



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY VANDERHEYDEN

2018 marks the 185th anniversary of Vanderheyden Hall, a private agency that began as an orphanage but now serves primarily teenage children with educational or emotional problems. Currently located at the eastern edge of North Greenbush, Vanderheyden traces its founding back to the early days of Troy.

In 1833 because of the plight of orphaned and destitute children, the Troy Orphan Asylum was formed and initially housed 45 orphans. For the next thirty years, the orphanage was housed in several different locations in Troy. In 1862 after their residence was destroyed in Troy's "Great Fire", they moved to 294 Eighth Street and remained there for the next three decades.

As the 19th century came to a close, it became clear that a new, modern facility was required to meet the orphans' on-going needs. In 1892, resulting from a gift of 109 acres, the cornerstone was laid for a new building on Spring Avenue. Later, additional buildings were added including a chapel, school building, infirmary and

gymnasium. The first uniformed Boy Scout troop in the nation was formed at the orphanage.

In 1943, after 50 years at that location, the words "orphan" and "asylum" went out of favor and the name was changed to Vanderheyden Hall (Vanderheyden being the name of a famous early settler family in what was to become Troy).

As times changed, programs of "manual training" for boys and "domestic science" for girls were instituted.

By the 1960's additional changes and challenges led to the need of more land beyond the Spring Avenue Campus. In 1975, the trustees acquired 80 acres in North Greenbush where the former Pawling Sanitarium grounds and later the NYS Training School for girls had been. In the 1980's Vanderheyden moved its multi-service children's center to the Wynantskill site.

Today Vanderheyden provides a variety of housing options and a wide range of services for youth, adults, and families in the Capital Region. A safe haven is provided for youth abused or neglected or abandoned who face a range of developmental and emotional challenges.