

COAL COUNTRY HANGOUT YOUTH CENTER

To paraphrase an old song, *What a Difference a Year Makes!* With all the difficulties behind it, CCHYC is well on the road to full capacity, and then some. In March 2013, CCHYC celebrated its 16th year of operation: 16 years of service to approximately 6,000 children and youth, age infant to 18. Our mission and goals remain the same:

- To provide affordable and accessible child care to all families in our community;
- To emphasize that families can forever influence their children and that we support families to the greatest extent possible in the promotion of healthy behaviors among their children;
- To provide a holistic approach to educational, cultural, and spiritual devastation experienced by families in the region.

Fully licensed, with no restrictions, the Daycare/Preschool serves 50 children weekly. This past year they enjoyed trips to Jaffa Shriners Circus and Northern Cambria Fire Hall, as well as participated in the St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon. According to Erin Bougher, Director, field trips for next year include a ride on a steam train!

The Teen Center has had some great dances, pizza parties, and movie nights. Under the direction of Patricia Hamzik, teens painted a large mural on the pump house wall at Northern Cambria's swimming pool as a community project. More community projects are in the works. The fourth annual LOCK-IN is tentatively scheduled for the first Friday in December. All District 4 teens (6th-12th grade), including local participants at Coal Country Teen Center, are invited to come spend the night and have a great time.

Cambria Re-Coal-lection, the educational workshop component of CCHYC's overall program, sponsored two different projects in 2012-2013. *Reclaiming our Natural Heritage*, funded by a grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, was designed to monitor watershed activity at Glendale Lake, an experiential education workshop to give students a real and meaningful field experience that might lead to a career in the environmental sciences. *A Town Fenced In*, a history project funded by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, investigated the coal town of Moss Creek. Founded in 1902, Moss Creek was walled off to keep away "union agitators" who sought to stir up local coal miners. The students discovered multiple locations of remnants of that wall. Since 2003, over 1000 students participated in an educational workshop. Full steam ahead!