Barber National Institute

Making dreams come true.

Programs for Infants & Children

-The Elizabeth Lee Black School, an approved private school for students ages 3 through 21 with autism, intellectual disabilities and multiple challenges.
- Bright Beginning early intervention for infants and toddlers
- Happy Hearts Preschool, featuring “inclusive” classrooms for typically-developing children and students with disabilities
- The region’s only preschool program for children who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Pre K Counts classes with full-day preschool for "at risk" children

Behavioral Health Services

A wide range of therapies, psychological and behavioral services, and supports for any child or adolescent with mental health challenges:
- Outpatient Clinic offering counseling and medication management for children, adults, couples and families.
-Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) and mobile therapy in the home and in school.
-Family counseling, grief and trauma therapy for children, and social skills development
-Partial hospitalization programs to meet acute needs of children and adults

Employment & Vocational Services

Opportunities for adults to develop skills needed to live as independently as possible:
-Day Supports Programs with activities that promote recreational and daily living skills
-Supported Employment Program with placement in jobs in the community
-Transitional Work Service to build skills for employment
-Retirement Center with recreational and therapeutic activities for an aging population

Living in the Community

-Group Homes in neighborhood settings
-Supported Living, enabling individuals to reside in their own apartments or homes with staff support.
-Life Sharing, linking families to share their homes with an individual for a long-term relationship
-Expanding Socialization Opportunities (ESO) dances for young adults in collaboration with area colleges.

Our Mission:

We are "Making 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.

Awards and Recognitions :

- First school in Pennsylvania named "School of Excellence" by the National Association of Special Education Teachers
- Keystone Stars certified preschool
- 2014 Certificate of Achievement for high standards of performance for the Federal Government Ability One Program
- 2015 Temple Grandin Award from Autism Connection of PA awarded to Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, Vice President
- Award for Leadership and Innovation in Special Education from the National Association of Private Special Education Centers
- One of Pennsylvania's largest group home providers

Barber National Institute Facts:

Number of children and adults served annually.....4,200
Number of staff.....2,500
Total number of group homes in PA.....84
Erie County.....51
Pittsburgh.....6
Philadelphia.....27
Annual budget.....$75 million
Percentage of every dollar used for program expenses.....98.5
Number of school districts our students come from.....22

The Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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