

# WORK EXPERIENCE CHRONICLES

*What is going on in the HYS Work Experience Program*



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## FINDING REASONS TO ENJOY THE SEASONS

Another summer season has come and gone here at HYS. The boys and staff in the work experience program were kept busy with many projects inside and outside the grounds of our agency. The summer season is where the boys get to spend a vast majority of their time outside working on the various projects that are assigned to them. Summer is also a time that a good portion of the boys in the WEP get discharged so that they can start to adapt to new surroundings before a start of a new school year. All the boys get to learn valuable lessons within the program and the skills that are taught to them will hopefully serve as another mechanism in their toolbox for success.

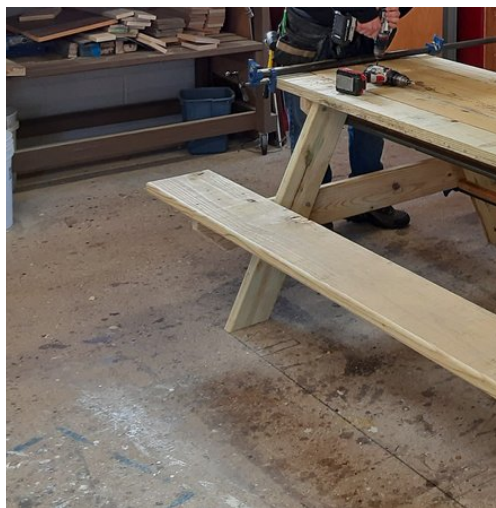
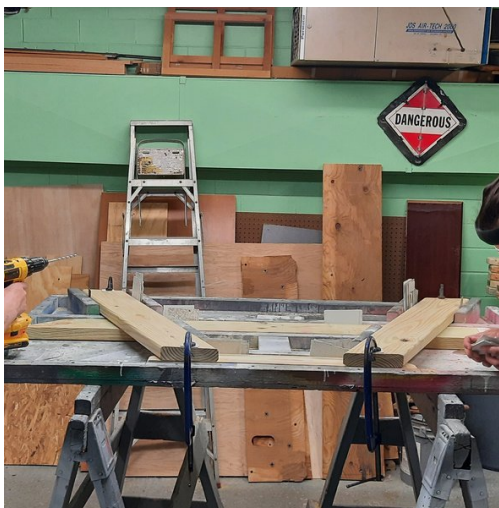


# PICNIC TABLE SEASON



## PICNIC TABLE SEASON IN FULL GEAR

The summer season brings warm sunny days and picnic type weather. What do people often sit on when on a picnic? A picnic table of course. During the summer, the boys in WEP spend a good amount of time building picnic tables. This summer project has been an established staple in the program for many years. The boys get to learn how to build a picnic table from start to finish. Everything from the type of wood, how to cut the wood, organize the parts and assembly of a picnic table. The boys learn fundamental skills such as measuring, planning, teamwork and problem solving. Some boys come into the program with the basic knowledge already to complete these tasks but others who do not are given staff instruction to build their confidence in being able to work on these projects.

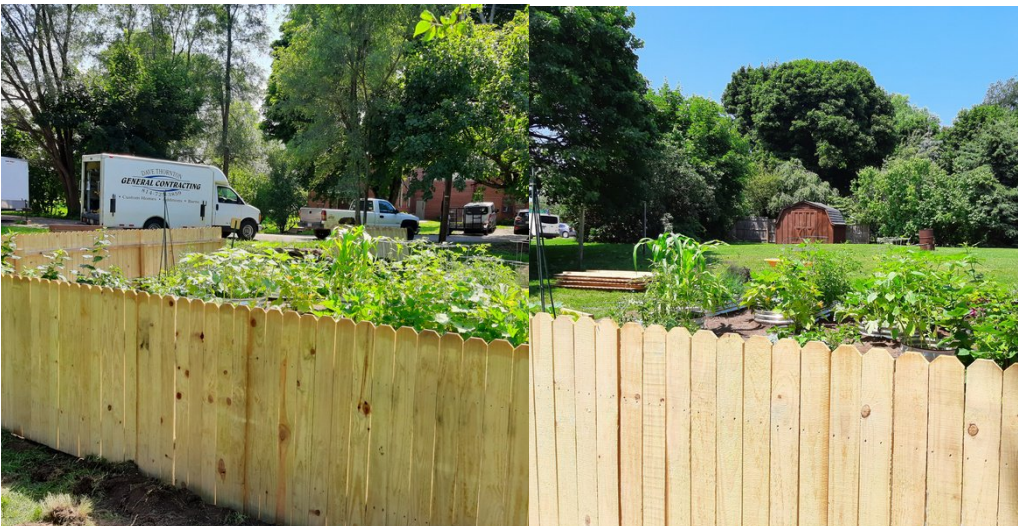
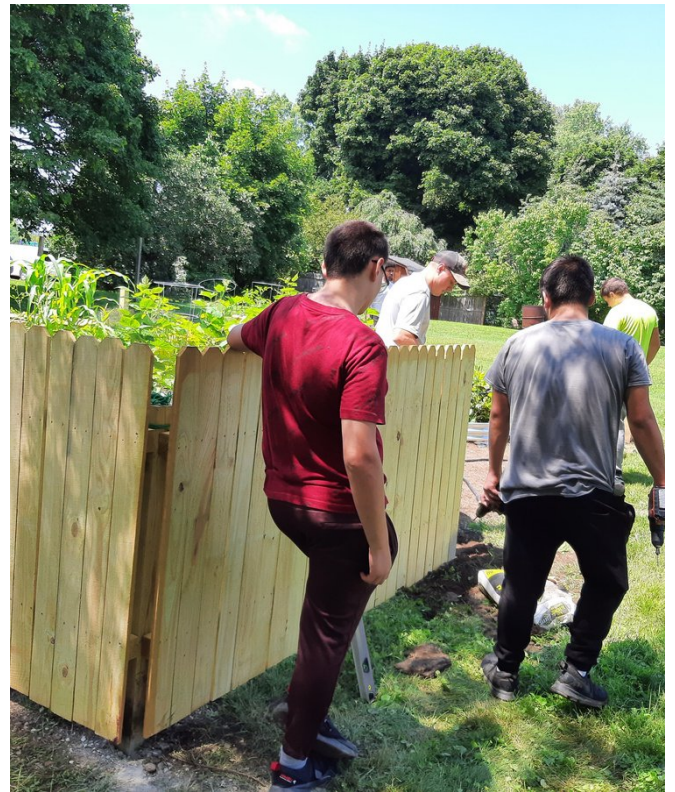




# Therapy Garden

A new addition for HYS in 2021 was the "Therapy Garden." The Therapy Garden consisted of a variety of plants, flowers, vegetables in an earthy space. The boys and staff in WEP worked on laying the dirt for the planters as well as mulching the entirety of garden layout. The boys and staff in the WEP also constructed a fence around the garden to give it that feeling of a private and safe space. Residents that were able to utilize the garden for therapy were able to have a safe and unique space as well as a place to see how growth and change is not just a Sanctuary commitment but rather a segment of life itself.

*(Pictures on this page are from multiple days with the boys and staff working on this project)*





# HYS GROUNDS REPORT

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Another beautiful summer in Harborcreek, PA means another wonderful opportunity for the boys to spend time outside working on the grounds. Pride is taught in the WEP program to appreciate the natural landscape of our campus. We teach the boys that if we all work together, we can keep it looking beautiful every day.



# BUTTERFLY GARDEN



The boys in WEP spent a good amount of time in our HYS Butterfly Garden. Specific plants were planted in order to attract butterflies to this location on campus. From weeding to mulching, the boys took a great amount of pride in completing as well as the upkeep with this project. The boys also got to see a number of species of butterflies floating by throughout the summer while working on the project.



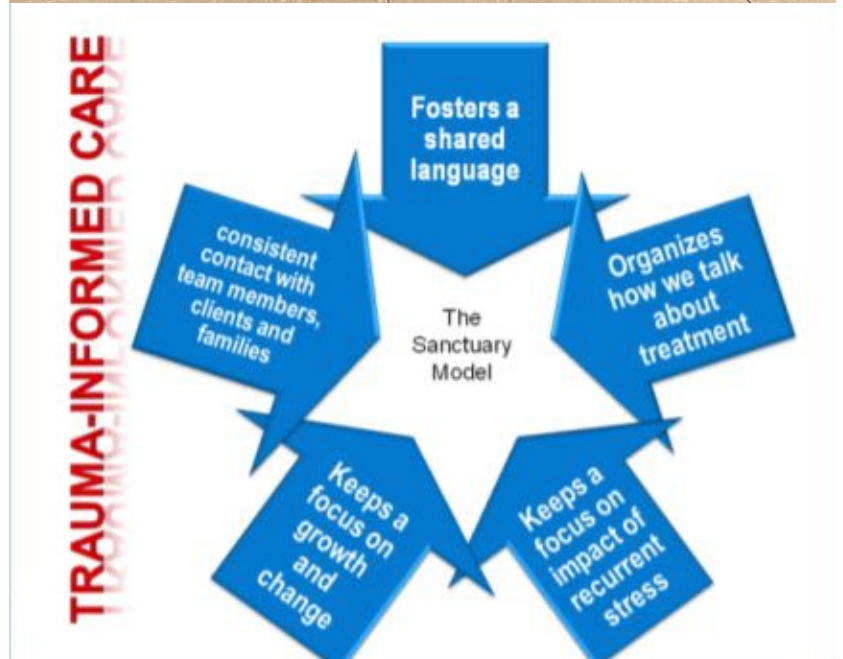
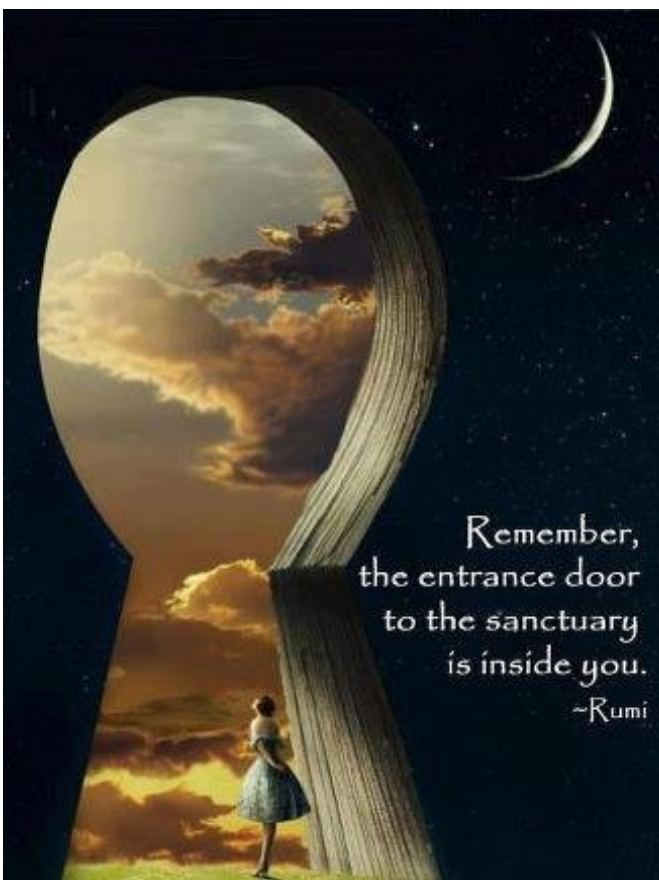


# HYS SANCTUARY DAY

Each year Harborcreek Youth Services celebrates its commitment to the Sanctuary principles that guide the agency's mission. The past couple of summers have been unlike anything any of us at HYS have experienced before. Each summer we have found a unique way to celebrate our annual Sanctuary Day. This year the WEP created custom boards for our pavilion in dedication for Sanctuary Day. These boards will be a positive reminder of HYS's commitment to Sanctuary.

## SANCTUARY COMMITMENTS

- Nonviolence**
- Emotional Intelligence**
- Social Learning**
- Democracy**
- Open Communication**
- Social Responsibility**
- Growth and Change**





# WEP CLOCK PROJECT

This fall, the boys in WEP will be working on a brand new project. This will be our annual clock project. Some of the older boys will be building the pieces to each clock which will then allow some of our younger boys to learn more simple tool skills. The younger boys will learn basic skills such as using a screwdriver, drill and sanding tools to build their clocks. Each boy will be able to customize his clock for himself or as a gift for their family.



# KITCHEN REMODEL



*Early on in 2021, it was announced that Harborcreek Youth Services was the recipient of a \$50,000 make over contest for their kitchen. It was the previous manager, Bonnie Felton, who entered a makeover contest sponsored by a national food service magazine. Sadly though, Bonnie died the same day Harborcreek Youth Services learned it won the contest. The agency beat out 95 other finalists for the prize.*

*The boys in the WEP program spent a couple weeks helping out in various ways. First in order for the makeover to happen, a temporary kitchen/cafeteria needed to be put together. This is where the WEP program truly shined in their efforts and teamwork to make this a smooth transition. Everything from the kitchen other than a few large cooking appliances needed to be moved over to the gym to create a temporary cafeteria until the makeover was complete. The staff and boys moved all food products into 2 storage containers (1 for dry goods and 1 for frozen foods).*

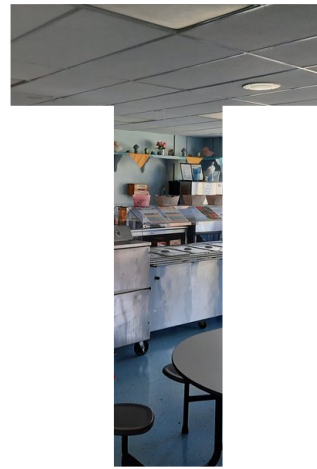
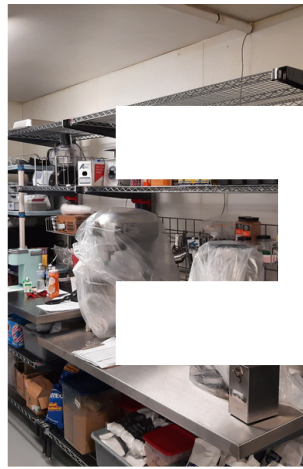


*The boys in the WEP program then moved all current storage racks into a garage that would later be moved back inside. All cafeteria tables needed to be moved over to the gym for seating for staff and kids. There was also 3 large industrial coolers that needed to be moved from the kitchen over to the gym along with a milk cooler and hot serving table. The boys worked really hard and displayed excellent teamwork to accomplish this in an expediated timeframe in hopes of not disrupting the daily routine of all the boys here. All the boys in WEP also helped in unloading all the trucks which contained the new kitchen storage equipment for the makeover. They got to see everything from start to finish and should be proud of their efforts for our agency.*





Pictures of the finished kitchen remodel. All the efforts from everyone involved truly showed the spirit and goodwill that Harborcreek Youth Service's employs.



Below are links to the news stories ran about our kitchen makeover contest!

**Part 1:** <https://www.erienewsnow.com/clip/15263402/harborcreek-youth-services-wins-makeover-contest>

**Part 2:** <https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/44916221/kitchen-makeover-unveiled-at-harborcreek-youth-services>



