



Harborcreek Youth Services  
5712 Iroquois Avenue • Harborcreek, PA 16421

# Harborcreek Happenings

## Looking Forward...

- Harborcreek Youth Services will sponsor a Victorian Princess Cruise on Tuesday, August 7 from 6 PM to 8 PM. For tickets or more information, call Shelley Torrey at (814) 899-7664, Extension 309.
- Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held this year on Sunday, October 14 from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Mark your calendar now and be sure to join us for a wonderful meal!

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 Receives State Funding for New Program

Harborcreek Youth Services has been selected by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to receive \$670,000 (payable over a four-year period) to establish a Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) program. MTFC will address the needs of severely delinquent male and female adolescents, ages 12 through 17, for whom in-home therapy is not an option. MTFC differs from traditional foster care in that foster parents are not just caregivers, but indispensable members of a treatment team that includes a child psychiatrist, a program supervisor, an individual therapist, and a skills trainer. Foster families are trained in behavior management and are supported by a program supervisor who coordinates all aspects of the adolescent's treatment program. Children are placed individually in treatment foster homes for a period of six to nine months. While the adolescent is in foster care, a family therapist works with the child's biological parents or guardians to resolve any issues that may have contributed to the delinquency.

Four key elements are targeted in MTFC and in aftercare:

- Providing youth with a consistent, reinforcing environ-

ment that builds on individual strengths

- Providing clear structures and limits with well-specified consequences
- Providing close supervision of the youth's whereabouts and activities
- Helping youth avoid associations with peers who are likely to have a negative influence, and developing skills for building relationships with positive peers.

Since the launch of the first MTFC program in Oregon in 1983, many identical programs have been established throughout the world. Numerous research studies have confirmed that the program model yields impressive outcomes. When compared with delinquent youth in residential placement, children in treatment foster care

- Are less than half as likely to be rearrested or incarcerated in follow-up
- Are much less likely to run away from the program
- Have significantly less hard drug use in follow-up

- Are more likely to return to live with their parents.

In addition, MTFC has been determined to be the most economically beneficial of the juvenile justice programs, with an estimated benefit-to-cost ratio of \$43.70 for every dollar spent.

According to John Petulla, CEO of Harborcreek Youth Services, "The Erie County Policy and Planning Council, Juvenile Probation, and the Office of Children and Youth all supported our application for PCCD funding and will be working with us to ensure the program's success. We're excited about MTFC and believe it will be of great benefit in addressing the need for intensive foster care in Erie and Crawford Counties."

Amy Daley, former Director of Intake and Case Management at HYS, has been named Director of Community Programs and will be serving as the MTFC Program Supervisor. Anyone interested in investigating the possibility of serving as a treatment foster parent is encouraged to call Amy at (814) 899-7664, Extension 356, or to send e-mail to [adaley@hys-erie.org](mailto:adaley@hys-erie.org). Experience is less important than a desire to have a positive impact on the life of a child.



Clients are making good use of the agency pool during this summer's unusually hot, dry weather

## Bible School Class Collects for HYS



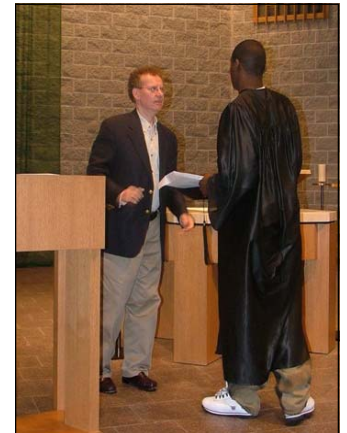
Shown at left are the children who attended the Phillipsville United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School in June. The students selected Harborcreek Youth Services as their mission project and designated funds to buy spiritual books for our clients. Enough money was raised to purchase 15 books, which we will be receiving soon. Thanks to everyone who participated in this project!

## HYS Honors High School Graduates

Education is a critical component of our treatment program here at Harborcreek Youth Services, and many of our boys work hard to do well in school. This year, three boys were honored for academic achievement at a graduation ceremony held on June 5 in the sanctuary of Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church in Harborcreek. In the photo at right, HYS CEO John Petulla presents a well-deserved diploma to a member of the graduating class of 2007.

In addition to those who earned diplomas, seven boys passed their General Educational Development (GED) tests during the past school year. These clients were all enrolled in the Work Experience Program, which offers the opportunity to prepare for the workforce by acquiring essential vocational skills.

We at Harborcreek Youth Services applaud our clients' achievements and wish these young men much success in their future endeavors.



Harborcreek Youth Services' NYPUM minibike incentive program is now in full swing, with boys earning ride time on Saturdays with good behavior throughout the week. Our clients credit the program with inspiring them to control their impulses and to try as hard as possible to achieve treatment goals. Some clients will have an opportunity to ride the minibikes at Hermitage and Bethesda, which also have NYPUM programs.

## Community Service at HYS



All Harborcreek Youth Services clients participate in community service projects, the benefits of which far exceed the monetary value of the work performed. Service to others builds self-esteem, forges bonds with the community, and promotes mental health. Some of the beneficiaries of recent projects include the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, Presque Isle State Park, Humane Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Erie City Mission, the Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, and the Harborcreek Township Fire Hall.