coached at Cathedral Prep for the past nine seasons. He has also coached at Mercyhurst Prep and Holy Rosary Elementary School.

Harborcreek Youth Services admits adolescent males between the ages of 12 through 18. Teens who are enrolled in grades 9 through 12 at HYS are eligible to play on the team. Younger boys, or clients who prefer not to play, may serve as managers or statisticians.

At present, the team is concentrating on weight training, plyometrics, and speed exercises. In the months to come, boys will compete against each other and engage in summer workouts.

The Spartans have widespread agency and community sup-

port. A booster club meets monthly, local individuals and businesses have contributed money toward uniforms and equipment, and local media coverage has been favorable. But those who are most enthusiastic about the football program are the members of the team.

There is a possibility that as the program develops, a football field may be constructed on the HYS main campus on Iroquois Avenue. In the meantime, Spartan home games will be played at Mercyhurst College.



## Christian Books Presented to HYS

### HYS Clients to Participate in Maritime Project

Beginning in March, 10 to 12 Harborcreek Youth Services clients will participate in a weekly, hands-on learning experience developed by the Bay-front Center for Maritime Studies.

The Erie-based Center offers opportunities for elementary through high school students to assist in building and restoring boats, to sail and navigate, and to conduct experiments related to environmental science. These activities are designed to enhance participants' math, science, and literacy proficiencies and to develop critical thinking, teamwork, and vocational skills. In addition, the program encourages personal growth and self-esteem, and builds appreciation for the beauty and significance of Presque Isle Bay.

Our clients will be working on several projects, including restoration of a 34-foot war canoe.

We are excited about adding this option to the range of activities available to our clients and expect that it will reinforce the skills and values we promote at Harborcreek Youth Services.



Shown in the photo at left are Betsy Greggs (center) and her four children, who recently presented Christian books and Bibles to John Petulla (second row left) and Tom McCalmont (second row right) of HYS. The books and Bibles were purchased with money collected by the Phillipsville United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School, which selected Harborcreek Youth Services as the focus of its summer mission project. Mrs. Greggs headed the Vacation Bible School's missions department.

The donated books were distributed in the units, where they were enthusiastically received by our clients. We also received a recent donation of 100 Christian magazines from the American Bible Society.

## HYS Client Addresses Harborcreek Friends



*Maurice W. was the guest speaker at the Harborcreek Youth Services Friends Dinner in December 2007. Here are Maurice's thoughts about HYS, which he shared at the dinner.*

Hello. My name is Maurice W. and I would like to welcome everyone here tonight. I came to Harborcreek from Pittsburgh on March 2 and was placed in Wagner Unit. I am currently on the Youth Advisory Board and am also involved in several community service projects throughout the area.

During the week, Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 2:30, I am involved in the Work Experience Program where I am learning various job skills such as working in the woodshop. My instructor, Ken Link, has taught me how to build picnic tables, benches, and bookcases. I have also worked with Habitat for Humanity. I have enjoyed working alongside a retired senior citizen and learning skills from very talented tradesmen. I have learned how to drywall, lay a footer, and side a house. Other days I do maintenance for the school and campus lawn. Or I am washing cars at the Pennsylvania State Police Barracks. I am especially careful to do a really good job on Car #20 — to keep Trooper Brown happy. I am also involved in the residential maintenance class with the HYS maintenance department, where they continue to teach me how to fix many problems that happen in houses or apartments. Two days a week, I take parenting classes for an hour so I can take better care of my daughter when I'm released. Two to three days a week I am in class studying for my GED for the upcoming test in January.

Being here has given me a lot of time to think about some of the things I've done. I have learned from my mistakes. I think the time here has taught me that being positive is a much better option and when I get out, I want to continue to work hard and become something in life. That is why I plan on going into the Marine Corps. It will allow me to learn the trade of auto mechanics so I can hopefully help another person who has issues like I did. But most of all, it will let me make my family proud of me.

I would like to thank the people at Harborcreek who have helped me: My manager, Tony Pierce, who has helped me with my social skills and also my anxiety (which really didn't help me tonight); Dr. Sev Frankhouser for all of the therapy and counseling he's provided to me; and my counselor, Curtis Pratt, who has helped me through hard times dealing with situations at home and has also helped me to mature. I would like to thank the Work Experience instructors, Mr. Gary (for his persistence to make me a better student), and Ms. Pat, or Grandma Lovely as we call her (for teaching me how to be more responsible and to strive harder). I would also like to thank the Residential Maintenance Department. And last, I would like to thank Len Lombardo for selecting me to speak tonight. Thank you for the honor. I appreciate it.