

HSC's Edgewood is LEED-certified front runner

Edgewood-NYU Seminar Focus

A local architectural firm, the RCI Company, delivered a presentation at New York University on the green features of the Edgewood group home located in Pulaski Township. Frank Ross, the principal for RCI, conducted the presentation at NYU's campus in Manhattan on Friday, October 2nd. The focus of Ross' presentation was on sustainable architecture. The Edgewood group home which is operated by the Human Services Center served as a case study for Ross.

In 2007, Edgewood was certified by the United States Green Building Council as a "green" building. Roger Smith, the



Director of Community Services for HSC, noted that Edgewood is the only LEED certified building in Lawrence County and the only group home in the country that has received this recognition. (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.)

Ross stated that there were a number of green features of Edgewood that resulted in it being certified by the USGBC. "Our planning process involved thinking through not only the design of the facility, but also factors such as site selection, control of construction waste, and use of recycled materials."

Find out more on Edgewood visit HSC's website at www.humanservicescenter.net



From the Desk
Dennis W. Nebel, Psy. D.
Executive Director

HSC National Presentations

Two HSC staff members recently presented at nationwide conferences. The presentations made by Steve Plyler and Richard Stephens were a credit to our agency. I'm proud that the Center has such a strong presence with organizations that have a national scope.

On September 24th, Richard Stephens, HSC's Supervisor of Adult Case Management Services, presented *Enabling versus Empowering* at the National Case Management Conference in Duluth, Minnesota. More than 750 persons participated in the conference.

On September 25th, Steve Plyler, the Center's Director of Residential Services, made a presentation at the National Fairweather Lodge Conference in Erie, PA. The Fairweather Lodge housing model is a fairly new approach to managing group homes for mentally ill adults.

The professionalism of our staff and the innovative programs of the Center have consistently drawn statewide and national recognition.

For more information on HSC's Fairweather Lodge Program visit HSC's website at www.humanservicescenter.net

Update Changes

Our new format of Update encourages readers to visit our website for detailed information. This approach will reduce costs, conserve resources and enable our readers to be updated on HSC in a 'snapshot,' easy-to-read format. As always, we welcome your comments.

HSC Receives Grants

The Human Services Center has received two grants from area foundations. The Hoyt Foundation provided a \$24,500 grant to replace farm equipment at HSC's Westfield facility. Funds from this same grant are being made available for the Center to expand its vocational program by starting a canning business. The Center also received notification of a \$23,000 grant from the Staunton Farm Foundation in Pittsburgh to start a dog grooming enterprise at its facility in Slippery Rock Township.

"These vocational enterprises provide employment and training opportunities for our clients," stated Steve Plyler, HSC Director of Residential Services. "We're convinced that work has therapeutic value for our clients and that it adds to their feelings of self worth."

Dr. Dennis Nebel, the Center's Executive Director, expressed his appreciation for the support of these foundations. "In today's economic climate it's especially gratifying to receive these funds. The projects they support will enable our clients to live fuller, more productive lives."

Find out more at
www.humanservicescenter.net



HSC and AFSCME 2902 honored

The Human Services Center and AFSCME #2902 received the Paul Stackhouse Award for Labor-Management Cooperation. The award is given out annually by the Western Pennsylvania Labor-Management Alliance. The primary criteria for receiving the award are that recipients embrace the principles of labor-management cooperation.

Roger Smith, the executive director of Midwestern PA Labor-Management Council, nominated HSC and AFSCME for the award.

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