



HERMITAGE HOUSE NEWS

www.hermitagehouse.org



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Spring 2017

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Hermitage House Chapel

Thanks to the support of our Hermitage House family and friends, the dream of a chapel for our youth is becoming a reality. Over the last eight years, 300 donors have generously contributed to the chapel fund. They have given through a variety of ways: Warrior Dash Team sponsorship, K.J. Carroll Memorial Fund, personal memorials, the Annual Campaign, and Erie Gives Day.

The chapel will be a place for the youth to worship and to have small group meetings. It will be a multi-purpose room with plenty of storage for the Chaplain Ministry and with the flexibility to meet various needs. The space will be much more conducive to worship than is our gym, which is where the chapel services are currently held. Chaplain Steve Crowl is grateful to all donors and believes that this building will bless the ministry for years to come.

MARK THE DATE!

August 8th (8am-8pm)



Online Donations for Hermitage House

We are excited about the groundbreaking ceremony projected for this spring. Construction of the chapel should occur over the summer. It will be attached to our Art Barn at our South Campus on Drakes Mill Rd. The Open House and chapel dedication will be the highlight of this year's Heart to Home Fall Festival on Saturday, October 7th. Details will be out soon about both of these events.

Hermitage House is grateful to those who served on the Warrior Dash Teams in 2011, 2012, and 2103. We are especially thankful for the extremely generous donation made by the Christian Institute of Human Relations.

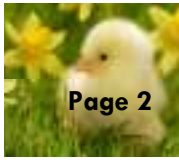
Providing
Quality Care
TODAY

for responsible adults
TOMORROW

AS AN AGENCY, HERMITAGE HOUSE VALUES:

SAFETY INTEGRITY EMPOWERMENT CONNECTIONS

RESPONSIBILITY: Building a community that promotes accountability for one's choices, behaviors, and actions



Empowering Young Artists

Hermitage House Art Club has experienced a variety of media already this schoolyear. They have acquired skills in pottery making, jewelry creation, still life drawing, and the basic tools of art: shading, perspective, composition, and the use of color. They are currently utilizing those tools as they create their self portraits.

We have been very fortunate to host local artists Rose Baker, Cathy Hutchison, and Justine Kiser. Weekly coordination and ongoing guidance are offered by Jen Coutsis, an HHYS behavioral specialist.

We are looking forward to our BIG Spring events! The club will view the 94th Annual Spring Show which features artists from our region. They will also enjoy the work of college students at Gannon's Schuster Art Gallery. Lastly, since they will study Photography with Michelle Mong in April, they will trek out to Presque Isle to take beach photos.

The culmination of the schoolyear will be the students' own artwork on display during the Edinboro Art and Music Festival (May 18-21) at the Parker Art Gallery. The very best of the teens' pieces will be there for the local community to enjoy. We thank Gannon's Schuster Center for the Arts who have partnered with us over the last ten years!



Jada (right) learns the craft of creating jewelry from local jewelry artist Justine Kiser. With Justine's guidance, our Art Club members learned to design chains, earrings, bracelets, anklets, and pendants.

Hermitage House Art Club is funded by a grant from:



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Dragosavac, C.S.H.S. faculty

Very talented guitarist **Gavin Vamer** won 1st Place in the "Winter Wonderland" variety show on December 9th at Cambridge Springs High School. The show was organized by the high school's National History Day Club.

Gavin played the guitar and sang *Under the Bridge* and *Seven Years*. He aspires to a career in music and is applying to Edinboro University in order to study music theory.

Gavin is also in our Hermitage House Art Club where he is currently creating a self portrait. Gavin is a member of Key Club, an international service organization chartered by the Edinboro Kiwanis Club.

Congratulations, Gavin!



IU-5 Teacher Asks Donors to Help HHYS Students

“My students need clothes to be warm and dry when they arrive at school so they can focus on learning,” wrote Steve McClune a teacher here at Hermitage House. Many youth who arrive at Hermitage House do so without winter coats, hats, gloves, or boots. And even with the assistance of the counties and the Christmas gift donors, it is a struggle every winter to make sure that our teens have warm outerwear. Because of this, “Mr. Steve” (as the youth call him) has become determined to start an outerwear closet for Winter 2017-18.

Can you help Mr. Steve with this project? He will only receive these articles for the students if this \$1256.00 *online* project is fully funded by **July 5, 2017**. If you’d like to learn more about the “Learners With Cold Feet,... and Arms,... and Bodies” or could donate, please visit:

www.DonorsChoose.org.

Enter: Learners with Cold Feet and zip code: 16403

Read about: Steve’s goals and the outerwear he has selected for our youth

Select: GIVE

We truly appreciate your help with this project! Thanks to you, our youth will have warm coats, hats, gloves, and boots next winter which they can also take home with them when their school days at Hermitage House are over. If you need help researching Donors Choose or need assistance making an online donation, please call Lin Gabriel at 734-4951 ext.237.

EU Social Work Volunteers Help Our Youth

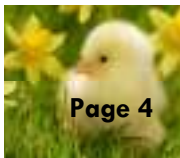
I am Hope Cooks, a social work major from Pittsburgh. I will be finishing my junior year this semester at Edinboro University. Volunteering at Hermitage House has been a good experience for me. I chose to do my volunteer hours here because I want to work with kids for my career and I figured this would be a good start. During my first few weeks, I was doing office work with Lin Gabriel. I also prepped for Key Club activities. One event I helped to prepare was their annual Heart to Home Fall Festival. I contacted Chinese Auction donors and collected festival supplies. I enjoyed helping at Key Club every Thursday. The youth create crafts to be donated to the community. We made Christmas cards for veterans and fleece blankets for kids in foster care. I also volunteered in the shelter classroom helping students with math or worksheets. Several of us offered a leadership training day for the Key Club. We taught the



members about the different types of leadership styles. Each person discovered what style of leadership he/she predominantly uses.

It has been a really good experience and I would recommend it to any student interested in working with kids. It has been good to gain some experience before entering pre-field during senior year. Social work is all about being able to help people.

← Hope guides Key Club members Jada and Tayvin as they begin a fleece blanket for the EU Parenting Resource Center.



Friends in the Community



Our youth were captivated on Nov. 17th by “Ovo,” an interactive performance by Cirque du Soleil. The Cirque du Soleil Foundation donated 35 tickets. It was an evening which our youth will never forget!



We sincerely thank EU’s Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority for the incredible Book Drive for us. Many books were donated to our group homes, transitional living apartments, and school library. Special thanks to Alison Colangelo!

Remembering Barbara Loucks



Whether it was making fleece blankets with Key Club, sending treats for Halloween, giving candy at Christmas and Easter, celebrating at graduation, being on our Relay for Life team, or representing our agency at the Erie Council of Women’s Organizations, Barb loved being part of our mission to youth. She saved every issue of our newsletter because she considered them to be part of the community’s history.

Barb loved strolling the grounds at our annual Heart to Home Festival. She shared her enthusiasm for Hermitage House with many and was an amazing “Raving Fan.” Barb’s funeral service on March 3rd was filled with friends from many local organizations whom she had served. We will miss Barb’s bright smile through the coming seasons!

GENERAL DONATIONS

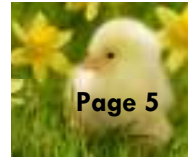
- Christian Institute of Human Relations
- HHYS Board of Directors and Staff
- The Academy Theater
- Salene and John Cowher
- Cirque du Soleil
- Julie Fedders
- Matt and Erin Gabriel
- Elaine Hanks
- Harry and Natalie Hanks
- Jon Karickhoff
- Eileen Knepshield
- Scott and Shari Lasher
- Barbara Loucks
- Carole Martin
- Chad Murphy
- Patty and Mark Niswonger
- Hannah Schurr
- Dawn and Dale Urban

This list reflects the time between 11/5/16 and 3/31/17. Annual Campaign donations will be listed at the end of the fiscal year in the August Newsletter.

The Hermitage House News is a publication for the benefactors, associates and friends of Hermitage House Youth Services. Hermitage House Youth Services is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Executive Director, Ray Overholt; Asst. Exec. Director, Pamela Marsh; Assoc. Exec. Director, Kristy Cole-Prenatt; Newsletter Editor, Lin Gabriel.

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In Memory of:

Jeremy Atkin - gift by
 Denny and Valerie Atkin
 thru St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ralph Myers - gift by
 Darla Myers

Hermitage House Youth Services

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