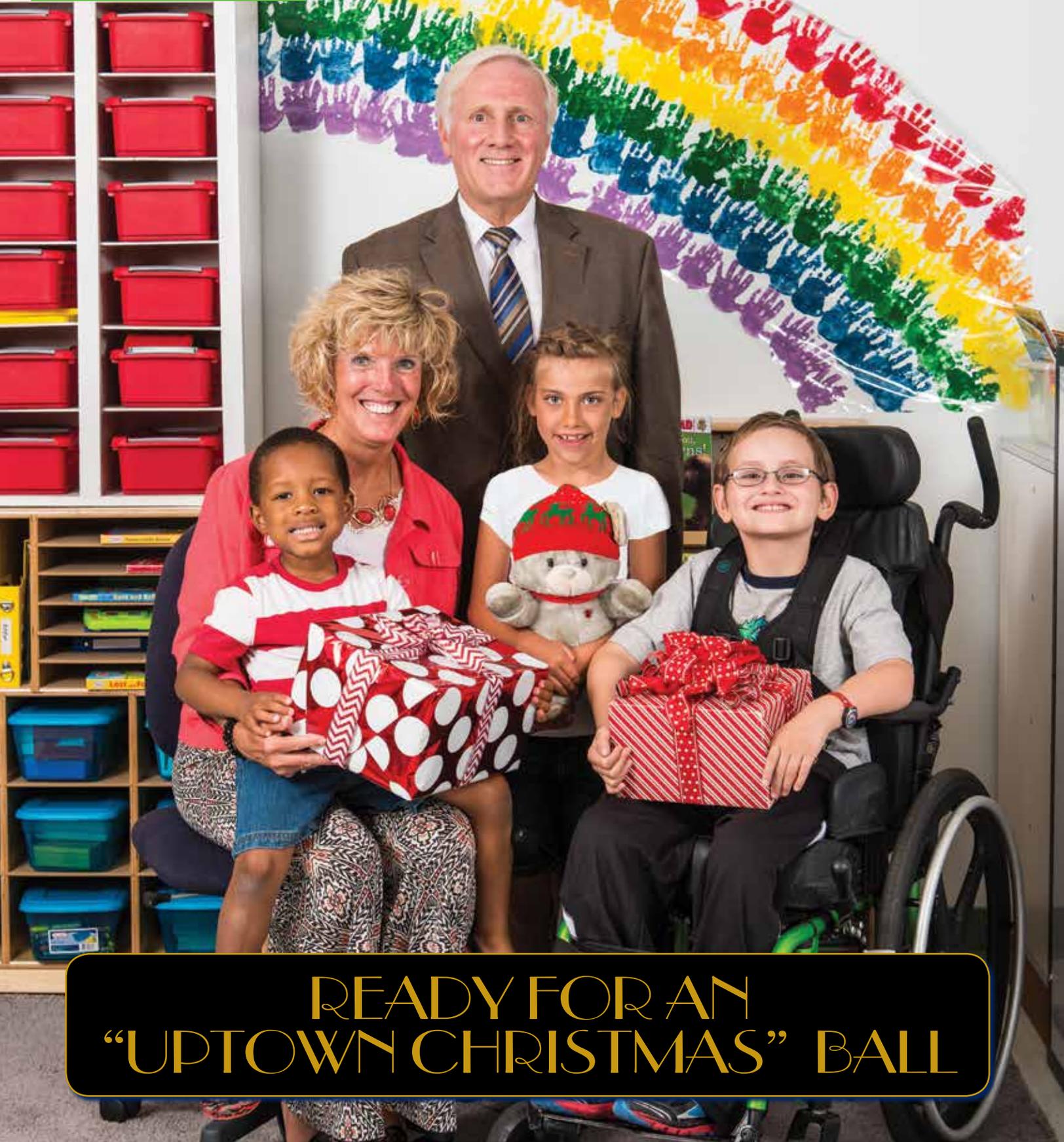




Barber Spirit



READY FOR AN
“UPTOWN CHRISTMAS” BALL

President's Message



Dear friends:

Last month we had a very special event at the Barber National Institute as we celebrated National Disabilities Employment Month. Just since January, our Supported Employment Program has placed 28 adults in jobs in the community—and the year's not over yet! Many of these adults returned for this event to share their advice with those individuals who are still working to build employment skills through our Transitional Work Services. It was moving for all of us to hear these men and women describe how they learned to believe in themselves and find the confidence and abilities to thrive in the competitive workforce.

The success of the Supported Employment Program would not be possible without the businesses in our community who are willing to open their doors to the possibilities of creating this more diverse workforce. We appreciate their support, and encourage other businesses to contact us to learn how Supported Employment can help them find loyal, dependable employees who can meet their staffing needs.

This time of year is busy for everyone—including the Barber National Institute. Our largest event, the Christmas Ball, is being chaired this year by Atty. Robert and Jan Brabender, who you can read more about in this issue. I would like to join Bob and Jan in inviting everyone to be with us on Dec. 12 for this very festive occasion. Each year I find that the event puts everyone in the holiday spirit!

Before we get too caught up in the hustle and bustle, I would like to extend our wishes for many blessings at this holiday season and good health in the New Year. I hope that our friends and donors know how their support is truly changing lives and helping us make dreams come true for the children, adults and families we serve.

Sincerely,

John J. Barber

President & Chief Executive Officer

Front cover: Atty. Robert and Jan Brabender, longtime supporters of the Barber National Institute mission, invite you to join them at the 2015 Barber Ball.

Scott Electric Donates \$5,000

A \$5,000 donation from Scott Electric in Erie, PA is brightening the future for children and adults at the Barber National Institute. Scott Electric Sales Representative Greg Hawes (left) along with Erie Branch Manager Mike Hyde recently presented the donation to Barber National Institute President and CEO John Barber and Mike Hill, Director of Maintenance at the Institute.



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.

Gymnasium Renovation Plans Make Progress



The gymnasium at the Barber National Institute is used for many activities including dance presentations, musical performances, fitness, and social activities for students and adults.

Every day, the Barber National Institute gymnasium is the site for gym classes and other recreational activities. As important as these are to students, the gym has come to mean so much more.

It's where many children first learn to ride a bike, where young adults have their first dance and where Special Olympics athletes train for the gold.

To provide a modern facility that can meet a wide range of needs for children, adults and families, the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation has established a fund to undertake a major renovation project. The first donation to the fund, a \$50,000 grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities, sets the project on the course to completion.

The project marks the first major renovation for the gym, constructed in 1975, and will include a new sound system, projector, screen, microphones, enhanced lighting and seating. A new, more accessible stage and ramps will also be added to ensure that multiple students in wheelchairs or other assistive devices and their attendants can access the stage with their classes.

"For all the many ways that we use our gymnasium, keeping pace with innovations can prove challenging. We have been struggling to integrate new technologies into older systems and really be able to meet all of the needs for performances and activities that take place throughout the year," said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president.

Activities include the annual student Christmas play, the collaboration with the Erie Playhouse Youtheater, and regular visits from area orchestras, dance companies and other organizations. The gym holds at least six annual school and community dances for children and adults with special needs, and it's the place where our graduates shine and receive recognition for their hard work.

Many giving opportunities and sponsorship levels are available for donors to help make the gym renovation a reality. For more information, contact Laura Schaaf, director of Giving, at 814-874-5802 or LSchaaf@BarberInstitute.org.



Year-End Donations for Annual Fund

The Annual Fund Drive that kicked off in March will soon come to a close for 2015. Thanks to the many donors who have contributed. For donors who have not yet made a gift, time is running out to donate and receive the tax benefits from making a charitable contribution in this calendar year.

Gifts to the Annual Fund Drive will help in many ways, including supporting these projects currently underway:

- Installation of wireless infrastructure in all Erie group homes, eliminating costly paper records and improving communication to meet our residents' needs.
- Renovation of our gymnasium so that our students and adults can participate in more athletic, social and artistic endeavors.
- New technology including iPads and apps that facilitate individualized learning.

Donations to the Annual Fund Drive can be made online at www.BarberInstitute.org/giving or by mail to the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation, 100 Barber Place, Erie PA, 16507.

GOING “UPTOWN CHRISTMAS”

Families who travel miles to celebrate together. Friends who set a special time for an annual gathering. Co-workers who plan their holiday get-together.

All of these will be among the nearly 1,500 guests expected for the Barber Christmas Ball set for Saturday, Dec. 12. The theme “Uptown Christmas” promises a gala that is sophisticated and elegant with plenty of fun and a sense of funk.

The sweeping vistas of the Bayfront Convention Center will be decorated in white, black and gold art deco accents, along with more than 100 lighted Christmas trees and wreaths to get guests in the holiday spirit.

The event will be chaired by Atty. Robert and Jan Brabender, both longtime supporters of the Barber National Institute mission. Bob has served on the Institute Board of Directors for many years, and Jan has been an active volunteer for many events and activities.

As Bob was participating in this year’s Barber Beast on the Bay with his son-in-law, Chris Boyd, Jan was an obstacle monitor out on the course.

Visitors to the Barber National Institute main campus can see the quilt that Jan created in celebration of Dr. Gertrude Barber’s 100th birthday in 2014. Jan designed and sewed the commemorative quilt that incorporates images of Dr. Barber with children, adults and staff that illustrate the mission of the Barber Institute.

As a nurse practitioner in the middle and high schools in North East, Jan found that the students in the life skills classes had a very special place in her heart. “Getting to know those children and their families made me that much more interested in the mission of the Barber National Institute. I wanted to look for any way to support that mission, and as my husband learned more about it, he wanted to do everything that he could do to support it, too,” said Jan.

That support has meant attending the Barber Christmas Ball for many years, and making it a time to celebrate with their children, too. The Brabenders’ oldest daughter, Kristen Boyd, resides in Erie with her husband, Chris, and their four children. Daughter Katie Clark and her husband, Chris,



FOR 2015 BARBER BALL



READY FOR AN UPTOWN PARTY? BARBER CHRISTMAS BALL

Saturday, December 12, 2015

Bayfront Convention Center • One Sassafras Pier

Dancing 9:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

Music by Park Place from Cleveland, Ohio

Complimentary Valet Parking

Black Tie Optional

Doors open at 8:00 p.m.

Reservations include delicious hors d'oeuvres,
desserts, soft drinks and two cocktails per person.

Cash bar also available.

Overnight package at the Erie Sheraton Bayfront Hotel
featuring bay view room, buffet breakfast and parking for
\$115/night. Call 814-454-2005 by Dec. 1.

Cuff's Formal Wear in Millcreek Square is offering
discounted tuxedo rentals for \$64.99 with a \$5 donation to
the Barber Foundation for every rental. Information
at 814-866-7790.

Make your reservations now at www.BarberInstitute.org/ball or call 814-878-4096 for information.

recently relocated from Annapolis, MD, to Dayton, Ohio with their two children.

Their son Colin and his wife, Kristen, reside in Pittsburgh with one daughter and another child due in April, while Kyle and his wife, Jill, live in Cincinnati with their two boys.

"As our children have gotten married, moved away and had children of their own, we haven't always been able to get everyone together at the same time," said Jan. "I always tell them, though, that it doesn't matter what the date on the calendar says; the important thing is that we can all be together—whenever that is."

The Brabenders found that a perfect time to gather was the second weekend in December for the Barber Ball. "This

is the same weekend every year, and we have all come to look forward to it," said Jan.

The chair couple hopes that other families will find that bringing everyone together for the Ball will make for an enjoyable experience—as well as support a worthy cause.

While the Brabenders describe themselves as "reluctant fundraisers," they are enthusiastic about encouraging others to support the Barber National Institute.

"As the chair couple, we have been hearing from many people," said Jan, "and we hope that everyone, even those who have never attended the Ball, will plan to join us for this wonderful event."



“FINISHING THE BEAST IS ONE OF MY TOP 10 THINGS I’VE ACCOMPLISHED IN LIFE”
BARBER BEAST A SUCCESS

It was raining, it was pouring, but the Barber Beast was roaring!

The tremendous precipitation was no match for the determined participation as nearly 1,200 registrants tackled the 10-mile Barber Beast on the Bay obstacle course on September 12.

Just as unwavering were nearly 100 participants in the Interim HealthCare Adapted Course for adults with intellectual or physical disabilities.



Water seemed to be the theme of this

year’s event as the newest and most popular obstacle, the Waldameer Park Wave Pool, had participants swimming across to reach the finish line.

After participants accomplished the feat of beating the Beast, awards were given out and the top fundraisers were recognized. The first male finisher, for the second year in a row, was Andrew Hellmann from Erie with a time of 1:09:08.3. Sandy Ruhlman from Frewsburg, NY was the first female at 1:39:48.

Participants came from 15 states and Canada for this year’s event, with more than 80 teams registering. In a follow up survey, one participant said that “finishing the Beast is one of my top 10 things I’ve accomplished in life.”

All proceeds raised from the event support services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health challenges at the Barber National Institute.



Top Beast Fundraisers Awarded

A devoted father who wants to give back for the help given to his daughter. A high school student who sold t-shirts she designed. A sister who wants to give tribute to her brother and other adults with intellectual disabilities.

These were the Beast on the Bay participants who were recognized as the top three fundraisers for the 2015 event.

For a small group of participants, completing the obstacle course is just not enough. They also register to become fundraisers for the Barber National Institute. This year, more than \$10,100 was raised by participant fundraising efforts.

For the third year in a row, the top spot was won by Patrick Eller, an Erie native serving our country in the U.S. Army, who returns from his post in Virginia to participate in the Beast. He finds his inspiration in his 7-year-old daughter, Braelyn, who has received autism services from the Barber National Institute. This year, Patrick raised more than \$4,100, bringing his combined total raised since 2013 to more than \$7,600 for the Barber Foundation.

The second place fundraiser, Natalie LaFuria, is a junior at Seneca High School who designed her own t-shirts that she sold with help from her mother, Elaine, to raise more than \$1,400. Elaine participates in the Beast as part of the Krauzas Krazies, which Natalie also joined this year as she participated in the adapted course.

The third place fundraiser, Desiree Davis, competed in the elite wave and finished to participate in the adapted course with her brother, Torsten Carlson. Desiree raised more than \$1,100 in honor of her brother and other adults who overcome their challenges to achieve their dreams.



Here's to the Winners

The Beast, center, helped present awards to the top elite finishers and fundraisers at this year's Barber Beast on the Bay. From left are first male finisher Andrew Hellmann of Erie; Cirrus from Acoustic Sheep, one of the award sponsors; first place female finisher Sandy Ruhlman from Frewsburg, NY; top fundraiser Patrick Eller and his daughter, Braelyn; second place fundraiser Natalie LaFuria; John Barber; third place fundraiser Desiree Davis and her brother, Torsten Carlson.

Beast Participants Vote for Top Cheer Zones

As participants slogged through 10-miles of mud, sand and obstacles, they got a little boost from this year's Cheer Zones.

Eight Cheer Zones sponsored by PNC Bank were spread across Presque Isle State Park to encourage participants and entertain spectators. After the event, participants were asked to vote for their favorite Cheer Zone.

In first place was the East High cheerleaders, located near Beach One, who did what they do best on Beast day – cheer! After finishing second last year, the East High cheerleaders came back and took the crown with a \$500 prize.

Second place was X-Cel Athletics, a local group that entertained with sand tumbling and gymnastics near Beach 8, receiving a \$300 award. In third place and receiving \$200 was Alpha Sigma Tau, a sorority from Gannon University that held a beach party near Sunset Point.

In follow up surveys, participants expressed their appreciation for the efforts of all the Cheer Zones:

- *The cheer sections were great, and really vitally important as the weather started to deteriorate.*

- *I felt the encouragement from the cheering sections was just wonderful!*

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



New Look, New Location for Adapted Course

The Interim HealthCare Adapted Course had a new look inside Waldameer Park. Participants enjoyed tackling the seven obstacles in the new location, and even had the opportunity to end the event in the Wave Pool. One benefit of the new site was that both the 10-mile and adapted course participants shared the same finish line—and a feeling of accomplishment—together.



First Place Cheer Zone East High Cheerleaders encourage participants on Beast day.



"If someone believes in them, they will believe that they can."

Krauza's Krazies Leader to Receive Award

Since Barber Beast on the Bay began, one of the event's most ardent supporters has been Dr. Stephen Krauza. His efforts to recruit participants have created the largest Beast teams for the past three years, and his training sessions have raised more than \$1,300 for the Barber Foundation.



Dr. Steve Krauza

For his efforts to raise funds for the Barber Foundation and other organizations in the community, Dr. Krauza will receive the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year Award at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon sponsored by the Erie chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Dr. Krauza could not be described as your "typical" fundraiser. The Erie-born chiropractor uses his dedication to physical fitness to support worthy causes, and his infectious enthusiasm to inspire others to join his endeavors.

He helped get Barber Beast on the Bay off to a great start, recruiting 25 members to his team, Krauza's Krazies, in 2013. In 2014 and 2015, he formed teams with nearly 80 members who registered and supported the event, resulting in approximately \$7,000 in registration fees each year.

With his motto, "Get out of your comfort zone," Dr. Krauza also began training sessions to help participants get ready for the Beast. He asked for a \$5 donation for each class, raising \$500 in 2014 and more than \$800 this year.

Dr. Krauza has also staged 24-hour bike-a-thons around Presque Isle State Park and biked to Philadelphia to support the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

As he recruits more participants to support Barber Beast on the Bay, Dr. Krauza says, "If someone believes in them, they will believe that they can."

Dr. Krauza hopes to be that "someone" who ignites the spark in others.

Thanks to our Sponsors of the Barber Beast on the Bay

Can You Beat the Beast? Get Ready for 2016!
 The 4th Annual Barber Beast on the Bay is already set for Saturday, Sept. 10. Many innovative attractions are in store, including changes to the course and new obstacles. Check for pricing discounts and updated information and registration at www.BarberBeast.org

“YOU’RE HIRED”

Finding a Job in the Community

When Christopher Deadwiler landed his first job, he looked forward to the new responsibilities and the steady paycheck. He didn’t realize that he would also be finding a new friend.

But that is what happened when the 26-year-old Erie man was hired at the Erie Coca-Cola warehouse in June. During a preliminary visit to the warehouse, Chris met Justin Conrad, who began working at the company more than ten years ago with the help of the Barber National Institute Supported Employment program.



Chris Deadwiler, right, carries out his new responsibilities at Erie’s Coca-Cola distribution center with guidance from his job coach, Daryl Jamison.

Both men are dedicated, hardworking employees who also happen to be deaf. “It has worked out so that they are wonderful supports for each other,” explained Marycarmen Walker. “This made the transition to employment much easier for Chris, and Justin enjoys being able to mentor Chris on the new job.”

After graduating from the Pittsburgh School for the Deaf, Chris returned to Erie and began working in the Transitional Work Services at the Barber National Institute. He found that he enjoyed custodial work, and was on the cleaning crews at the Barber Institute and the Erie County Courthouse. In addition to learning cleaning skills, Chris was also building other skills that would make him successful on the job.

“Coming from a school where everyone knew sign language, Chris had to relearn what it was like to return to a world that is not fluent in sign language, and that was sometimes frustrating for him as he tried to make himself understood,” said Marycarmen. “But we helped him develop some strategies that he could use to communicate with the hearing population he was likely to encounter on the job.”

Supported Employment by the Numbers

Individuals hired with help from the Supported Employment Program in Erie:

2013 - 17

2014 - 27

2015 - 28 (and counting!)

Chris developed an instant rapport with Justin, who is now working full-time at the Coca-Cola warehouse. Both men have experienced a very welcoming worksite, where many of their co-workers had already taken the initiative to learn sign language so that they could better communicate with Justin when he began his job.

“This has been a very supportive environment,” said Marycarmen. “We saw how well the job worked out for Justin and believed that this was a place where Chris could find success, too.”

The Coca-Cola management agrees that the matches have been successful. Justin is consistently among top five employees in terms of warehouse volume for the nine distribution centers in this region. “I’ve worked here for 35 years and I’ve always said that Justin is one of the best hires I have ever made,” said warehouse supervisor Ray Turner. “And Chris has been doing a great job since he came aboard, too.”

On his new job, Chris helps the warehouse prepare the deliveries by stacking and shrink wrapping cases of soft drinks and loading them onto trucks for transport.

“Chris really loves his job and the independence he is achieving,” said Marycarmen. “It is our goal to be able to provide this opportunity for many more adults who would make great employees and be very productive in the workforce.”

For more information about finding loyal, dedicated employees, contact Supported Employment at the Barber National Institute. In the Erie area, call 814-878-4142 and in Philadelphia call 215-871-0731.



As we celebrated National Employment Disabilities Awareness Month, adults shared their feelings about getting a job in the community.

“I’m proud of myself because I know I have a disability but I don’t let that get in my way. I hope that everyone with a disability will smile with pride and say, ‘I can do anything I want.’”

Katrice Fisher, employed at Erie Insurance Arena



Pittsburgh day program staff member Alexandra Nechleba talks to adults about internet safety during computer skills class.

Adults Build Computer Skills

New computer classes are now available for participants in the Barber National Institute Adult Day Program serving the Pittsburgh region.

Classes cover a range of skills relating to using the computer and accessing the internet, as well as a big focus on computer safety.

"We've found that many of our adults really enjoy using the computer, and that it has had many benefits, such as helping with literacy and other skills," said Thad Jackman, director, Southwest Regional Programs. "The internet has opened up a whole new world of opportunities, but also new dangers. So, we talk about what kind of information they should be giving out and other things that are important for protecting everyone online."

The opening of new offices and expanded day program facilities in the Bridgeville location in fall, 2014, included a modern computer lab with a bank of computers and learning capabilities.



Philadelphia Programs Enjoy Event

Adults and staff from the Philadelphia region enjoy the annual Barber-Q held in October. The event has been an annual tradition for more than twenty years for the residential and adult day programs serving the Philadelphia area.



High five! SeaWolves player Dean Green celebrates with a young hitter at the baseball clinic sponsored by the Siebenbuerger Club.



During the clinic for adults, Erie SeaWolves players and coaches demonstrated baseball fundamentals such as fielding, throwing, pitching and base running.

Children & Adults have "Field" Day with Erie SeaWolves

Children and adults from the Barber National Institute spent a summer day fielding pop-flies, taking batting practice and running bases with Erie SeaWolves players and coaches. The day-long baseball clinics were funded by a grant from the Erie Siebenbuerger Club.

Local Siebenbuerger members donated \$6,000 to provide the clinic on June 29 for adults and on June 30 for participants of Connections Camp, a program for children and teens with high functioning autism.

At the clinic, which was held at Jerry Uht Park, the SeaWolves demonstrated baseball fundamentals such as fielding, throwing, pitching and base running. The goal is for children and adults to take what they learn at the clinic and put it to use on school and neighborhood fields with their friends, classmates or in a league.

"Being able to participate in activities with your peers is an important part of childhood," said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute. "According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in 68 children is now being diagnosed with autism. With so many families living with the challenges of autism, it is especially important to provide opportunities for children that will lead to greater inclusion in their schools and community. We are thankful to members of the Siebenbuerger Club and the Erie SeaWolves for making this possible."

In addition to the instruction provided at the Clinic, participants received a t-shirt, certificate and a ticket to an Erie SeaWolves game, where they were recognized on the field before the start of play.



A young slugger takes a break with a team member.

This is the second year that the Siebenbuerger Club funded the clinic for 30 adults and more than 60 children. The donation was also used to provide baseball gloves, bats and balls for participants in need of equipment.



Annual Luncheon Sells Out Again

This year's Ladies Only Luncheon will have another sell-out crowd to benefit services for children at the Barber National Institute. Planning committee members, who have been working for months on the event, include, bottom row, from left, Lynne Miller; Julie McCain; Ann Rutkowski & Mary Rutkowski, co-chairs; and Maureen Barber-Carey. Top row from left are Jennifer Nygaard Pontzer; Julie Sanner, Jeanne Baker; and Emily Ingram. Also on the committee are Bridget Barber, Gretchen Hunter, Emily McCormick Hutchinson, Kim Misko, Carolyn Sabolcik, Lisa Salvia, Rhonda Schember, Missy Taylor and Kathy Wagner. This year's Premier Prize, a trip to New York City and \$1,000 spending cash, was donated by Miller Travel Services and a friend of the Barber Institute. Raffle tickets can be purchased online at BarberInstitute.org/LOL.

Free Sibsessions Events for Children

Do you know of a child who has a brother or sister with a disability? The Barber National Institute SibSessions program is just for them!

This monthly program is offered free of charge to youngsters ages 5 up to their 16th birthday who have a sibling with a disability. Each program, held with trained staff at the Barber National Institute, offers swimming, arts and crafts, lunch and time for sharing.

Upcoming sessions include a Thanksgiving party on Saturday, Nov. 21 and a Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 19. A full schedule of the year's events can be found at www.BarberInstitute.org.

For reservations or more information, call Family Support Services at 814-878-5961.

Gift Shop Caters to Holiday Shoppers

Unique gifts, stylish Barber-wear and merchandise handmade by adults at the Barber National Institute. You'll find it all at the Gift Shop at Barber Place, open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the north lobby.

The Gift Shop offers a great selection of jewelry and other accessories, holiday items, home décor as well as greeting cards, gift bags and wreaths made by adults in our day programs. The "Save Around Erie" books are also available with coupons for local restaurants, stores and recreational venues.

Hoodies, t-shirts and other attire for the Barber National Institute and Barber Beast on the Bay are also available at the store or online at BarberInstitute.org/giftshop.



The Gift Shop at Barber Place is open weekdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with unique holiday gifts, Barber-wear attire and items handmade by our adults.

Calendar of Events

Ladies Only Luncheon

Nov. 21
Kahkwa Club

Autism Friendly Santa Time

Dec. 6
9:30 – 11 a.m.
Millcreek Mall

Student Holiday Performance & 50-50 Drawing

Dec. 9
10 a.m.
Gym

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show

April 8-11, 2016
(Artwork Submission March 4-6, 2016)

Barber Christmas Ball

Dec. 12
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

Connections Summer Camp for children with high functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome
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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'Erie Gives' Generously to the Barber Foundation

We asked and Erie gave! The Barber Foundation received a total of \$12,456 from 112 donors during Erie Gives Day on Tuesday, August 11.

The 12-hour event took place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. while the community was able to watch the progress, as donation reports were constantly updated through the Erie Gives website and social media.

To gear up for Erie Gives Day, the Barber National Institute unveiled a special video series entitled "Why I Give," which features several donors who have made a commitment to the Barber Foundation. In the first, Irene Smerick told the story of her daughter, Rosie, who was born with Down syndrome at a time when doctors recommended institutionalization. Instead, with the help of Dr. Gertrude Barber, Rosie went to school at the Barber National Institute.

Norm Beecher also described the origins of the "Stormin' Norman" Beecher Golf Tournament, an annual event held in memory of his father, and why proceeds go to the

Barber National Institute. Finally, Patrick Eller, the top Barber Beast on the Bay fundraiser for the past three years, shared how the Barber National Institute has helped his daughter and why he is so committed to raise funds for the organization.

To watch these videos and more, please visit www.barberinstitute.org/giving-why-i-give. Thank you to all those who gave during Erie Gives Day! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Michael Batchelor, president of the Erie Community Foundation, presents proceeds from Erie Gives Day to Bridget Barber, director of External Affairs at the Barber National Institute.

