



## Harborcreek Youth Services

5712 Iroquois Avenue • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • (814) 899-7664

# Harborcreek Happenings

### HYS Named “Program of the Year”

On December 14, the Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Office presented Harborcreek Youth Services with its Residential Program of the Year Award. We were chosen for this honor in recognition of over twenty years of quality treatment, particularly Sexual Counseling Services, provided to young men from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

## HYS Announces COA Accreditation

Harborcreek Youth Services, a residential mental health treatment facility serving adolescent males with mental health, behavior, and/or legal issues, is delighted to announce that we are now accredited by the Council on Accreditation. COA is an international, independent accrediting agency dedicated to promoting top-quality child and family services and behavioral healthcare. Preparing for accreditation involved more than a year of effort, ensuring that all our policies and procedures met “best practices” guidelines established by COA’s team of experts. We are proud that after thorough scrutiny by experienced examiners, our

facility joins the more than 1,500 organizations worldwide that have earned the COA seal of approval.

While working diligently to meet COA’s highest national standards, we at Harborcreek Youth Services expanded and improved existing services and added others. Most significantly, we added an enhanced mental health and family component to our traditional residential program, while improving our drug and alcohol and sexual counseling services.

Because we are now accredited, county placement funds are no longer needed to finance medically necessary residential treatment. The entire cost of treatment is paid

by managed care companies using medical assistance funding.



Harborcreek Youth Services is located in Erie County, Pennsylvania and accepts referrals from counties throughout the state. Special services to distant counties include transportation to and from our agency, teleconferencing, and assistance from our Southwest Pennsylvania Family and Court Liaison.

### 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 Amy Daley, Director of Intake and Case Management, at (814) 899-7664, Extension 411.

## Charles Cox is HYS “Friend of the Year”

In recognition of his outstanding service to our clients, Charles Cox was named Harborcreek Youth Services’ “Friend of the Year” for 2006 at the annual Friends Christmas Banquet on December 6.

After his retirement from General Electric, Charles started a Model Building Club and donated a significant number of hours to this project. He recruited and trained volunteers and helped to provide

positive relationships and incentives for our clients. In addition, Charles does all the coordinating and marketing for the annual Client Model Show. He is an asset to our clients.

Thank you, Charles, for all you’ve done to enhance the quality of our clients’ lives. Your hard work and dedication are much appreciated by us all!



*John Petulla (left), HYS CEO, presents Charles Cox with the “Friend of the Year” award*

## Saint Joseph House: Helping Troubled Youth Lead Fruitful Lives

Saint Joseph House is a Level I residential treatment facility located in a free-standing building on the main campus of Harborcreek Youth Services. At present, Saint Joseph is home to sixteen clients, ages 14 to 19, with severe mental health diagnoses. The boys have been referred to HYS by Juvenile Probation or the Office of Children and Youth, or have been determined to be Dependent Children by the legal system.

Mary Ball, one of two therapists at Saint Joseph House, came to HYS in January 2005 as an intern and stayed on after her graduation from Edinboro University with a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. Although Mary's job may seem "high stress" to some, she enjoys her job. She's fascinated by human behavior and social interactions, and likes to use her knowledge of psychology to help troubled youth.

"It's very rewarding," said Mary. "I enjoy seeing the same clients every day in a residential setting. I can observe symptomology and get to know the boys in a way I never could if I were seeing them only once or twice a week."

Knowing the boys helps Mary and Michelle Adler, the other therapist at Saint Joseph House, form individualized treatment plans that address the clients' specific problems and set personalized goals. Individualized treatment plans and the facil-

ity's structured environment help clients know what's expected of them and give them a sense of security.

According to Mary, "These are very needy, very trying clients, and the success of the program depends in part on good communication among everyone who works with the boys, including therapists, case managers, unit managers, counselors, and psychologists."

Family involvement is also an important part of the program. Mary and Michelle work hard to integrate the clients' families into the treatment process and to encourage family visitation.

Because of the severity of the problems with which the boys are faced, the goal is not necessarily to cure, but to help them function safely in the outside world. When clients leave our agency, they are connected with community resources to ease their transition back to families, neighborhoods, and schools.

Everyone involved in caring for the boys at Saint Joseph House is dedicated to doing everything possible to prepare them for reunification with their families and for happy, rewarding lives in their communities.



*Client artwork brings holiday cheer to the walls of Saint Joseph House*



*At left, Saint Joseph House, constructed in 1999 as the first facility at Harborcreek Youth Services devoted entirely to clients with mental health issues*

*Saint Joseph House staff, left to right: Barb Nye, Child Care Counselor; Mary Ball, Therapist; Chris Waychoff, Manager; and Michelle Adler, Therapist*

