

HAYC3: CREATING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

By Ayla Graney

The Hoosick Area Youth Center & Community Coalition (HAYC3) continues to be a prominent organization in the town of Hoosick. The coalition, which is “celebrating sixty years of creating community together,” has been the backbone to various events so far this year, and the group would like to continue working toward “building community” and providing various community service events for all ages.

The annual Village-Wide Clean Up was well attended by both groups and individuals. “The event’s purpose is to bring people together to provide a community service experience which further supports communal pride in our village,” said Executive Director Aelish Nealon. HFCS’s National Honor Society members came out for two weekends in order to “pretty up” the Castle Playground, creating a more child-friendly environment for families wishing to spend a day in town. “NHS students feel it is important to contribute to their community,” said NHS co-advisor Ms. McGuire. “They are setting an example for the younger students at HFCS.” Other groups, such as the girls lacrosse team and a sixth grade class, spent their time in other areas of the town, cleaning sidewalks, parks, and yards.

Hoosical Chairs was another hit event, involving many individuals and groups from the community. When asked to discuss the evening, Community Outreach Coordinator Jason Jansen said, “Hoosick Falls is often overlooked as an artistic community. We wanted to highlight our talented community and showcase our local artists.” Fifty-one local artists, paired with local sponsors, joined together to create unique, artistically enhanced Adirondack chairs. Each chair was placed in the Youth Center’s gymnasium (which was transformed into an incredibly formal setting), and then auctioned. The event showcased chairs created by all age groups, including current students, alumni, and staff of Hoosick Falls Central School. Blank chairs were donated by Thorpe’s Pharmacy and

the artists had two months to transform them. There was a huge variety of genres submitted; from a flame imposed chair (“Chair on Fire” by Jenny Holzer) to one that featured tea cups (“Ode to Molly Hatch” by Kirstie LaFemina), the range of artist talent and creativity was evident. Community Liaison Patti Zilinskas noted the event’s success, stating that “it was fantastic to see our community come to support the arts.”

Coming into effect last weekend, HAYC3’s “Butterfly Project” also had great meaning be-

feeling to have such a show of support from the entire community who rallied with donations,” stated Nealon. “We will also be extending this program for the homecoming dance.”

The upcoming summer proves to be promising for HAYC3, as well. Recently, the Town of Hoosick purchased the local armory from the state, with the hope that HAYC3 will be able to take ownership. On June 6, HAYC3 will be hosting a “brainstorming session.” The intention of this event is to bring together community members who would like to share their ideas or visions about what this incredible space in the heart of our community can be used for. The coalition encourages all ages to come together and bring ideas for programs, classes, and celebrations. Participants will also enjoy local fare and music at this brainstorming event. In addition to its summer enrichment programs, HAYC3 will begin planning its biggest annual event, Pumpkinpalooza. The festival, which is celebrating its fourth year, is already creating news. Registration forms and information are available on HAYC3’s website.

The past six months have been very successful for the Hoosick Area Youth Center & Community Coalition. Be it an event which affected many or a smaller initiative that’s focus was on a smaller group, HAYC3 centers its attention around building community and celebrating the talent of the Hoosick Area. For more information on the coalition or the events that it hosts, please visit www.hayc3.org or call 518-686-9050.



“I created the Adirondack chair as a bear and dedicated her to my mom who loved the song “Teddy Bears’ Picnic.” Mine was called “Have a Hoosick Hug,” so I painted her with the paws turned up so you are invited into her arms to rest awhile!”

hind it. The program, which collected new or slightly used prom dresses, shoes, and accessories, was created in an effort to provide prom necessities to young girls who are unable to afford their own items. The Butterfly Project brought in nearly fifty dresses and numerous other needed accessories. The program also offered free make up application and hair styling on the day of prom. “It’s an amazing

