

Barber National Institute



June 2013  
Vol. 9, No. 2

# Barber Spirit

Making dreams come true.



Time to  
Beat  
the Beast!



# President's Message



**On the Cover: Students Kersten Murdock and Ty Stull have a warm welcome for the Beast on the Bay.**

Dear Friends,

The coming of summer is always a time of great anticipation at the Barber National Institute as we bid farewell to our graduates as well as other students who are continuing their education in their home districts.

Some students have been with us for many years and we have overcome significant challenges together. While it is bittersweet to see them moving on, we happily join their families in celebrating their successes and in taking pride in their achievements.

Occasions such as graduation remind us all of a shared desire and drive to reach our potential as contributing members of our society. Whether our adults are completing assembly work in our facilities, cleaning or landscaping on our campuses, holding jobs in the workforce or experiencing activities in the community, we try to help them fulfill the need to grow and belong. Our organization is indeed fortunate to have so many dedicated employees who strive to meet this goal every day.

Summer is also the time to be out enjoying many special activities—especially this year as we prepare for Barber Beast on the Bay. Our “Beast” mascot kicked off the summer season with a float in the Perry 200 Parade on Memorial Day weekend, and we look forward to seeing him at many more parades, festivals and sporting events over the coming months.

The Beast always draws a crowd and attention for Barber Beast on the Bay. We are grateful to the sponsors who have already come aboard to support this new event in its inaugural year. While there is a lot of “buzz” about this obstacle challenge, it bears repeating that this community event is being staged for a larger purpose. All proceeds will fund services for children and adults with autism and other development disabilities to help make their dreams come true.

If you would like to be part of this exciting event please consider signing on as a sponsor or a volunteer—or, if you're up for a challenge—as a participant! We thank you for your ongoing support and send wishes for a summer that is both relaxing and rejuvenating. See you at the Beast!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Barber".

John J. Barber  
President & Chief Executive Officer



## Barber Institute Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Employees celebrating five-year service anniversaries were recognized recently for their dedication. John Barber, left, president and CEO; Robert Will, middle back row, COO; Maureen Barber-Carey, right, executive vice president; and Kathy Fling, center, human resources administrator, congratulate William Skirzynski, left; Debra Brumagin, second from left; and Kathleen Bastow, right, for their 35 years of service to the Barber National Institute. More than 100 employees were honored for 5 to 35 years of service during a reception on Thursday, April 25.

## Mission Statement

We “Make dreams come true.” We provide children and adults with developmental disabilities 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.

# Fellowship Offers DREAM to New Grads

Recent college graduates or those looking for a new career can now find *their* DREAM working to make dreams come true for children with disabilities at the Barber National Institute. A new program, the DREAM Fellowship, offers a one- or two-year commitment to work as a paid staff member in the Elizabeth Lee Black School.

The DREAM Fellowship – short for *Daring to make a difference, Reaching out with compassion, Educating every child effectively, Aspiring to become transformational leaders and Meeting the needs of society* – is a unique opportunity for recent graduates to work with children ages 3-21 who have autism, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health challenges.

“The Barber National Institute believes in Dr. Gertrude Barber’s vision that every child deserves access to high quality education,” said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey. “We provide our professionals with world class training and experiences to ensure that our students have access to the best education possible.”

The fellowship is open to any graduate/undergraduate degree, course of study or professional experience. Employment opportunities include special education teachers, paraprofessional paraeducators, behavior technicians and mental health professionals.

“Though we actively recruit individuals with a variety of backgrounds and experiences,” said Dr. Barber-Carey, “we look for those with a commitment to helping students of all abilities reach their full potential.”

Fellows will receive competitive pay, benefits, paid holidays and forbearance on student loans, as well as job placement support and graduate school opportunities such as scholarships and service credit after the fellowship.

Those interested should contact Dr. Barber-Carey at [maureenbarbercarey@barberinstitute.org](mailto:maureenbarbercarey@barberinstitute.org).

## ODP Deputy Secretary Fred Lokuta Visits

“I’ve never in my life witnessed such an organization where there was so much of a commitment and passion for what you do. You epitomize what it means to care about people.”

These comments were delivered by Fred Lokuta, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Developmental Programs, to staff, students and adults at the Barber National Institute on Wednesday, May 29. Dep. Sec. Lokuta and a group of other state officials were greeted with a brief welcome program in the Institute’s north lobby before meeting with parents and touring the facility.



From left are John Barber, Deputy Secretary Fred Lokuta, Dave Mitchell from the governor’s northwestern PA office, Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, Clint Eisenhower and Mark Knouse.

This marked a return visit for Lokuta, who first came to the Barber Institute in March. During the most recent visit, he said that he had very often heard about the Barber National Institute during his nearly 30 year career in human services, but that he was “amazed” by the work that he saw here. “That was the most profound visit of my career,” said Lokuta. “It left me with a profound impression, and I talked about what I experienced with others in Harrisburg.”

Dep. Sec. Lokuta said he hoped that staff would consider the day as a reason to celebrate.

“You should take this opportunity about think about what you do for others, and you should all should be so proud.”



DPW Deputy Secretary Fred Lokuta is greeted by a student during his first visit in March.



## Gannon's Chamber Orchestra Inspires Students

Elizabeth Lee Black School students knew they were going to a “petting zoo” but this was no ordinary menagerie. In place of goats and sheep, the gym was filled with musicians from Gannon University’s Erie Chamber Orchestra. Students rotated through stations featuring various string and percussion instruments where they not only listened to the music, but also played the instruments themselves.

By offering this “hands on” approach to music, Steve Weiser, Orchestra general manager, believes the “petting zoo” creates a once-in-a-lifetime experience for students.

“It is important that any child of any age or situation be a part of music in this way,” said Weiser. “It gives them a physical chance to create sound and make music not only by listening, but also by playing the instruments themselves and really feeling the vibrations of the sounds being made.”

The musicians participating in the event included Howard Lyon and Louis Nicolai on the violins, Jennifer Jansen on the viola, Ruth Ann Scanzillo on the cello, and Steve Weiser on percussion. One by one, students were able to play each instrument and feel the vibration as the bow glided across the strings. At the end of each session, the children danced and clapped to a light-hearted jig played on the violins.

“The event today was fabulous! The interactions between the children and the musicians were great; the children were simply spellbound,” said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute. “A lot of the children have difficulty sitting for long periods of time, but today they were sitting patiently because they wanted to play the instruments so much. I knew they would enjoy the music, but I never expected that they would have so many opportunities to play the instruments.”

The Barber Institute has built a strong commitment to the arts through collaborations with community artists including ArtsErie and the Young People’s Chorus of Erie.

“This is just a new component to our strong programs in the arts. We would love to continue the ‘musical petting zoo’ and offer it more frequently for the kids in the future,” said Dr. Barber-Carey.



A student feels the vibrations from the violin as Howard Lyon of the Erie Chamber Chorus plays.



A student plays the cello with the help of Erie Chamber Orchestra cellist Ruth Ann Scanzillo.



Youngsters were excited to have their chance at playing the instruments.

## New Website Launched



Same address—totally new look! **BarberInstitute.org**, the Barber National Institute’s website, has been completely redesigned to help make the site more accessible to families, professionals and those looking for news and events.

The goal of the new design is to enable all users to more easily discover information about the services and programs we provide for children and adults with disabilities and their families, as well as the latest advances in research and technology.

We invite you to visit the website and take a look around today at [www.BarberInstitute.org](http://www.BarberInstitute.org)! Check back regularly for updates and news from the around the Institute.



# Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show

## Astounds Again



More than 400 pieces of art in a wide variety of media were featured in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale held at the Barber National Institute in April. Congratulations to the award winning adult artists; pictured front row from left are Barbara Thomas Yerace; Heather Mencer; Bridget Barber, director of External Affairs at the Barber National Institute; and Kathy Welte. Back row from left are Randy Stankey; Terry Pytlarz; Michael Howard; John Barber, president of the Barber National Institute; Ron McCorkle; John Fizel, accepting for his wife, Lynn Marie; and Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey.

Youth artists who received awards included, front row from left, Yassar Al-Fatlawi, Best of Show; Shayla Goller, Breckin Taylor, Isabelle Southard, and Sebastian Ewing, who was joined by his teacher from the Neighborhood Art House. Back row from left are Bridget Barber, Dr. Robert and Betsy Guelcher, John Barber and Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey.

For more photos of the artwork and the artists, as well as a complete list of the winners, visit [BarberInstitute.org/events/artshow](http://BarberInstitute.org/events/artshow)



## Gavin's First Steps

Peek into Julie Moore's classroom, and you're sure to notice a smiling 12-year-old boy with short brown hair moving independently around the room.

It's hard to believe that just a year ago Gavin Nelson relied completely on a wheelchair for mobility. Like many parents who have children with cerebral palsy, Gavin's parents were told he may never walk.

But thanks to the determination of his family, teachers, therapists and – most importantly – Gavin himself, he *is* now walking with the help of a Gait Trainer, a type of walker designed to improve cognition, muscle development and skeletal growth.

Gavin began services at the Barber National Institute at the age of three in the Early Intervention Specialized Preschool program. Since then, he has practiced walking skills with his physical therapist, Christina Gross, and staff at the Institute, as well as his family while at home. He has also become much more independent with other life skills.

At the beginning of the school year, Gavin began using the Gait Trainer to travel to and from lunch every day. As the year progressed, he started to spend the entire school day out of his wheelchair. While at the playground, Gavin will often leave the Gait Trainer behind and just rely on the support of his staff to walk.

"His legs have gotten stronger from being up on his feet," said his teacher, Julie Moore. "It was a gradual increase to get to this point, but now he's become an independent traveler...and he's picking up speed too!"

Julie also attributes much of Gavin's success to the support and encouragement he receives at home from his family.

"His family gives him a lot of experience walking at home and they do many of the same things we do in the classroom," said Julie. "This consistency can really produce results." For Gavin, it means that taking his first step is a dream come true.



Teacher Julie Moore takes a walk with Gavin.



September 7, 2013



## Time to Beat the Beast!

**S**and, water and obstacles designed by a U.S. Navy SEAL—it's Barber Beast on the Bay, a new fitness adventure challenge that will be held Saturday, Sept. 7 at Presque Isle State Park.

The event is perfect for recreational fitness enthusiasts who want to experience the thrills of the obstacle challenges that are sweeping the nation, as well as hardcore competitors who are looking to push their limits. Participants can choose their course distances with options for 4, 6 and 8 mile routes, as well as the 12-mile "Beast" and the 15+ mile master's level route.

Adults with physical or developmental disabilities are invited to a 1.5 mile adapted course that will be easy to access for both ambulatory participants as well as those using wheel chairs (see story p. 8-9).

And the best part of the event is that it benefits a worthy cause: making dreams come true for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. All proceeds will help ensure that the highest quality supports are available for the more than 4,200 individuals and families served annually by the Barber National Institute.

In fact, participants who agree to raise funds for the Barber Foundation can receive either a free or reduced price registration. It's easy! We will provide you with the tools to contact your friends, families, neighbors and co-workers in support of the Barber National Institute mission. A special prize will be awarded to the participant who raises the highest amount.

The second best part of the event? Whether you're a participant, a volunteer or a spectator cheering others on, you can enjoy a great day-long party at Waldameer Picnic Grove. Here's what's planned:

- Scott Enterprises will offer tasty fare that includes Dave's Famous Barbeque, Qdoba and Dunkin' Donuts; partial proceeds from all food sales will benefit the Barber Foundation.
- "The E," Erie's metropolitan transit authority, will provide free shuttle bus services from Waldameer Picnic Groves throughout the park, including to and from the Adapted Course, all day long.
- Be prepared to boogie with live bands, including The Romantic Era, winner of Erie's Rock Music Awards.

So don't wait—find out if you really can "Beat the Beast!" Check out [BarberBeast.org](http://BarberBeast.org) for more information or registration, or scan the QR code to your phone.



## Ty & The Beast

"The Beast" might seem fierce and imposing to some people, but certainly not to little Ty Stull. He breaks out in a grin and runs for a hug whenever he sees the scaly green mascot.

But the truth is that Ty has plenty of smiles and hugs to go around. The happy five-year-old has made such tremendous progress in the Early Intervention preschool class that he is moving on to classes in his home school district in the fall.

When Ty began attending the preschool program in fall 2010, his teachers remember a shy boy who kept to himself. "Now he's everybody's best friend," said teacher Denise Stoutamyer. "The whole room lights up when Ty comes through the door. His ability to communicate has just flourished and he is now speaking in full sentences."

Denise said that Ty enjoys everything—from going to therapy to playing on the playground. For her, watching him walk across the stage at graduation was bittersweet. "We are going to miss having him with us, but we are so happy that he is really prepared to move on."



## Volunteers Needed

If you like people, love a good time and enjoy the outdoors –we're looking for you! Volunteers are needed throughout the day on both the regular and the adapted courses; some of the positions include:

- Registration – sign in participants and distribute numbers, materials, etc.
- Parking/Traffic Direction – direct participants and spectators in parking lots and on course.
- Obstacle Monitors – direct participants on obstacles; monitor for injuries or repairs.
- Water stations – fill water cups and distribute to participants.
- Bag drop/pick up – tag personal belongings for storage during the event.

Many volunteers are needed so this is a perfect opportunity for service groups to work together at an event. For more information or to sign up, contact Anne Marz at 878-5538 or [annemarz@barberinstitute.org](mailto:annemarz@barberinstitute.org), or visit [www.BarberBeast.org](http://www.BarberBeast.org)

Whether the dream is taking a first step, saying the first word, or moving on to a home school district, the mission of the Barber National Institute is to make those dreams come true. Events such as Barber Beast on the Bay help to ensure that high quality services and supports are available for our children, adults and families.

So “Beating the Beast” is not just an achievement for those who conquer the obstacles and course. Their participation is also helping to realize victories every day for individuals with disabilities in our community. For information, including options to fundraise for free or reduced registrations, visit [BarberBeast.org](http://BarberBeast.org).

## Thanks to our Beast Sponsors



**EXECUTIVE  
PERSONAL FITNESS**



**RMP**

ROTH MARZ PARTNERSHIP P.C.



**UPMC Hamot**

**UPMC HEALTH PLAN**



Help sponsor the Beast! Information at [BarberBeast.org/sponsors](http://BarberBeast.org/sponsors) or by contacting Megan Kuser DeMarco at 814-480-6810.





Young  
**Maureen  
Riazzi**

an inspiration to her family.

## Barber Beast Adapted Course: *Celebrating a Life*

A young lady who loved to laugh, ride roller coasters and root for her favorite sports teams will be memorialized at a new event celebrating the achievements of adults with disabilities. The Russo and Riazzi families are sponsoring the Barber Beast on the Bay Adapted Course that will be held on September 7 in memory of their daughter, niece and sister, Maureen Riazzi.

With their sponsorship, the families honor the young woman who brought them joy and love for 33 years, as well as support the mission of the Barber National Institute in serving children and adults with disabilities.

### Early Life & Ties to Erie

Although Maureen was born and lived in Dayton, Ohio, her family has strong ties to the Erie area. Maureen's father, Carmen Riazzi, is still considered one of the greatest basketball players to hail from this region. And her aunt and uncle, Peter and Flo Riazzi Russo, have been active their entire lives in Erie's athletic and community organizations.



### Watch out for The Beast

It's big...it's beastly...it's coming to an event near you! The Barber Beast on the Bay float made its debut at the Perry 200 Parade on May 25 and will be appearing at other community activities throughout the summer. The float, which features a 12' beast made out of styrafoam, plywood and wire, was designed and constructed by Frank Fecko, Dan Vrenna and Patty Czulewicz.

"Coming from Erie, I of course knew about the Barber Center," said Carmen. "Our family agreed that this would be a good way to help a very worthwhile organization that is doing so much to help people with disabilities."

### A Family's Uncertainty and Resilience

Maureen was born on April 28, 1961, weighing only 5 lbs, 2 oz. Her mother, Ann, remembers being concerned about her right from the start. "I already had a child at home (a son born a year earlier) and I knew that something was not right," said Ann.

Maureen started walking at 13 months of age, but seemed to fall a lot. Over time, the falls became more frequent and often resulted in injuries. While many doctors' visits and tests still did not provide clear answers, Maureen was finally diagnosed with scoliosis, and one pediatrician suspected cerebral palsy.

Though Maureen, or "Reenie," was in a wheelchair by age 12, the Riazzi family was determined that nothing would hold her back. She attended school, and later on a workshop program. She often joined her family on trips to amusement parks on vacation. "The boys would lift her in and out of the car, and even onto the rides in the parks," said Ann.







Maureen loved to celebrate family events with her brothers and sisters.

## Maureen's Spirit Lives On

Although nearly two decades have gone by since Maureen's death, her life continues to be an inspiration for the Riazzis. "She was truly a gift to our family," said Ann. "Every one of my children is a better person because Maureen was part of our family. They have all become more generous, caring adults, always ready to give to others who need help."

That desire to help others led to the sponsorship of the Adapted Course in Reenie's memory. For the Russo and Riuzzi families, the idea that adults with developmental and physical disabilities can conquer an obstacle course challenge—and have a good time—brought to mind memories of Reenie's indomitable spirit.

### About the Maureen Riuzzi Adapted Course September 7, 2013 Presque Isle State Park

- 1.5 mile obstacle course for adults with disabilities.
- Designed for ambulatory participants & those using a wheelchair or power chair (course buddy optional).
- Features 6 obstacles incorporating a variety of challenges.
- \$25 registration; fee waived for participants who sign up to fundraise for the Barber Foundation. Limited number of scholarships provided by the Russo and Riuzzi families.

For info on sponsorships or registration, please call (814) 480-6810 or email [MKuser@BarberInstitute.org](mailto:MKuser@BarberInstitute.org).

[BarberBeast.org/adaptedcourse](http://BarberBeast.org/adaptedcourse)



Students in the Elizabeth Lee Black School had a chance to "Beat the Beast" during the nautical-themed Mini Beast on the Bay.

## Students Take On the Mini Beast

While students in the Elizabeth Lee Black School are too young to participate in Barber Beast on the Bay on September 7, they proved they indeed have what it takes to "Beat the Beast." Youngsters participated in an elaborate obstacle course challenge set up in the Gym and developed by school faculty.

The "Mini Beast on the Bay" offered ten obstacles adapted for students of all physical abilities and ages. The obstacles focused on nautical themes, including a cannon ball relay race, a frog hop with lily pads on mats, and a scooter that "surfs the rapids."

The obstacle course was developed and constructed by physical education teacher Ross Moore and a team of teachers and physical therapists from the Elizabeth Lee Black School.



Physical education teacher Ross Moore looks on as a youngster leaps from one lily pad to another on the frog hop obstacle.





### BHRS Allegheny Joins Walkers

BHRS Allegheny welcomed families to the Barber National Institute display at the Autism Speaks Walk on Saturday, June 1. More than 12,000 walkers participated in the event which was held in central Pittsburgh. Youngsters enjoyed the activities offered by BHRS Allegheny, including a duck pond with prizes. BHRS Allegheny raised \$1,000 to benefit Autism Speaks and also provided information and resources for parents.

### Adult Becomes Honorary Member of FBI

Leroy Ruffin, right, recently presented one of his drawings of the FBI seal to Agent J. J. Klaver of the Philadelphia office of the FBI. Receiving an invitation to tour the FBI offices was the fulfillment of a lifetime dream for Leroy, who has been meticulously hand drawing the seal as part of his arts activities in the Philadelphia adult day program. Leroy was made an honorary member of the FBI during his visit.



### Garden Party Guests Come Aboard for Spring

Supporters of the Barber National Institute celebrated spring at this year's Garden Party - "Ahoy! Come Aboard for Spring" - on Wednesday, May 15. Event chair woman Michele Carlotti, second from the right, along with John and Bridget Barber and Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, welcomed nearly 250 guests to the nautical-themed event. The party featured a theme basket raffle, free spa services from Ambridge Rose Salon, a style show by Coldwater Creek and Bridal Elegance, and a luncheon catered by the Ambassador Conference Center. Cynde Goldberg took home the signature prize featuring a "Stay & Play" golf package from Peek'n Peak; a set of TaylorMade irons donated by Michele and Carl Carlotti and Home Instead Senior Care with a custom fitting courtesy of Golf Etc.; and a natural gas grill donated by National Fuel.



Dr. Joshua Diehl  
University of Notre Dame

### Notre Dame Researcher to Discuss Robot Therapy

Dr. Joshua Diehl, a psychology professor at the University of Notre Dame, will provide an update on the research collaboration involving the use of robots to reinforce social and communication skills for children with autism. The program, which is offered to the community free of charge, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Barber National Institute forum. The presentation is designed for educators, behavior therapists/therapeutic support staff, speech therapists and parents; Act 48 credit is available.

The research has drawn international attention with Dr. Diehl speaking around the world, including at the International Society for Autism Research held in San Sebastian, Spain in April. News outlets covering the project have included the Wall Street Journal, ABC News, and NPR.

Since Notre Dame and the Barber National Institute announced the collaboration in May, 2012, preliminary results have suggested that many children participating in the studies have shown an increase in skill development when the robot is added to therapy sessions.

More information about the robot research project, including a new video about the work, is available at [BarberInstitute.org/robot](http://BarberInstitute.org/robot).

For information about the research presentation, call 814-878-5903.



# Last Chance to Be Part of the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber \$1,000,000 Challenge!



Lindsay Olivieri, a teacher at the Barber National Institute, uses an iPad to help develop Dennis Black's communication skills. Contributions to the **\$1,000,000 Challenge** have helped to purchase iPads, TapIt Boards, and other forms of assistive technology for our children and adults through the Barber National Institute Technological and Research Initiative, one of the goals of the Challenge.

In July 2011, the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation and the Barber National Institute Board of Directors launched a challenge to our friends and supporters across the country to raise \$1,000,000 in honor of the late Dr. Gertrude A. Barber's 100th Birthday. The **Dr. Gertrude A. Barber \$1,000,000 Challenge** was met with overwhelming enthusiasm from friends, families, staff members, companies and foundations across the United States – from Connecticut to California! The Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation is excited to report that it has received 5,374 gifts from 3,008 supporters in 38 states and Germany. This incredible outpouring of support is a wonderful tribute to Dr. Gertrude A. Barber and the mission and vision that she set forth for the Barber National Institute in 1952.

Today, we are proud to continue in Dr. Barber's footsteps – providing the highest level of care and programming to over 4,200 children and adults in Erie, Girard, Corry, Warren, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. All gifts to the **Dr. Gertrude A. Barber \$1,000,000 Challenge** are used to support the individuals we serve, helping them to reach their goals, lead life to the fullest, and help make their dreams a reality.

If you would like to be a champion for our special organization and help us honor Dr. Gertrude A. Barber, please consider a gift to the \$1,000,000 Challenge. Visit us online at [www.BarberInstitute.org/giving](http://www.BarberInstitute.org/giving), or contact Gary L. Bukowski, CFRE, Vice President for Advancement, at (814) 878-4033 or [GaryBukowski@BarberInstitute.org](mailto:GaryBukowski@BarberInstitute.org). Thank you for your consideration!

It's not too late to make your gift to the **Dr. Gertrude A. Barber \$1,000,000 Challenge!** Visit [www.BarberInstitute.org/giving](http://www.BarberInstitute.org/giving) to make your gift and be a part of this historic effort!

**Camp Shamrock & Beyond Camp Shamrock**  
June 24 – Aug. 2  
Barber National Institute

**Connections Camp**  
June 19-Aug. 13  
Villa Maria Elementary

**Erie Gives**  
Aug. 13 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.  
[ErieGives.org](http://ErieGives.org)



**Barber Beast on the Bay**  
Sept. 7  
Presque Isle

## Calendar of Events

**What's New in Robot Therapy**  
With Dr. Joshua Diehl, University of Notre Dame  
Sept. 25, 6 p.m.  
Barber National Institute Forum



**Ladies Only Luncheon**  
Nov. 23  
Kahkwa Club

**Christmas Ball**  
Dec. 14  
Bayfront Convention Center

The community is invited to support our events and activities. For information, visit [www.BarberInstitute.org](http://www.BarberInstitute.org)





## 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

## Therapies

Connections Summer Camp for children with high functioning Autism / Asperger Syndrome  
Specialized Family Based Mental Health Services  
Speech Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Physical Therapy  
Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (Wrap Around)  
Psychiatric & Psychological Services  
Nutritional Services  
Trauma and Grief Counseling  
Health Services Department

## Living In The Community

Club Erie  
Respite Care  
Lifesharing through Family Living  
Supported Living in homes and apartments  
Residential Group Homes

## Adult Day Services

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  
Family Support Services  
Family and Sibling Support Groups  
Agency with Choice, Habilitation Services

## Recreational Opportunities

ESO Dances (Expanding Sociability Opportunities)  
Camp Shamrock Summer Programs  
Keep Connected  
Time for Me

## Community Resources

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

For more information about these and other services, call the Barber National Institute at 814-453-7661 or visit our website at [www.BarberInstitute.org](http://www.BarberInstitute.org).

Barber Spirit is a quarterly publication for friends of the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc.  
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## Keystone Health Plan West Donation Funds Preschool Scholarships

Keystone Health Plan West – a Highmark Company recently donated \$23,500 through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program to fund preschool scholarships to qualifying students. Neil Parham, M.Ed., left, Senior Community Affairs Specialist at Highmark, Inc. joins Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute and Gary Bukowski, CFRE, vice president for Advancement, in visiting Philip and Sara Bayhurst, Happy Hearts preschool students.

The EITC program enables businesses to make a contribution and receive a reduction in their Pennsylvania taxes. Since 2009, 165 scholarships have been awarded to make quality preschool available to area children.

For more information about the EITC program, please contact Dr. Barber-Carey at (814) 878-5903 or [MaureenBarberCarey@BarberInstitute.org](mailto:MaureenBarberCarey@BarberInstitute.org).