

**DONOR RECOGNITION
EDITION**

Barber National Institute 

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Barber Spirit



SEE YOU AT THE ART SHOW!

DR. & MRS. ROBERT GUELCHER ART SHOW & SALE

President's Message



On the Cover: Zachary Byler and Erin DuShole, students in the PreK Counts class at the Barber National Institute, invite you to join them at the Art Show April 10-13.

Dear Friends:

With this issue of *Barber Spirit*, we are recognizing some very special individuals and organizations that are integral to our mission – our donors. It is because of their generosity and support that we are able to provide the high quality programs and services that are helping so many of our children, adults and families reach their dreams.

In these pages, you will read about a few of the many stories that we hear every day as our individuals achieve their dreams. We are also pleased to share news about some of the awards and recognition that has been accorded to our individuals and our organization. We congratulate one adult, **Kim Bauer**, who was named “Employee of the Month” at her job, while another, **Janine Calabrese**, was invited to the National Special Olympics. Because of the efforts of our faculty and local sponsors, we are also celebrating a national award for innovations with technology and the arts in our school.

As spring approaches, we are looking forward to a wonderful event, the **Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale** on April 10-13. We invite the entire community to visit our Erie campus for this exhibit that celebrates the creative expression of hundreds of artists of all ages and backgrounds. I promise that you will be amazed by the talent that is enriching our region.

Whether you have made a gift, attended a fund raiser, sponsored an event, or played some other vital role in support of our mission, thank you for making a difference in the lives of our individuals and families. It is only with your help that we can continue *making dreams come true*.

Sincerely,

John J. Barber
President & Chief Executive Officer



Join the Beast in supporting the Barber National Institute at the Highmark Walk on June 6.

Join the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

What could be better than taking a walk at Presque Isle on a summer morning? When you're walking to benefit services for children and adults at the Barber National Institute!

This is the first year that we are participating along with 24 other organizations, in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at Presque Isle State Park. What makes this event so incredible is that Highmark Inc. generously underwrites the cost of the walk and handles the logistics so that 100% of the money raised by our walkers and donors goes directly to the Barber National Institute.

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is an annual fundraiser that has raised more than 7.8 million dollars since 2003 for local health and human service agencies.

The event begins with a 5K walk starting at 9:00 a.m. near Beach One. A One-Mile Fun Walk, an option for individuals who prefer a shorter distance, starts at 9:15.

Walkers are invited to celebrate after the event with food, entertainment, prizes and fun activities for children.

Participants are able to register as an individual, form a team, or donate to our organization. Registered walkers who raise \$25 or more will receive an event T-shirt while supplies last.

For information or registration visit BarberInstitute.org/walk. Get your friends and family together and help raise funds for the Barber National Institute!

Mission Statement

We are “Making dreams come true.” We provide children and adults with intellectual disabilities and mental 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.

ENJOY! ANNUAL ART SHOW COMING SOON

What do you love about art? Perhaps the way it inspires or amazes. Or the way it can remind us of the beauty in the world or offer insight into our shared humanity. Whether you approach art with lofty goals, or just enjoy seeing new things, the 8th annual Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale promises to provide a wide variety of creative expression to experience and appreciate. More than 400 pieces of art ranging from paintings, drawings, photography and sculpture are expected for the show at the Barber National Institute. Mark your calendar for this year's dates:

Friday, April 10 ~ 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – The entire community is invited to celebrate the show's opening with a Wine & Cheese reception from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 11 ~ Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12 ~ Noon to 3:00 p.m. – A celebration for families with the Youth Artist Award Ceremony at 1:00 p.m. Family-friendly refreshments, an art "scavenger hunt," as well as performances of the Kids on the Block puppet troupe at 12:20 and 2:00 p.m.

Monday, April 13 ~ 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Since the show began in 2008, it has grown into one of the largest and most diverse exhibits in the region. Artists include youth, adult amateur and adult professionals from throughout the tri-state area, including children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Many wonderful pieces of artwork are for sale, and the Barber Foundation receives a commission from each purchase.

All visitors are also invited to vote for their favorite artwork for the youth and adult "People's Choice" award which is presented after the show.

See what's possible. More information at 874-5603 or BarberInstitute.org



SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP...

This year, art appreciators can show their support for the Art Show and help ensure that it continues to be available for all to enjoy. With a donation of \$100 to become a Patron or \$50 to become a Friend, you will be recognized during the Art Show and at the Artist's Awards Receptions. You can support the show online at www.BarberInstitute.org/artshow, or send a check to: **Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation**
100 Barber Place
Erie, PA 16507



UPMC HEALTH PLAN

SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Are you an artist? Then share your work at the Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale. Artwork will be accepted in the north lobby of the Barber National Institute on:

Thursday, March 5, 11 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 6, 11 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

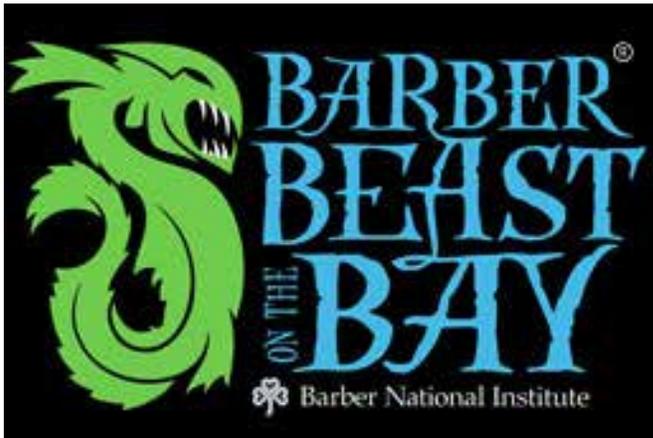
Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Youth artists (up to age 18 or high school students) can submit up to two pieces free of charge.

Adult amateur and professional artists will be charged a \$10 fee per piece (up to two pieces depending on the number of submissions, only one piece may be exhibited in the show.)

Awards will again be presented in categories for youth, adult amateur and adult professional artists; separate awards are presented for youth and adult photography.

More information is available in the Call for Entries at www.BarberInstitute.org/artshow, or by calling 814-874-5603.



Bigger, Better, Badder. The Beast Returns

Miles of sand and trails. Challenges that will have you climbing, crawling, running and rolling. And a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie that you won't ever forget.

That's what Barber Beast on the Bay promises for the more than 1,200 participants expected to register for the third annual event on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Presque Isle State Park. The ten-mile obstacle course will begin at Beach 11 and end at the Waldameer picnic pavilions, where participants and spectators are invited to celebrate together.

Go it alone or register as a team. The earlier that you sign up, the more you will save with the following pricing:

- Through March 31 - \$75
- April 1-May 31 - \$85
- June 1-Sept. 10 - \$100
- Sept. 12 - \$150 late registration



Participants can also compete for awards by registering for an elite wave for an additional \$15; optional timing is also available for a \$10 charge.

If you aren't ready to tackle the Beast, there are a few other ways you can still be involved with this exciting event:

- **Become a sponsor.** Businesses and organizations can choose from an array of levels by contacting Laura Schaaf, director of giving, at 814-874-5802 or at LSchaaf@BarberInstitute.org
- **Form a Cheer Zone.** Sign up your group to cheer on participants along the course and compete for prize money for your organization. Information at www.BarberBeast.org
- **Spectate.** There are plenty of great spots at Presque Isle to watch the action and encourage participants, then celebrate at the finish line at Waldameer.

It's challenging—even grueling—but also fun and rewarding. And best of all, however you participate benefits programs for the more than 4,200 children and adults with disabilities served annually by the Barber National Institute.



Sponsors of the 2015 Barber Beast on the Bay



Frank photography

Sponsors as of 2/2015

Battling Back to Beat the Beast

With just four months before last year's Barber Beast on the Bay, **Karen Forcht** wanted to be out training for the event. Instead, she was in a hospital bed, recovering from major surgery.

But that set back did not keep the 42-year-old Erie resident from realizing her dream of beating the beast. "To this day, I am unable to fully express the feeling that I had crossing that finish line," said Karen.

Karen describes herself as "not the typical 10-mile obstacle course participant" and said that she had never run more than four miles at one time. But she started working out with "Team Adrenaline," an exercise group led by Erie chiropractor **Dr. Steve Krauza**. Many of her fitness friends had signed up for Krauza's Krazies, Steve's Beast on the Bay team, and Karen caught their enthusiasm. The team loves supporting events that help great causes, and Karen knew people who have personally benefitted from services at the Barber National Institute. "That sealed my fate to try the craziest thing I have ever done," she said.

Karen planned to train hard through the spring and summer leading up to the event. But then, she became ill and underwent surgery at the end of April.

"That meant any training would have to be put on hold, which really had me worried because I needed all the training time I could get!"



Karen Forcht, second row, fourth from left, poses with her team following the event.

When Karen resumed her exercise program in June, she wasn't sure what to expect. "It turned out that even though I was WAY behind everyone else, I was still able to complete the workouts."

Still, Karen wrestled with a voice in her head that told her there was no way she could finish. "I mentally committed to finishing half the course, and then gracefully bowing out after our half-way party," said Karen.

Not wanting to disappoint her teammates, Karen told only a few people about her plan. Even the morning of the event, she thought that she would stop after five miles.

But then, as she began the course, Karen began to believe that she really could finish. First, her husband, Brian, surprised her at the start line and then cheered her along the course. Then, team captain Steve Krauza kept his word and never left her behind. "He never once doubted that I would finish, and though we didn't say much, his presence was so motivating," said Karen.

Karen was also encouraged by the number of people—including complete strangers—who shared kind and positive words. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that people would have been so encouraging," she said.

Exhausted after the ten mile challenge, the only thing that stood between Karen and the finish line was the steep hill on Peninsula Drive leading into Waldameer Park. The entire Krauza's Krazies team was waiting, and several teammates came back down the hill to help Karen and a few others get to the top. "If you've never had 60+ people cheering for you, it is incredible," said Karen.

But most of all, Karen realized that she was a lot tougher than she thought she was. She said she overcame worrying about what others may be thinking, and took the course at her own pace. She felt an "accomplishment in raising money and awareness for a community resource that has touched so many lives, and in overcoming my self-doubt and displaying mental and physical toughness that I never knew I had."

As a daily reminder, Karen keeps the finisher's medal on her desk in the IT department at Erie Insurance. And, she's already registered for the 2015 event. "I just hope that I can inspire at least one other person to do something great for their community and to do something for themselves that they didn't think was possible," said Karen. "If I can do this, anyone can!"



A triumphant Karen Forcht carries teammate C. J. Kelly across the finish line.



Patrick Eller, #3, takes off from the starting line at the 2014 Beast on the Bay.

Beast Fund Raiser Can't be Beat

For the past two years, **Patrick Eller** has held a Beast on the Bay distinction. The 35-year-old Erie native has been the first place fund raiser for the event, raising a total of more than \$3,500 for the Barber Foundation. We asked Patrick to tell us why—and how—he is so successful in raising funds for this cause.

First, tell us a little about yourself. What do you do, where do you live?

I am a Special Agent for the US Army Criminal Investigation Division and currently serve as the Command Digital Forensics Examiner. I have been serving on active duty in the Army for almost 16 years. I currently live in Stafford, VA but have lived all around the world. I am originally from Erie, PA—born and raised. Graduated from Central High in 1997.

What's your workout routine?

My workout routine consists of six days a week with a combination of weights and cardio. I have completed 15 Spartan races, various other obstacle course races, and, of course, both full Beasts on the Bay!

What motivated you to fund raise for the Barber National Institute, and to be such a successful fund raiser?

My motivation to fund raise for BNI is truly my soon to be 7-year-old daughter, Braelyn, who was diagnosed at only 15 months old with autism by Dr. (Joseph) Barber. From there she benefited from multiple forms of therapy provided by BNI. I owe all of her progression to that help and any time I can support BNI to help others just like my daughter, I will do all I can. My daughter is currently in first grade and continues to progress.

What is the secret to your success? How do you encourage people to make a donation?

My secret is that my reach is worldwide. I have friends all around the world who have supported me with this fund raising the past two years and hopefully again this year. I use social media as much as I can to spread the word of how the BNI has personally affected my life and the lives of so many others. I give away little prizes, such as last year I sent everyone who donated a hand-made keychain made with multi-color puzzle piece paracord. This year, I plan to give away a prize each month starting at the end of February hopefully to those who have donated and hopefully a bigger prize at the end. I am also

thinking about reaching out to some businesses and getting them to donate and I will logo up a race shirt to wear, but not sure about this idea just yet!

This is now the third time that you have signed up to fund raise. What are your goals?

I raised around \$1,300 year one and \$2,200 last year so I'm thinking that, since it's year three, somewhere around \$3,000 would be great!!! 1,2,3!

What has been the most surprising or encouraging thing that has happened to you as you have sought donations?

The overwhelming support and the reconnection with some long lost friends. It has sparked conversations with some people that I haven't heard from in years! Now it's time to get to fund raising this year. Tell the Beast I'm coming for him!!!

By signing up to fundraise, participants can receive a free or discounted registration when they sign up for Barber Beast on the Bay. Anyone can raise funds and compete for prize packages; more information and registration is available at www.BarberBeast.org



Patrick poses with his inspiration, daughter Braelyn.

Early Intervention: She's A Champion

*I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the fire
'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar*

Even at just two years of age, Vivian Baumgardner was drawn to the popular Katy Perry song, *Roar*.

"Vivian loved that song and she would try to sing the lyrics," said **Sue Hutcheson**, Vivian's speech therapist in the Bright Beginning Early Intervention program. "She really responded to music and it helped encourage her speech development."

After more than two years of therapies, it's hard not to think of Vivian as the fighter, and ultimately the champion, in the song.

"This is such a transformation from when we started," said Vivian's mother, **Becky**. "Just seeing her now, you would never know how much she went through."



Vivian Baumgardner with her mother, Becky, left, and speech therapist, Sue Hutcheson.

Becky believes that her daughter was fortunate to have had her developmental delays diagnosed very early. At just two months of age, Becky noticed that Vivian seemed to hold her head to one side.

After her family doctor recommended an evaluation at Shriner's Hospital, Vivian was diagnosed with torticollis, a tightening of the neck muscles that can affect a youngster's ability to walk and perform other physical activities. Because babies with torticollis also have an increased risk of hip dysplasia, Vivian was sent for x-rays. The tests confirmed the hip dysplasia, and she was fitted for a body brace that she would have to wear for more than a year.

Vivian began occupational therapy and physical therapy, working to stretch her neck muscles and resolve difficulties with feeding. Therapists also helped her learn to crawl, stand and eventually walk in her brace.

"By the time Vivian was a year old, the torticollis had been resolved," remembers Becky. Vivian was able to stop wearing the brace when she turned 18 months old, but then had to relearn how to stand and walk.

"We did a lot of exercises to teach her how to move with her legs in a normal position," said Becky. "One of those used a wooden 2 x 4 on the floor to help Vivian get accustomed to walking foot over foot."

Just as Vivian seemed to be meeting her physical goals, Becky noticed that her daughter was not babbling or vocalizing. Further evaluation showed the need for speech therapy.

"Vivian had a hard time producing vowel sounds, and putting vowels and consonants together," said Sue. "Progress was slow at the beginning and we used a lot of sign language to augment communication."

Becky said that her daughter had an upper lip tie that affected her feeding and speech. She also suspects that Vivian had to focus so much on her early physical challenges that she did not have much energy left for speech development.

"Becky and her husband really did everything possible to help their daughter," said Sue. "They read to her a lot and practiced target words using pictures in a photo album and a speech binder. They also used music and singing—which Vivian loves—to help her to vocalize and promote speech."

Soon after her second birthday, Vivian began using more words to express her needs, and then put them together to form phrases and sentences. "Learning is definitely a process," said Sue. "But when she put it all together, she really just took off."

Today, as she watches her daughter, Becky credits all of the therapists who worked with them over the past two years. "The support we received helped us to have a life with our daughter while we were going through all of these challenges. Our therapists helped us all in every way you could think of," said Becky. "Honestly, if it wasn't for the Barber National Institute, I'm not sure where we would be today."



Social skills therapist Chris Weber, left, works on building social skills with Max Coletta and Brendan, one of the interactive robots used in the autism research project.

update: Robot Research

It sounds like it would be an everyday occurrence. An interactive robot said “Hi” to **Max Coletta**, and the youngster returned the greeting. But the simple exchange stunned everyone in the research session.

“We all were so surprised. While Max has said some word in the home before, this was really his first functional speech,” said **Jennifer Musolff**, a board certified behavioral analyst and research coordinator.

Determining whether children with autism can learn social skills—like replying to greetings—from an interactive robot is the goal of a research project that the Barber National Institute is conducting in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame.

Through the research, which is funded by the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation, children have the interactive robot added to therapy sessions.

Max is one of 15 students to participate in the study at the Barber National Institute. The eight-year-old is non-verbal and uses a book of pictures to communicate what he wants or needs. Max also hums for long periods of time, an activity that teachers believe comforts him but can distract him from his work.

“During the study, they worked on teaching Max to stay on task during his assignments,” said teacher **Lindsay Kalika**. “When I saw him stay on task without humming for 45 minutes during a therapy session, I was amazed. Now, we see him being able to do that more often in the classroom.”

Transferring those skills learned with the robot to the home and classroom is the ultimate goal of the research, said Jennifer. “While it is great that children are showing improved communications and behaviors with the robot, what we really want them to do is transfer those new skills when they interact with their family, teachers and peers,” said Jennifer.

As the project continues, researchers are hoping to find ways to make the robot therapy more accessible to more children on iPads or other technology. “We are still conducting the studies and compiling the data, but the preliminary results are really encouraging,” said Jennifer. “We are hoping that this research will lead to more effective treatments for many forms of autism.”

Pittsburgh Programs Continue Growth

Since moving into a modern, spacious new facility in summer, 2014, the Barber National Institute program located in Bridgeville continues to grow to serve the Pittsburgh Region.

Programs include a facility-based adult day program that has nearly doubled in size, as well as the Home & Community Hab program that enables adults to build skills for more independent living.

The new location includes a training room that is equipped with individual computer work stations that provide opportunities for staff development as well as for adults to learn computer skills. A state-of-the-art sensory room combines the latest in fiber optics with comfortable seating and soothing music to help adults relieve stress and manage challenging behaviors.

Tours of the new facilities are available by calling **Thad Jackman**, director of Southwest Regional Programs, at (412) 220-6030 or ThadJackman@BarberInstitute.org.



Erin McTiernan, left, an aide in the Pittsburgh Adult Day Program, works with Victoria Malloy on building computer skills.

Swimmer Competing for the Gold

For **Janine Calabrese**, the opportunity of a lifetime began years ago in the Barber National Institute pool.

Janine was just a toddler and receiving Early Intervention services at the Barber National Institute when her mother, **Marcia**, got a pool membership for the family.

Who knew that it would be the start of a lifelong passion for Janine that has led to an invitation to swim for Team USA in the National Special Olympics to be held this summer in Los Angeles.

Janine, now 27, started in baby swim classes with her father, Jim, and other family members. Marcia remembers that Janine naturally took to the water.

"She would lounge around the bottom of the pool, come up for air, and go back down, like a porpoise," Marcia said. "As we grew in our knowledge of Janine's needs with her Autism Spectrum Disorder, her early water behavior reflected her own sensory integration therapy. It calmed her and centered her. As she has grown into a child and young woman, she matured into traditional swimming learning."

After taking classes and lessons at the Barber National Institute, Janine received an invitation from the Erie School District to start swimming in the Special Olympics. She trained in the Central High School pool and swam consistently in lanes with dividers. Eventually she not only learned to swim, but to compete.

"She made more friends, but also learned to be part of a team," Marcia said. "Janine has a happy competitive attitude and enjoys cheering on her teammates as much as getting her turn to swim."

Now, Janine swims nearly every day at the YMCA, whether on her own or as part of the Special Olympics.

"Janine is completely self-driven," Marcia said. "I don't tell her to go, she tells me she is going."

When Janine's coach, **Mark Euliano**, found out that she made the Special Olympic team, he and Janine's parents planned a surprise party at her next swim practice to tell her the news.

"She had no idea," Marcia said. "She started cheering 'USA! USA! USA!'"

Janine Calabrese prepares for a trip to Los Angeles to compete in the National Special Olympics this summer.

Since her daughter has become a member of Team USA, Marcia said they have been flooded with support from well-wishers. Marcia said she is very proud of Janine and believes those well-wishers had a lot to do with Janine's success.

"As her Mom, I cannot take credit. Janine is her own person and her love of swimming and independence were hers for the discovery and to be mastered. I credit everyone around her for supporting her and believing in the freedom of expressing and developing one's abilities," Marcia said.

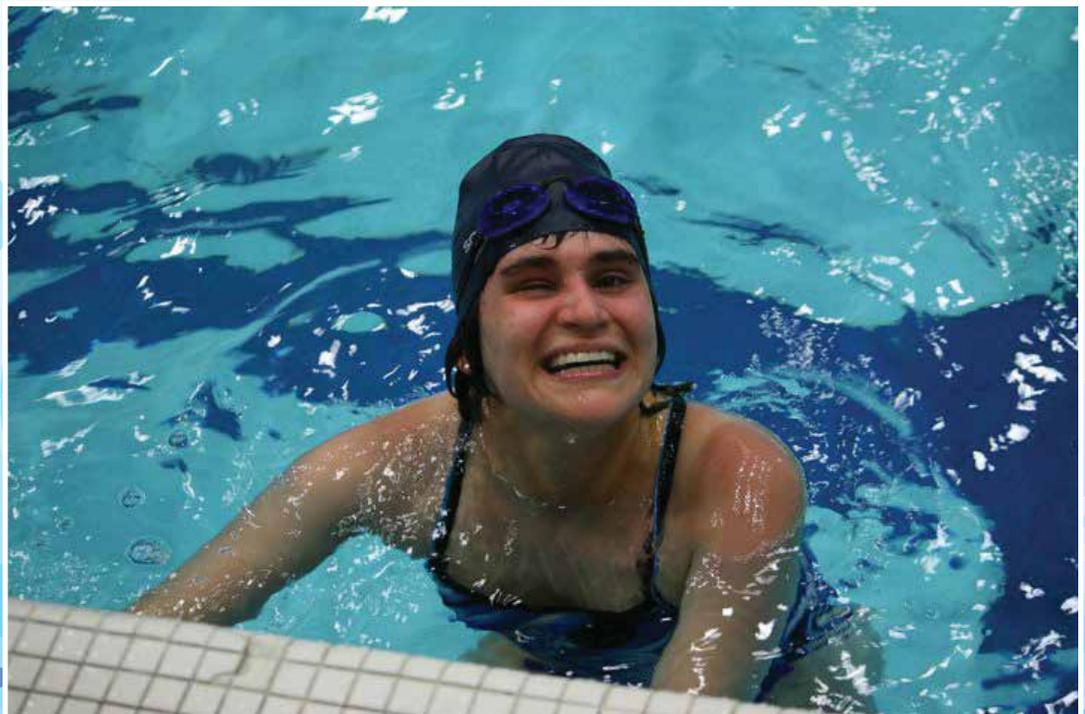
It was with the help of Supported Employment at the Barber National Institute that Janine found her cleaning job at a Country Fair store where she works several days every week.

"We feel the excitement of everyone around us and are enjoying this spark in the community; it has been humbling and exciting," said Marcia. "Everyone has played a part and witnessed Janine's success and development into a truly happy, respectful and energetic individual. I am just very grateful for everyone who took their time, smiled, encouraged, believed, and gave her a day off or anything else that may have seemed unnoticed or inconsequential at the time. She is a product of her community and that makes her so fitting to be a member of Team USA."

Now, as Janine prepares for her adventure, she has been talking about the USA and new people and the world as she thinks about what is coming up.

"She will randomly say 'I am excited about going to Los Angeles.'" Marcia said.

And, as all her well-wishers can attest, everyone is excited for her. Best of luck to Janine this summer as she enjoys an experience she'll never forget.



Success: Student Well on His Way

The cherry-cheeked boy in Room 109 raises his hand when he needs something. He interacts with classmates, he is well-behaved, he is respectful.

On the surface, **Deacon Eberlin**, a student in the Elizabeth Lee Black School, does not seem to hold many surprises.

But what his teachers and family see today is only part of the story. His teacher, **Claire Hogan** – affectionately called ‘Miss Claire’ by students – and his father, Matt, both say the same thing: Deacon Eberlin has come a long way.

Matt Eberlin uses different words to describe Deacon’s behavior from even just a year ago. Defiant. Aggressive. Misbehaved.

“He was kicked out of class, I had to pick him up often,” Matt said. “For whatever reason, he was not willing or not able to listen to his teachers.”

Matt said Deacon was unable to handle being with others and being in a classroom setting for a full day. In fact, Matt said, Deacon’s behavior caused his classmates to be afraid of him.

And so Deacon came to the Barber National Institute, where Matt said his son has made tremendous progress.

“Since he’s come to BNI, it’s been a total 180. He’s participating. Before coming to BNI, he would get kicked off the bus or have to be restrained for the whole ride. Now, he’s getting awards for good behavior on the bus,” Matt said. “Seeing him now from where he was, it’s a miracle.”

Matt credits Deacon’s ‘miracle’ to his faith and also to those at the Barber National Institute. With the help of teachers and therapeutic support staff, he has become the sweet and polite kid he is today. And now, the child who Matt said used to scare other students is coming home with great news.

“He’s coming home saying he has friends,” Matt said. “I went into the classroom once and I saw all the kids say ‘Hi, Deacon.’”

“Just to see him from where he was to where he is now, it brings me joy.”

On this particular day, Deacon is playing checkers with another student. Even though he’s still learning the rules, Deacon sits patiently waiting for his turn and asks for help



Teacher Claire Hogan works with Deacon on a classroom assignment.

when he needs to figure out the next move. Afterward, Deacon works on a craft, tracing and cutting paper along with his teacher.

It’s a very productive morning, and yet would have been impossible for Deacon just one year ago.

Deacon continues to build new skills and his father has several goals he would like his son to work toward.

“In my mind, the first would be developing friendships. I know he has friends at school, but setting that groundwork for friendships outside of the classroom as well,” he said. “As for in school, I would like to see him figuring out what he likes, dislikes, his strengths and weaknesses. We never had a chance to look at those things because we could never have opportunities to do so.

“I think ultimately [the main goal] would be helping Deacon become the best Deacon he can be.”

And, to everyone who knows Deacon, it seems like he is well on the way.

Success on the Job: Adult Named Employee of the Month

Marycarmen Walker, right, operations supervisor for Supported Employment, congratulates **Kim Bauer**, who was recently named Employee of the Month by her employer, Agility Marketing. Kim found community employment two years ago with assistance from the Supported Employment Program at the Barber National Institute. She was nominated by her fellow employees for her hard work to maintain a clean workplace, and for her friendly manner. Within the past year, Supported Employment has helped find jobs in the community for more than 25 adults.





National Recognition for Technology in the Classroom

The Elizabeth Lee Black School at the Barber National Institute has received the Award for Leadership and Innovation in Special Education from the National Association for Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC.)

This prestigious honor recognizes the school's consistent efforts to ensure that children with disabilities receive the many benefits offered by digital technology. These initiatives include an artist-in-residence project that enables students and faculty to work with a professional artist to create multimedia publications such as digital books, movies and animations that reinforce or expand upon concepts taught in the classroom. Many of the students create "social stories" that help them achieve their individual communication or behavior goals.

"Digital technology continues to change society, self-expression and education, but too often children with disabilities are left behind," said **Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey**, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute.



Teacher Devon Mellin, right, helps students present their social stories created during the Artist-In-Residence project.

"We are intent on bridging the digital divide for our students, and use technology to broaden their opportunities for learning."

The Artist-in-Residence program is funded by Erie Arts & Culture with donations from First Niagara Bank and by the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation.



Christmas Ball Marks Golden Anniversary

The 2014 Christmas Ball not only celebrated the holiday season, but also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the event. All past chair couples were invited to join in a ceremony marking the milestone. From left are John and Bridget Barber, Lynne and Rob Doyle, Jon and Shelly Cacchione, Joe and Rhonda Schember, Steve and Karen Groshek, Mark and Susan Sullivan, Robin and Russ Warner, Gretchen and Tim Hunter, Kim and Owen McCormick, Patty and Bill Gloekler and Michele and Gov. Tom Ridge. This year's chair couples, Marlene and Homer Mosco and their daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Bob Merski, also celebrated with Marlene's aunt, Lena DeLaura, fourth from right, who volunteered for many years at the Barber National Institute. More photos from the event can be seen at www.BarberInstitute.org/ball

Mark your calendar for this year's Ball, set for Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Bayfront Convention Center.



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

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

Daytime Community-Based Services

Club Erie
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

ESO Dances (Expanding Sociability Opportunities)
Camp Shamrock Summer Programs
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 about these and other services, call the Barber National Institute at 814-453-7661 or visit our website at www.BarberInstitute.org.

Barber Spirit is a quarterly publication for friends of the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc.
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Calendar of Events



Artwork Submission Dates
March 5, 6 & 7
North Lobby



Digital Learning Day
March 13
Elizabeth Lee Black School



Student Performance (Project with Erie Playhouse)
March 19
Gym



Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale
April 10-13
North Complex



Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
June 6
Presque Isle State Park



Shillelagh Golf Tournament
June 18
Riverside Golf Course

The community is invited to support our events and activities. For information, visit www.BarberInstitute.org