



THE BEAST IS BACK - Page 4

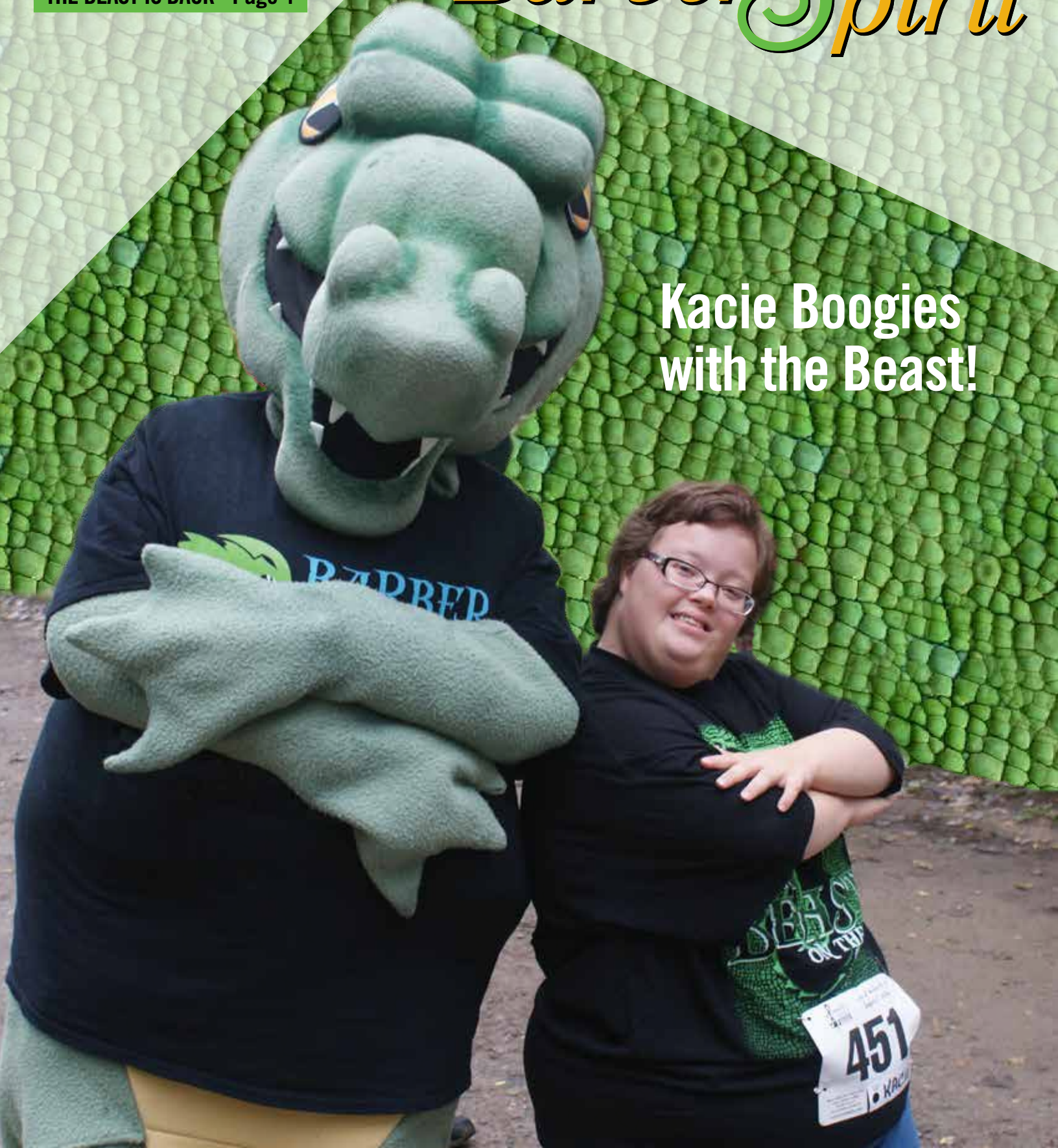
Barber National Institute



July 2016  
Vol. 12, No. 2

# Barber Spirit

Kacie Boogies  
with the Beast!





# President's Message



Front cover: *The Beast and the adapted course are no match* for Kacie Shaffer.

Dear friends:

Pennsylvania has been known as “the Keystone State” and the “State of Independence,” but since March it has also officially been known as an Employment First state. Gov. Tom Wolf signed an executive order making this designation, reflecting a U.S. Dept. of Labor priority that encourages community-based, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

This has long been at the heart of the Barber National Institute mission, dating back to 1986 when we created a supported employment program to help individuals locate and land jobs in the community. Our employment specialists are very focused on identifying businesses willing to open their doors for adults with disabilities. The more than 400 businesses that have hired through our supported employment program have found that they are adding skilled, dedicated and loyal employees who have a positive impact on their workforce.

We are also committed to developing new initiatives that smooth the path to employment. The latest of these is Pre Employment Transition Services to improve transition planning for high school students. We have been certified by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to provide educational programs in the high schools as well as provide job shadowing and transportation assessments to students while they are still in school. Schools or families interested in receiving more information should contact Maggie Dimitriadis, director of Intellectual Disabilities Services, at 874-5517 or Marycarmen Walker, operations specialist for Supported Employment, at 878-4120.

Supported Employment is also one of the programs featured in a special insert focusing on Philadelphia that is part of this issue. We invite you to get a closer look at some of the people and services that we offer to adults and families in the southeast region of Pennsylvania.

With summer now in full swing we are eagerly anticipating upcoming events just around the corner. The first of these is Barber Beast on the Bay, an exciting event that encourages fitness and wellness for our adults as well as the broader community. I would encourage everyone to look into the many opportunities to become involved in this exciting happening.

On the heels of this event we will be gearing up for the Ladies Only Luncheon on Nov. 19 and the Christmas Ball on Dec. 17.

But for now, I am hoping that you will find some time to relax with family and friends and enjoy all the good things that summer has to offer. To all of our dedicated donors and friends, thank you for your continued support that is indeed *making dreams come true* for our children, adults and families.

Sincerely,

John J. Barber  
President & Chief Executive Officer

## Mission Statement

We “Make dreams come true.” We provide children and adults with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health challenges and their families the education, support and resources needed to be self reliant, independent and valued members of their community. In addition, we provide the professionals who serve them with world-class education and training.



## Erie Gives

Make **Tuesday, Aug. 9**, a great day to help a nonprofit by taking part in **Erie Gives**. You can make a gift online at [www.ErieGives.org](http://www.ErieGives.org) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Just go to the website and select the Barber National Institute to make a donation that will truly make a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities or behavioral health challenges. Or, make a donation with cash or check by contacting the Giving office at (814) 874-5640. **Your gift will make dreams come true!**

# DANCE LIKE EVERYONE'S WATCHING

## *Kacie Shaffer brings the fun to the Adapted Course*

Each of the past two years, 25-year-old Kacie Shaffer has beaten the Beast not once, but twice.

No, Kacie doesn't run the Barber Beast on the Bay Adapted Course two times. Instead, she's challenged the Beast mascot before the race in a dance competition. And both times, Kacie's had a boogie that can't be beat.

It's all part of the fun participants have as part of their experience in the Barber Beast on the Bay Adapted Course sponsored by First Niagara. The one-mile course at Waldameer Park is held primarily on paved road and features nine obstacles that involve pulling, pushing, carrying and navigating ramps. All obstacles are optional and can be completed by participants who are ambulatory or use a wheelchair, walker, or other assisting device.

"We are blessed to live in a community where things like the Barber Beast on the Bay competition are available for Kacie to take part in," said Candy Shaffer, Kacie's mother. "She enjoys it so much and starts anticipating the next competition minutes after the current one is over. We never get tired of seeing the joy she experiences in events like these."

Kacie's unbridled exuberance for the event carries over each year not only at the event, but also in waiting for the next one. Candy said Kacie would routinely have her check the Barber Beast on the Bay website until registration was available. Kacie was the first to sign up for the Adapted Course this year.

"She was hooked with the inaugural competition and has been there to participate every year," Candy said.



**Drs. Brian and Kate Stark, participants in the 10-mile course, join Kacie in a shared obstacle.**



**Kacie Shaffer beats the Beast dancing!**

Kacie recalls many favorite things over the course of her Adapted Course career.

"I liked when the people cheered for me and said, 'Go Kacie, you rock!' They did a wonderful job," Kacie said. "And I liked when the Beast hugged me."

As for the course itself, Kacie had two favorite obstacles.

"I like the rowboat and pulling up the sand bucket," she said, before adding, "I like it all."

Last year, Kacie's course buddy was her friend, Syndie Lane, a student at Edinboro University. Kacie and Syndie's bond extends outside of the Beast, too, as they attend ESO Dances together and go to concerts. Last year, one of Syndie's professors invited Kacie to attend classes. The class even had a graduation party for Kacie and invited her to attend a prom in Meadville at the end of the semester. Kacie counts her Beast experience with Syndie as one of the best things they've done.

Syndie will be joining Kacie again this year, and they've already begun their training. In fact, Kacie has accepted a dance rematch with the Beast for this year and is practicing her dance moves with Syndie.

"I will dance again because the Beast is so cool and I like to dance," Kacie said. "I'm going to win!"

To join Kacie, Syndie, and everyone else on Sept. 10, visit [www.barberbeast.org/adapted-course](http://www.barberbeast.org/adapted-course).





## It's Coming: 4th Annual Barber Beast on the Bay

When it comes to challenges, Barber Beast on the Bay 2016 will feature some favorite “blasts from the past” along with new and exciting challenges for participants to tackle. The event, which takes place on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Presque Isle State Park, offers 10 miles of sand, trails and water and more than 20 obstacles. The grand finale is the Wave Pool at Waldameer Park, rated the top obstacle last year, where participants will battle six-foot waves to get to the finish line. Along the way, here are a few of the new obstacles to expect:

- A pipe on the **Teeter Totter** will move as participants progress through the obstacle. Once the pipe moves, they will hold on to the sides and lean forward so the pipe will move to a downward angle.
- In **Hit the Deck**, participants must crawl at a brisk pace to successfully make their way out of this replicated barbed wire obstacle.
- The **Triangles of Terror** requires participants to jump from alternating-angled triangles without touching the ground.



- The surface of the **Crawl Wall** has wooden foot grips that move in an upward position, then slant downward toward the middle of the wall. Participants must maintain their balance as they crawl across.



- **Hitting the (8 Foot) Wall** is an eight-foot structure with wooden blocks affixed in a random upward pattern (similar to a rock wall). Participants will use their upper body strength to climb up to the next block and, once they reach the top, climb down the opposite side.



- **Double Duty Pipe Roll** consists of crawling through 20-foot pipes and then jumping over those same pipes.
- **Walking the Plank** makes participants move across an elevated log held up by chains before moving across a zig-zagged balanced beam.

The course is designed to be challenging for the elite athlete while still enjoyable for leisurely walkers who want to complete the trek without doing the obstacles. Either way, it's the most fun you will ever have while being wet and sandy!

Nearly 900 participants from 15 states are already signed up – so don't miss this opportunity.

And if you sign up to fundraise, you will get a free or reduced registration and be eligible for great prizes. Information is at [www.BarberBeast.org](http://www.BarberBeast.org)



*Rain could not dampen the spirits of our Cheer Zones.*



Participants will be reminded of why they are doing the event in the first obstacle, "One Bell of a Start." They will be climbing across panels painted by students at the Barber National Institute.



## Other Ways to Beat the Beast

Even if you aren't slogging through 10 miles of sand or scaling obstacles, you can still have a great time at Barber Beast on the Bay. Many volunteers are needed to monitor obstacles, staff hydration and nutrition stations, pass out medals and other important jobs.

You can select your assignment and shift by signing up at [www.BarberBeast.org/volunteer](http://www.BarberBeast.org/volunteer)

Or, if you are part of a group of enthusiastic, energetic people, you can form a Cheer Zone to encourage participants along the course. As we heard last year, the Cheer Zones really had an impact on people tackling the challenges.

*"The people cheering... were awesome! It makes a huge difference when your strength is sapped."*

*"The Cheer Zones were great for getting me pumped up to finish. Best race environment I've ever experienced, hands down."*

Cheer Zones can be any group and will compete for cash prizes to be voted by participants. For information and to sign up, visit [www.barberbeast.org/get-involved/cheer-zone](http://www.barberbeast.org/get-involved/cheer-zone)

# THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Erie's ROCK Station



ERIE'S #1 HIT MUSIC STATION







The Barber Behavioral Health Institute Outpatient Clinic is conveniently located at 1621 Sassafras Street in Erie.

## Barber Behavioral Health Institute Opens Outpatient Clinic

The Barber National Institute is now offering a new facility to provide therapy, counseling and medication management to meet the needs of children, adults and families throughout Erie County.

The Barber Behavioral Health Institute Outpatient Clinic is located in a modern, newly renovated suite at 1621 Sassafras Street. The centrally located facility offers comfortable accommodations for individual, couples and family counseling and group therapies and ample accessible free parking.

To help meet the need in the community, the new Outpatient Clinic will offer treatment for a wide range of behavioral diagnoses including:

- depression
- anxiety
- obsessive compulsive disorders
- bipolar disorder
- trauma caused by grief, loss or abuse

Most major insurances will be accepted and we are currently in the final stages of credentialing with insurance programs.

For more information or scheduling, please contact our office at (814) 871-4725 or email [BBHOPClinic@BarberInstitute.org](mailto:BBHOPClinic@BarberInstitute.org).



Students Penny Lyte and Wyatt Dlugolenski from the Happy Hearts Preschool at the Barber National Institute join Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, standing at left, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute, and John Barber, standing at right, president and chief executive officer, to thank donors who supported the recent renovation of the gymnasium. Donors include Randy Peterman, second from left, representing the Erie Insurance Giving Network; and Peter Russo, representing the Maureen Riazzi Fund of the Dayton Foundation.

## Donors Recognized for Gymnasium Renovation

Donors who helped to fund the renovation of the gymnasium at the Barber National Institute were recently recognized at the unveiling of the updated facility.

The first donation to fund the project was a \$50,000 grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Erie. Other donors included the Maureen Riazzi Fund of the Dayton Foundation, Wal-Mart, Randy Peterman from the Erie Insurance Giving Network, and the Panosian-Cornish families in memory of Lori Schloss.

Renovations included the installation of a new floor, lighting and sound system, as well as equipment to integrate iPads and other computer technology for presentations. A new, more accessible stage and ramps were also added to ensure that multiple students in wheelchairs or other assistive devices and their attendants can access the stage with their classes.

The project marks the first major renovation for the gym, constructed in 1975, which now provides a state-of-the-art facility for students and adults.



### Why I Give

The “*Why I Give*” video series features donors sharing their reasons for supporting the mission of the Barber National Institute. The latest video focuses on Jim and Judy Dible, who talk about why they support the organization both as dedicated volunteers and donors. Check out their video, as well as messages from other donors, at <http://www.barberinstitute.org/giving-why-i-give>

Judy and Jim Dible

# FOCUS ON PHILADELPHIA



Gale Williams works alongside Leroy Ruffin, a recently hired employee.

## ‘I love what I do’

Gale Williams is on a mission: finding jobs for adults with disabilities. In her first six months as a job coach at the Barber National Institute, Gale has helped a number of adults find community employment.

“I was there when one of the men got his first paycheck. He was so happy, he lit up like a Christmas tree,” said Gale. “And that made my day.”

Gale joined the Barber National Institute in January, 2016, bringing with her a varied background in a career that spanned nearly 30 years. She worked as a contracting officer in Philadelphia for the Department of Defense for 17 years, responsible for purchasing equipment and supplies. Gale then worked as a career transitions specialist with Job Corp for 12 years, helping adults move from the program to career opportunities.

She was thinking it was time for a career change when she heard about the Barber National Institute, and it seemed like a perfect fit.

“I love it,” said Gale. “What I enjoy most is seeing the excitement that comes when you see the adults go to work. It’s such a reward to see everybody love to go to work and earn their paycheck.”

## Landing a Job, Making a Dream Come True

“You’re hired.” Eight adults heard these magic words this spring as they found community employment with Stop & Surrender, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Philadelphia. The adults were hired and are receiving job coaching through the Supported Employment program at the Barber National Institute.

“We put in a lot of effort to find businesses that are looking to hire adults through supported employment,” said Simone Stevens, employment specialist. “It’s really important to fit the right adult to the job.”

At Stop & Surrender, adults are part of two cleaning crews that work morning and late afternoon shifts at the organization’s three residential facilities located in Philadelphia. Adults are learning to mop floors, dust shelves and furniture, and clean bathrooms.



Job Coach Janell Dewalt assists Corey Irby as he learns his new job.





## Employment (cont.)

“For many, this is their first job in the community,” said job coach Gale Williams.

Helping adults make that transition from training or a day program to successful employment is the focus of the Supported Employment Program. Job developers look for businesses that are hiring—or those that might be open to accepting adults with disabilities. At the same time, they are trying to match the abilities of the job seeker with open positions.

“It is important to love what you do,” said Gale. “We see what the adults are interested in so that they find a job that they love.”

The staff help adults develop their resumes, practice interview skills, and learn about appropriate attire and behavior on the job. They also assist in scheduling—and accompanying—the adult for an interview.

Once hired, job coaches stay with the new employee, often performing the duties alongside them until the adult can independently perform the job. If there is a change in the job or the responsibilities, the job coach will return to assist the adult in learning the new duties.

For adults, employment is another step toward normalization. “We all like to get a paycheck and pay our bills or purchase things for our homes or families. We learn that it’s important to work for what you want,” said Gale. “It’s the same for adults with disabilities. They love getting their paychecks and spending it on the things that they want.”

And there are many tangible benefits for the employer. “It is really a win-win,” said Traci Gardner, director of the Barber National Institute southwest regional program. “Our employers are getting very well-trained, dependable and loyal employees who are committed to the job.”

For more information about Supported Employment in the Philadelphia region, call (215) 871-0731.



Simone Stevens, left, and Shirley Lock enhanced their lives with the Lifesharing through Family Living program.

## Finding a Family

When Shirley Lock’s parents passed away, she moved into a residential group home. The staff and residents all were welcoming, but she missed being part of a traditional family.

That’s where Simone Stevens came in. Simone, employment specialist in the Barber National Institute Supported Employment program, was interested in exploring Lifesharing through Family Living. With this residential option, an adult with disabilities lives with a provider companion or family in their home in what is meant to be a long-term, enduring relationship.

Shirley already knew Simone from attending the day program and having a job in the community. The Lifesharing support team arranged for Simone and her daughter, who was then 11 years old, to have dinner together. After a few meetings, they progressed to a weekend visit, and then Shirley finally spent a week in the Stevens home. Over that time, they all came to believe that Lifesharing would work for them.

“Shirley was like a breath of fresh air in our home,” said Simone. “She was already very independent and outgoing, but she has grown a lot. She’s much happier in a family setting.”

Shirley agrees that it is a positive experience. “I like living with Simone. She takes good care of me,” said Shirley.

The process begins slowly as potential providers and the individual are carefully interviewed, then



matched to ensure they have compatible interests and personalities. The Lifesharing Specialist arranges supervised visits as the individual and family members develop a relationship. When all parties are comfortable, the move is arranged.

The Lifesharing Specialist always remains available to assist and coordinate services, supporting the family as they help the individual by attending medical appointments and working on goals to develop greater independence.

Providers receive a monthly federal tax-exempt stipend to cover room and board. The individual's income and benefits cover their own medical expenses and personal purchases.

Like most adults in Lifesharing, Shirley is involved in a day program or employment during the day. When she returns home, Simone and her daughter join Shirley in typical family activities. "Shirley's favorite things are going to the movies or out to dinner, and she loves shopping. We do all kinds of girly things," said Simone. "She is part of my family through and through."

Lifesharing providers run the gamut from single adults or couples to two-parent families with children and "empty-nest" couples. While no special experience is required, it is important that providers enjoy being with people and are open to sharing their lives.

Or, as Simone says, "a provider needs patience and a listening ear."

For more information about Lifesharing, in Philadelphia please call (215) 871-0731; in Erie call (814) 878-5517 or (814) 874-5623.

## Planning Your Day, Your Way

Every Monday, adults and staff from the Community Endeavors Program are at the Philadelphia offices of Meals on Wheels, picking up packages of food to deliver to homes of those in need. Volunteering is one of the options that adults can choose in Community Endeavors, a program that provides opportunities to participate in and access resources in the community.

Community Endeavors was developed more than five years ago after discussions with individuals,



**Making weekly deliveries for Meals on Wheels is one of the volunteer options for the Community Endeavors program.**

families and case managers. "We learned that the adults we support were looking for a different type of day service experience that would honor individual choice and promote greater community inclusion," said Traci Gardner. "Community Endeavors has become a very popular program because of all of the opportunities that it offers for adults."

Many adults enjoy volunteering for organizations such as the SPCA animal shelters and Lankenau Hospital. They also have opportunities to choose activities such as trips to museums, visits to parks and nature centers, outdoor recreation and attending local events. For adults interested in community employment, a janitorial crew was developed to offer training that could lead to employment in the private sector.

When adults aren't in the community, they can participate in many innovative and interactive activities such as art, pet and music therapy, and wellness and exercise programs. Birthday celebrations are also held regularly for individuals and staff to develop stronger bonds among all those involved in the program.

"Your day, your way" is the philosophy of the Community Endeavors program. For more information or to schedule a visit, call (215) 871-0731 or email [BNlphil@barberinstitute.org](mailto:BNlphil@barberinstitute.org).

# Serving the Philadelphia Region



**M**ore than six decades ago, Erie educator Dr. Gertrude A. Barber resolved that children and adults with intellectual disabilities should not be sent to distant institutions, far from family and community. She also believed that they should have every opportunity to learn and grow in their own communities, and she began working to make this a reality across Pennsylvania.

Since its first classroom opened in Erie in 1952, the Barber National Institute has grown to serve more than 4,200 individuals with disabilities and their families with educational, vocational, residential and behavioral health services.

In 1990, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania invited the Barber National Institute to open its first three residential group homes for adults in the Philadelphia region. Since then, the Barber National Institute has established 27 group homes in Philadelphia, Montgomery and Bucks counties, as well as offering Lifesharing through Family Living, a residential option that enables an adult with disabilities to reside with a provider family as a fully participating member of that home.

In addition, the Barber National Institute provides Day Programs to assist adults in developing employment and daily living skills to lead to greater independence and self-reliance. Below are programs offered in Philadelphia to support adults and families:

## Community Endeavors

This unique day program enables adults to spend time out in the community, participating in activities of their choosing. The program focuses on individual choice by offering 49 different outings ranging from visits to local museums, recreational activities, volunteerism, fitness and wellness, to activities such as art, pet and music therapy and job skills readiness. Staff is committed to the principle of individual choice and meeting the unique needs of every individual.



## Residential Group Homes

Residential Services in Philadelphia offers adults the opportunity to live in a supportive environment as fully participating members of the community. With 27 group homes located in Montgomery, Bucks and Philadelphia counties, the goals of these services are to provide a comfortable home environment while assisting individuals as they develop greater independence and become more fully participating members of their homes and community.

## Lifesharing

Lifesharing enables an individual to reside with a provider companion or family in their home as part of an enduring relationship. Providers, which can range from single adults, two-parent families with children and “empty nest” couples, receive a stipend for the cost of room and board while the individual’s benefits cover medical expenses and personal purchases.

## Home & Community Habilitation

The Home & Community Habilitation program gives individuals opportunities to explore daily activities of their choice to help them become active members of the community. These programs are alternatives to facility based programs and based out of the individual’s home. This enables greater flexibility for individuals in going out into the community and reaching their personal goals.

## Employment

The Supported Employment Services help individuals gain independence and attain community employment. This program includes targeted job matching, employment placement and on-the-job training. Individuals are teamed up with a job coach to help them learn the job responsibilities and develop transportation alternatives

## Behavioral Support

Services include functional assessments, development of strategies to support the individual, and training for individuals, staff, family and caregivers to meet behavioral goals.

For more information about these services, contact (215) 871-0731 or [BNlphil@BarberInstitute.org](mailto:BNlphil@BarberInstitute.org)



**Barber National Institute**  
*Making dreams come true.*

3300 Henry Avenue, Suite 900 • Philadelphia, PA 19129





Click Here to Watch the Musical Zoo!

## Musical Zoo Hits the Right Notes!

It was a zoo without cages, fences or even animals, but it was still a lot of fun! Musicians from the Erie Philharmonic held a musical petting zoo that enabled students at the Barber National Institute to hear a variety of musical sounds and even get a chance to touch and play some of the instruments. Steve Weiser, director of the Erie Philharmonic, taught students how to use a percussion instrument called a hi-hat, while Athena loved playing the viola. Students rotated through four different stations of musical instruments to get a wide range of experiences.



## Nurse Awarded for Dedication to Students

Ellen Danowski, RN, second from left, was presented with the Excellence in School Nursing Award from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. The award was presented by Nina Ferraro, left, Highmark community affairs liaison. Joining in the program was Diana Zenewicz, Nursing manager who nominated Ellen; and Bridget Barber, director of Health Services, External Affairs and Privacy Officer. In addition to a \$1,500 grant awarded by Highmark, students presented Ellen with handmade cards, banners and a child-sized hat and stethoscope.



## Committee Planning Ladies Only Luncheon

Plans are well underway for the Ladies Only Luncheon set for Saturday, Nov. 19 at The Kawkwa Club. The event features boutique shopping, a large gift basket raffle and the drawing for this year's Premier Prize, a trip to Chicago donated by Miller Travel with \$1,000 spending money. Committee members pictured include bottom row, from left, Carol Beach, Annie Rutkowski, Gretchen Dusckas, chair woman Kathy Wagner and Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey. Middle row is Julie McCain, Marnie Mead, Laure Sieber, Mary Rutkowski and Gretchen Hunter. Top row is Bridget Barber, Jennifer Nygaard Pontzer, Emily Ingram, Jeanne Baker and Rhonda Schember. Also on the committee are Emily McCormick Hutchinson, Natasha Marnen, Lynne Miller, Lisa Salvia, Julie Sanner and Missy Taylor.





## Dance Raises Funds for Adult Social Activities

The Council for Exceptional Children, a student organization at Edinboro University, recently held a dance that raised \$1,500 for the Barber National Institute. Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, left, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute, and Jaelyn Zacherl Herrmann, Agency With Choice family liaison and ESO Coordinator at the Barber National Institute, accepted the donation from council members Ashley Ohmer, Lizzie Donikowski, Anna George, and Dr. Erik Bentsen, assistant professor at Edinboro University and adviser to the Council. The funds raised will be used for the Barber National Institute "Expanding Social Opportunities" (ESO) Summer Camp as well as helping to expand ESO activities that bring together area college students and adults with intellectual disabilities.



## BHR Walking for Autism

Staff and families from the Barber National Institute Allegheny County BHR program were among the more than 14,000 participants in the Pittsburgh Autism Speaks Walk on Sunday, June 12, at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh.

The Barber National Institute had a booth at the event with information on programs as well as games for children. Mobile therapist Megan Devine offered face painting, a popular activity at the event.

The Barber National Institute also fielded a team of walkers at the event which raised more than \$500,000 for Autism Speaks.

## Students Win Poster Contest against Bullying

Three students in the Elizabeth Lee Black School created the winning posters in an anti-bullying poster contest sponsored by State Sen. Sean Wiley. Winning students are, front row, Enji Shukur, with her mother, Adeebah Alzamar; Leah Barnes with her parents, Brian and Kelly Barnes; and Blaize Cheeseman with his parents, Rachel and Ellsworth Cheeseman.

Also standing are, from left, Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey; Sen. Sean Wiley; Patty Puline from LECOM SafeKids Erie; and John Barber, right, president of the Barber National Institute. The contest was open to all schools in the area and winners were voted on online from a group of finalists. The winning posters will be displayed in the state capital in Harrisburg in October.







Click here to watch the Knicely Story

Executive vice president Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey presents preschool graduation certificates to Danny and Destiny Knicely.

## Celebrating Graduation

Danny and Destiny Knicely are ready to take a big step this fall. The twins will be going off to kindergarten after attending preschool at the Barber National Institute for the past three years.

"I'm amazed to look back at where they were then, and where they are now," said their father, Daniel Knicely. "Being able to see how much progress they've made in such a short period of time, and it would not have been able to be accomplished without the Barber National Institute. They never would have gotten it anywhere else."

The Knicely twins were among more than 60 students, including five students who completed their education and will enter adult services, who participated in graduation ceremonies in June.

For a video about Danny and Destiny's story, visit [www.barberinstitute.org/about-stories-danny-and-destiny](http://www.barberinstitute.org/about-stories-danny-and-destiny)



Students completing their education also received diplomas from their home school districts.



Students receive the new crayons from, at left, Gannon president Dr. Keith Taylor, Dr. Davide Piovesan, education instructor Nancy Morris, Gannon student Ajay Kumar and Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey. Kneeling is occupational therapist Amanda Richardson.

## New Crayons Benefit Students

The Barber National Institute and Gannon University unveiled a new adapted crayon created by Gannon students in collaboration with faculty and preschool students at the Elizabeth Lee Black School. The new crayons will help students with physical and intellectual disabilities while also reducing the environmental footprint by keeping broken crayons out of landfills.

The crayon was the culmination of the Integrated Crayons for Adaptive Needs (ICAN) project, a cross-disciplinary, community effort through which the Gannon students and professors worked together to collect used crayons from local elementary schools and repurposed them into adaptable crayons.

Occupational therapists from the Barber National Institute met with Gannon education instructor Nancy Morris and Davide Piovesan, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomedical engineering, to discuss a design that would be easier for students with disabilities to use.

"It was wonderful to have our students involved in the early stages of this project, and now be able to use the finished product," said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey. "All students love to color and create art projects in class and alongside their typical peers. These crayons will enable children with disabilities to better grasp and manipulate crayons and more fully enjoy this very essential part of childhood."





Bridget and John Barber, left, join Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey and Art Show sponsors Betsy and Dr. Robert Guelcher, right in presenting awards. Winning artists, beginning third from left, included Austin Fiedler, Terry Pytlarz, Cathryn Stranahan, Jan Shilling and Tom Ferraro.

## 9TH ANNUAL ART SHOW & SALE: A MASTERPIECE ENJOYED BY ALL



Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, John Barber and Bridget Barber presented awards to youth artists. Front row, from left, are Ken Ramirez, winner of Best of Show, and honorable mention winners Genelia Kang and Tommy Christiansen.

From “Vintage Bicycles” to a “Spider on the Forest Floor,” art of all forms and subjects was celebrated at the ninth annual Art Show & Sale at the Barber National Institute. More than 500 works were featured from both youth and adult artists from the tri-state region.

A panel of judges selected the following pieces for awards:

### Adult Artist:

*Best of Show* – Jan Shilling, “Vintage Bicycles”

*Honorable Mention* – E. Michael Camp, “Waiting to Sail”

*Honorable Mention* – Tom Ferraro, “Passages”

### Adult Photography:

*Best of Show* – Terry Pytlarz, “See You April 1st”

*Honorable Mention* – Austin Fielder, “Tranquility”

*Honorable Mention* – Cathryn Stranahan, “Grandpa’s Violin”

### Youth Artist:

*Best of Show* – Ken Ramirez, “The Boy” (Fairview High School)

*Honorable Mention* – Genelia Kang, “Friends” (Erie Day School)

*Honorable Mention* – Artem Dzhavakhyan, “Free to Be a Tree” (Erie Day School)

*Honorable Mention* – Tommy Christiansen, “I Love Home” (Erie Day School)

### Youth Photography:

*Best of Show* – Mariana Pagan, “My Pond” (Neighborhood Art House)

*Honorable Mention* – Joseph Shkraba, “See Through Me” (Neighborhood Art House)

The **2016 People’s Choice Awards** selected by visitors to this year’s show were:

*Adult Artist* - Lynn Cotton, for his sculpture “Spider on the Forest Floor”

*Youth Artist* - Madison Wood, a senior at Collegiate Academy, for her painting “Hip(po)”

Congratulations to all artists. We’ll see you again in April, 2017!





Best of Show – Jan Shilling, “Vintage Bicycles”



**Patrons**

- A Friend
- Janice & Judy Baker
- John & Bridget Barber
- Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Barber
- Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey
- Dr. David & Shelly Benjamin
- Monika Garami-Zsebart Photography
- William & Patricia Gloekler
- Jack & Melissa Grimm
- Ron & Lynn Jones
- Michael & Karen McElhinny
- Marnie Mead
- M. Eileen McNamara, MD
- Mike & Anne Rahner
- Slovak National Club
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Wagner
- Jeanne Ward
- Stephen & Rena G. Wierbinski
- Bob & Amy Will

**Friends**

- Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Antalek
- John & Karen Berry
- Malcolm & Sheila Coon
- Steve & Karen Groshek
- Jim & Mary Macie
- Kevin & Barbara Mazon
- Don & Deb Musolff
- Lita Schaaf
- Cole & Kathy Stearns

*Special thanks to  
Betsy and Dr. Robert Guelcher  
for their many years  
sponsoring the Art Show & Sale.*

Support provided in part from:

# Calendar of Events



**Beast on the Bay Volunteer Meeting**  
**Aug. 31**, 5:30 p.m.  
 Barber National Institute Forum

**Beast on the Bay Packet Pick Up**  
**Sept. 7 & 8**, 4 – 7 p.m.  
 Barber National Institute North Lobby

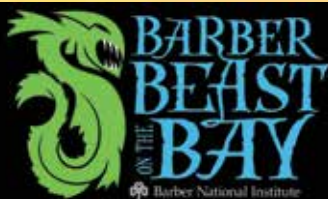
**Founder’s Day and Employee Wellness Fair**  
**Sept. 15**

**Ladies Only Luncheon**  
**Nov. 19**  
 The Kahkwa Club



**Bash on the Bay**  
**Barber Christmas Ball**  
**Dec. 17**  
 Bayfront Convention Center

**Annual Adult Christmas Party**  
**Dec. 18**  
 Bayfront Convention Center



**Barber Beast on the Bay**  
**Sept. 10**  
 Presque Isle State Park &  
 Waldameer Park



## Educational Opportunities

Bright Beginning Early Intervention (birth-age 3)  
The Elizabeth Lee Black School  
(Approved Private School)  
Autism Center  
Happy Hearts Day Care & Inclusive Preschool  
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program  
Adult Education & Literacy  
Pre Employment Transition Services for Youth

## Therapies

Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic  
Traditional & Specialized Family Based Mental Health Services  
Advanced Children's Therapies (ACT) Program  
Speech Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Physical Therapy  
Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services  
Psychiatric & Psychological Services  
Nutritional Services  
Trauma and Grief Counseling  
Health Services Department  
Social Skills Training

## Living In The Community

Respite Care  
Lifesharing through Family Living  
Supported Living in homes and apartments  
Residential Group Homes  
Community Hab

## Daytime Community-Based Services

Club Erie  
Community Endeavors  
Prevocational Services  
Transitional Work Services  
Supported Employment  
Adult Training Facilities  
Older Adult Daily Living Centers  
Mental Health Partial Hospitalization

## Support for Families

Blended Case Management for Children & Adults  
Family Support Services  
Family and Sibling Support Groups  
Agency with Choice, Habilitation Services

## Recreational Opportunities

Connections Summer Camp for children with high functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome  
ESO Dances and Summer Camp  
(Expanding Social Opportunities)  
Camp Shamrock Summer Program  
Time for Me

## Community Resources

Before/After School & Summer Child Care Programs  
Consultative services to schools & professionals  
Swimming & Water Exercise Lessons  
Kids on the Block Puppet Troupe  
Gift Shop

For more information, call the Barber National Institute at 814-453-7661 or visit [www.BarberInstitute.org](http://www.BarberInstitute.org).

Barber Spirit is a quarterly publication for friends of the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc.  
100 Barber Place • Erie, PA 16507-1863  
814-453-7661 • FAX: 814-455-1132  
E-mail: [BNierie@BarberInstitute.org](mailto:BNierie@BarberInstitute.org)  
Website: [www.BarberInstitute.org](http://www.BarberInstitute.org)

John J. Barber  
*President/Chief Executive Officer*

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# Shillelagh Honors Paul Nelson



Congratulations to Paul Nelson, back right, honored as the 2016 Shillelagh Man of the Year at this year's golf tournament. At the award presentation were John and Bridget Barber, left, and Mr. Nelson's wife, Lane. Mr. Nelson, president of Waldameer Park and Water World, was recognized for his early and ongoing support of Barber Beast on the Bay. Waldameer has hosted registration and the finish line since the event started in 2013, with the adapted course moving to the park last year.