

THE BEAST IS BACK - Page 6

Barber National Institute 
Barber Spirit

February 2016
Vol. 12, No. 1




Bright
Beginning
Barber National Institute

President's Message



Dear friends:

The earlier, the better. An old adage? You bet – but it's especially true when we talk about helping children overcome developmental delays or behavioral challenges. In this issue, you will see how therapists in our Bright Beginning Early Intervention program are working with parents to help babies and toddlers advance their development. They are proof that identifying and treating delays as early as possible increases the likelihood that children will be on track to reach their developmental milestones and have the best possible start.

The Early Intervention Program reminds us how important it is to have high quality services available to meet important needs—whether they are behavioral, developmental or educational. This is one of the guiding principles across so many of our programs, ranging from our inclusive and early intervention preschool classes to the full range of behavioral services developed to help children and their families overcome challenges.

With this edition of *Barber Spirit*, we also recognize the generous individuals, businesses and organizations that are making many of these services possible with their charitable donations to the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation. I am always inspired looking through our annual donor report to see how many contributors from near and far have recognized the importance of investing in the development and growth of our children, adults and families. We want these benefactors to know that their support is truly changing lives every day.

As we all look forward to warmer temperatures and increasing sunshine, some sure signs of spring are the events quickly coming up on the Barber National Institute calendar. The annual Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show and Sale is right around the corner, and plans are well underway for our Shillelagh Golf Tournament on June 9 and the Beast on the Bay on Sept. 10.

We look forward to enjoying these events—and an early spring—with you. On behalf of the more than 4,200 children and adults we serve each year, it is an honor to extend our deep appreciation for your support in *making dreams come true*.

Sincerely,

John J. Barber

President & Chief Executive Officer

Front cover: Twins Dawson, left, and Jude Maycock make progress in their development with services from the Bright Beginning Early Intervention Program at the Barber National Institute.

First Niagara Helps Fund Scholarships

First Niagara recently presented the Barber National Institute with a \$14,000 donation made through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. During a recent visit to a classroom, Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, left, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute, accepted the donation from Cynde Goldberg, second from right, senior administrative assistant at First Niagara, and Lisa Slomski, right, vice president, commercial banking. Joining them are preschool students Ammar Baig, left, and Wyatt Dlugolenski. The donation will provide scholarships for high quality preschool programs to qualifying families in the region.



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.

9th Annual Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale

Art Show Celebrates the Possibilities in All

*"Art enables us to find
ourselves and lose ourselves
at the same time."*

(Thomas Merton, Writer, Artist & Philosopher)



Painting, sculpture, photography...love them all? Treat yourself to an array of wonderful creative works at "Celebrate the Possibilities," the 9th Annual Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale at the Barber National Institute. This year's exhibit is set for:

- Friday, April 8, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The community is invited to a Wine & Cheese Reception 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

- Saturday, April 9, noon - 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 10, noon - 3:00 p.m.

Family-friendly activities including refreshments, an Art Scavenger Hunt, and the Youth Artist Award Ceremony, 1:00 p.m.

- Monday, April 11, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The show, which began in 2008 and is now one of the largest in the region, offers an opportunity for children and adults with disabilities to share their creative accomplishments with artists from throughout the tristate area. Last year's event featured the work of 262 adult and 185 youth artists that included paintings, drawings, sculptures, textiles and photography.

Many fantastic pieces of artwork are for sale, and the Barber National Institute receives a commission from each purchase.

A panel of judges from the community will select artwork to receive awards in the youth and adult categories, as well as in separate categories for photography. In addition, all visitors to the show are invited to vote for a youth and adult piece to receive a People's Choice Award.

Admission free of charge. See what's possible. More information at 874-5603 or BarberInstitute.org



Support the Show

Art appreciators can show their support for the Art Show and help ensure that it continues to be available for all to enjoy. Become a Patron with a \$100 donation or a Friend with a gift of \$50. Donors will be recognized during the Art Show and at the Artist's Awards

Reception. You can support the show online at www.BarberInstitute.org/artshow, or send a check to:

Art Show Donation

Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation
100 Barber Place, Erie PA 16507





Bright Beginning

Barber National Institute

Building a Bright Beginning

Elijah Orr squeals in delight as he bounces on a giant red exercise ball. While it looks like playtime, the six-month-old is actually having occupational therapy in his home through the early intervention program at the Barber National Institute.

“When Eli was just two months old, I started noticing that he was tilting his head to the left,” said his mother, Kaylee Orr. “We saw his pediatrician and soon he was diagnosed with torticollis.”

A common condition among infants, torticollis is a tightening of the neck muscles that can lead to delays in development. This meant Eli was having trouble holding up his head and rolling over.



Elijah Orr is happy to work on strengthening exercises with occupational therapist Kristen Seburnia, MS, OTR/L, left, and his mother, Kaylee Orr.



Physical therapist Megan Johnston, PT, DPT, left, instructs Colleen Maycock on activities to promote motor skill development for twins Dawson, left, and Jude.

Physical therapist Kristen Snarski began visiting Eli’s home, taking the baby through a series of exercises and stretches. “By the second session, he started rolling over with assistance,” said Kaylee. “Every week we have different goals, and we are seeing steady progress.”

For Eli and all babies, the time from birth to age three is the most important period of their development. Early intervention is the best way to reduce or eliminate delays that can impact how a child learns and grows.

“There’s no question that the earlier a problem is identified and treated, the faster the child is likely to make progress,” said Donna Roesch, MS, Early Intervention program manager.

“Many children will be able to overcome a delay within a few months of treatment.”

Dawson Maycock was also just two months old when he was diagnosed with torticollis. “As a twin, doctors believe that Dawson was crowded and lying against his twin brother, Jude, before they were born. This affected his neck muscles and made it difficult for him to hold up his head. When the time came, he also struggled to sit up and crawl,” said his mother, Colleen.

A few months later, Colleen noticed that her other baby, Jude, was not crawling or even rolling over consistently. He also was not accepting spoon feedings with solid foods.

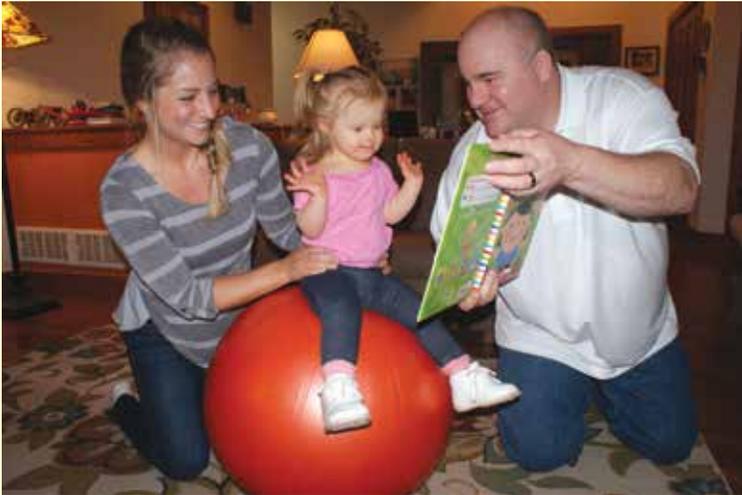
Once Jude started receiving physical therapy for a development delay and occupational therapy for feeding problems, Colleen learned that the two issues were interrelated. Working with the therapists, he began making progress on both fronts. “Now, Jude is happily eating anything that we give him, and he is standing on his own. We’re working on giving him the confidence that he needs to start taking his first steps.”

Colleen has been a caseworker in the Early Intervention program for several years, but said that being a parent has given her a new perspective about services. “I see that the therapists really know how to work with the families. They can look at the things that you do every day and suggest small changes that you, as a parent, can make to really make a difference for your child.”

Sheryl Brown has also found that the therapists working with her daughter, Lauren, have provided a lot of information and support. A few weeks after Lauren was born with Down Syndrome, therapists began working with the infant and her parents. She progressed from rolling over and sitting up to starting to crawl and finally walking. They continue to work on developing gross motor skills, such as leaning forward to get up from a chair, and using puzzles and Legos to develop fine motor skills.

Speech therapist Dana Gray has helped Lauren and her parents learn sign language so that the toddler can communicate her needs, and they are now also helping her develop verbal skills.

"They show us how to get from one point to the next. When she achieves one goal, they have the next one. They have a step-by-step plan," said Sheryl. "I can text them at any time that I have a question, and if they don't know the answer they will find it. Children don't come with an instruction manual, but I feel like that is exactly what I have!"



Physical therapist Wendy Marsh, PT, DPT works with toddler Lauren Brown and her father, Brian Brown.

Questions about your child's development?

The early intervention team includes speech language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, developmental specialists, psychologists and nutritionists who work with a wide range of physical, behavioral and feeding issues including:

- Autism
- Flat Head Syndrome (Plagiocephaly) & Torticollis
- Speech and Language Delays
- Early Childhood Developmental Delays
- Deafness and Hearing Impairments
- Physical Disabilities
- Vision Impairments
- Emotional & Behavioral Disorders
- Oral-Motor & Feeding Problems
- Sensory Processing Issues

For more information, call 814-874-5671 or visit www.BarberInstitute.org

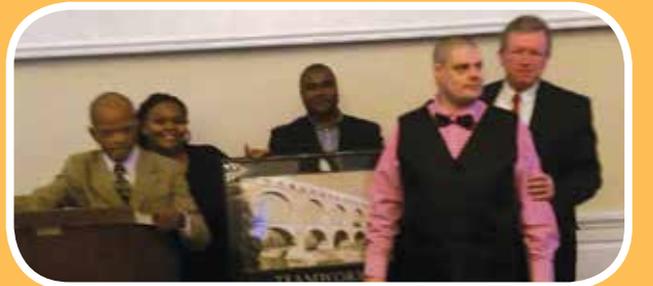


Statewide Standouts

The Barber National Institute was well represented at the awards presented at the annual PAR (Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability) conference. Likia Rivera, left, a support professional in the Community Endeavors Program in Philadelphia, received the Direct Support Professional of the Year Award; Kim Bauer, an adult who was hired by Agility Marketing in Erie with help from Supported Employment, won the Self-Advocate Employee of the Year award; and the Front Line Manager of the Year Award was presented to Marycarmen Walker, right, supervisor of our Supported Employment Program in Erie.

Agility Marketing, an Erie business which has now hired five adults through our Supported Employment program, was also recognized as the Community Employer of the Year.

Congratulations to the winners for their achievements in employment and community integration!



Annual Awards Presented in Philadelphia

Philadelphia's historic Regal Ballroom was the setting for the annual holiday party and award presentation for all Barber National Institute staff, individuals and families in the southeastern Pennsylvania region. BNI President John Barber, right, presented the 2015 Home of the Year Award to residents and staff from the Dungan Street house. Pictured are, from left, Ny Phann; Denise Young, manager; Peter Nagbe, RSA; and James Fonash. Likia Rivera was named Employee of the Year for her "willingness to take initiative, accept and carry out additional responsibilities beyond regular job assignments for the good of the program and individuals while also maintaining an infectious smile on her face."



BEAST 2016: BIGGER, BADDER, BEASTLIER

BARBER BEAST ON THE BAY IS BACK FOR ITS FOURTH YEAR!

The event, set for Saturday, September 10, will begin at Presque Isle State Park and finish at Waldameer. This year's course runs through some different areas of Presque Isle and features several new obstacles. Of course, we'll still have many of your favorites, too, including the Wave Pool to cap off your adventure! So get set for 10 miles and 20+ obstacles that feature sand, water and trails as you climb, crawl, push and pull your way to the finish line.

More than 600 participants have already signed up. If you haven't, what are you waiting for? With this year's pricing structure, the earlier you sign up, the more you save:

- Now through March 31 - \$75
- April 1 to May 31 - \$85
- June 1 to September 6 - \$100. (Late registration after September 6 is \$150.)

There are also other options for being involved: volunteering, fundraising, sponsoring or forming a Cheer Zone.

The First Niagara Adapted Course will also be held at Waldameer Park for adults with disabilities, featuring seven obstacles along a one-mile paved course.

More information and registration is at www.BarberBeast.org

Only one question remains: Are you ready to beat the Beast?



WHY DO YOU BEAST?

Everyone has their reasons for entering Barber Beast on the Bay. Some run for fitness, some run for the challenge, and others run because of someone special in their lives.

If you are doing the beast for someone else, let everyone know! With our "I BEAST 4" campaign, participants can indicate whether they are running in honor of or in memory of someone. The option is available during registration, and your Beast 4 will be displayed on our website and at the event.

Check out the names of those beasting in honor of or in memory of someone under the 10-mile course tab at BarberBeast.org



Mathew waited and watched as the 'Miles for Mathew' team crossed the finish line. Despite a cool and rainy day, Mathew supported the team with excitement and enthusiasm. The team posed together after successfully beating the Beast!

All About Smiles for 'Miles for Mathew'

When it comes to the Miles for Mathew Beast on the Bay team, you can't miss it.

No, not the team's bright orange shirts, though they do stand out. And, no, not the team itself, though it is growing and up to seven members and counting for this year.

It's the smile of 15-year-old Mathew Serafin, team namesake and most ardent supporter of the Miles for Mathew team.

Mathew started attending preschool at the Barber National Institute when he was three years old and continued in the school for five years. It's where he learned to drive his power chair, received his communication device, and started his education. Despite being non-verbal and in a wheelchair, Mathew is his team's most active backer.

Miles for Mathew got its start a year and a half ago when Mathew and his mother, Kim, went to watch one of Mathew's friends compete in the Barber Beast Adapted Course. Kim said seeing the excitement of all the runners made her decide to start a team.

"As we were watching, we witnessed the athletes [from the 10-mile course] meeting up with the special needs athletes going through their course," she said. "The enthusiasm, the teamwork, the excitement of the special needs athletes, the working together as a group – I looked at them and said, 'I really want to do this.'"

And so Kim, along with Mathew's nurse, Randie Peters, a friend, Denise Petersen, and Mathew's brother, Nathan, formed "Miles for Mathew."



The 'Miles for Mathew' team gathered for a 'Why I Beast' video in the Serafin home. Mathew is in the front center of the photo. Picture from left to right: Kim Serafin, Denise Petersen, Nathan Serafin, Randie Peters and Ronald Peters.

"Kim had approached me about doing the Beast and I was actually hesitant for about a week or so," Petersen said. "Then I messaged her and said, 'I'm in, let's do it.'"

"We just said, 'You know, we're going to do the Barber Beast,' let's just do it," Peters added. "And once you're signed up, it's like you can't not do it!"

The three of them began training and ran in other races while Nathan stayed in shape by playing basketball for Cathedral Prep. Together, the four of them finished the Beast last year in Mathew's honor.

Randie Peters gets emotional thinking back to seeing Mathew waiting for them at the finish line.

"Just seeing his face was all I needed," she said. "Just the obstacles that he goes through every day ... this is all for him."

Mathew was smiling and excited as the team crossed the finish line, the team said, and they were just as excited to have finished the course, too.

"After I finished the Beast, I was like a frozen popsicle, but I can honestly say it was the best time, I had the best time ever," Petersen said. "Out of everything I did last summer, I tell everybody, 'You need to do it, it's so fun!'"

Added Kim Serfin: "It was a good feeling of accomplishment. As I'm going through a race, I keep saying, 'I'm doing this for Mathew, I'm doing this for Mathew' because he can't be out there with us. We're doing it for him. And he loves being there ... we had a fun time!"



A team that runs together stays together! The 'Miles for Mathew' team held hands as they crossed the finish line in a sign of unity for themselves and for Mathew.

One new member of the team, Ronald Peters, Randie's husband, was with Mathew watching the team finish last year and decided to join this year. "Last year I was sitting there with Mathew and his dad and my daughter, and to watch the excitement [on Mathew] as the runners came through was awesome," he said.

But Ronald didn't just want to watch with Mathew – he wanted to do the event for Mathew, too. "It means a lot to me [to do the course this year]. I know what he goes through every day. He inspires me."

This year, when the Miles for Mathew team crosses the finish line again, new members and all, there Mathew will be, waiting and definitely smiling.



Josh Napierkowski began at the Barber National Institute in 2009. Josh worked on many skills, including behavior, communication, and academics. At left, Josh is working on an art project in the art room at the Barber National Institute. At right, Josh is in his new classroom at Central Tech High School.

As he rounds the corner and wheels into his social studies class at Central Tech High School, Josh Napierkowski has a smile several years in the making.

Josh's dream had been to eventually attend classes at his local high school, and after just a few weeks there, his smile reveals it all – a sense of belonging, excitement, and, of course, pride.

But to get to that point, Josh put in a lot of work. He began at the Barber National Institute in 2009 with many goals to work on.

"We were working on behavioral control, emotional control," said Cindy Priester, the Education Program Coordinator at the Elizabeth Lee Black School. "He had a hard time forming relationships with his peers ... one of the first things he said [when he started] was, 'I want to make friends.'"

Josh also needed to work on his academics when he came to the Barber National Institute.

"His academics were in the lower range. He was struggling with finding words," Priester said.

The faculty in the Elizabeth Lee Black School began working with Josh on communication, behavior and academic goals, and Josh began making strides. He participated in activities, he made friends, his behavior improved. Soon, Josh was progressing in just about every area.

"His behaviors were under control. He was able to tell you what he wanted and what was wrong and what upset him. In his academics, he [progressed to] reading chapter books, so his progress really was extensive in almost every area."

With that, Josh continued to dream about going to Central Tech, and soon after the start of the new school year, he began to slowly transition to the new setting. After an initial visit, Josh began attending classes at Central Tech a few days a week. By the Christmas break, he was ready to move into his new school.

Before leaving, Josh reflected on what he learned at the Barber National Institute and how he had changed over the last several years.

"My day is good now and people really like me," he said. "Because, really, people really like a nice person."

Josh's Dream Comes True

Josh's successes at the Barber National Institute have translated well to Central Tech, as home room teacher, Andrew Kovacs, recognized right away.

"From the first time he came here I could just tell – the way he comprehended, the way he was reading words – that he would do OK here," he said. "He makes friends with the kids and does well socially."

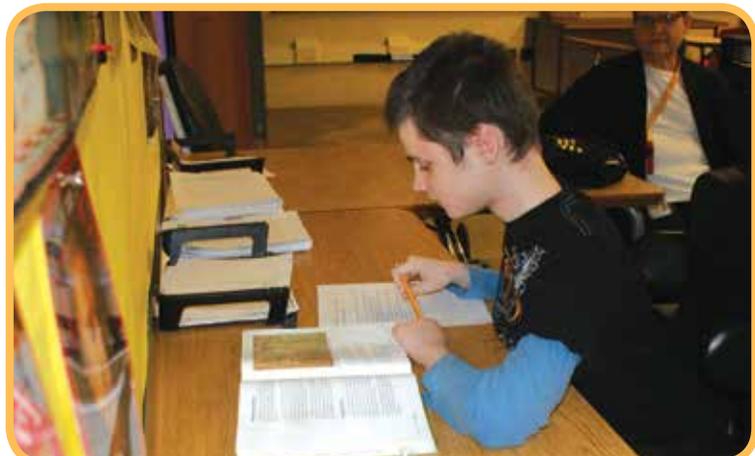
"My day is good now and people really like me," he said. "Because, really, people really like a nice person."

Josh is also doing well in class. His social studies teacher, Stephen Musone, said he has been impressed with Josh and is glad to have him in his classroom.

"I'm very pleased with Josh's transition to school here. He's done a great job," Musone said. "He participates in class, he's always involved in discussion, I see an interest in what we're talking about ... I can tell he's happy to be here."

And on one particular day, as Musone taught about Leonardo da Vinci and other Renaissance artists, Josh listened intently and volunteered information that he read in an assigned passage. After their discussion, Musone passed out a worksheet about da Vinci for Josh to work on with a classmate. After looking at the paper and his book, Josh looked back with a brief, knowing smile before beginning to answer the questions.

It is a fun day, and Josh Napierkowski is right where he wants to be.



After working hard toward his dream, Josh Napierkowski made the transition to his home school, Central Tech, this year.



Barber Behavioral
Health Institute

A Path Toward Hope

Marsala Jones loves to see her granddaughter, Sarah, happy and smiling as she comes through the door after school. Just a short time ago, it wasn't that way, and Marsala worried that it would not get better.

The family had experienced a tragic loss, and Sarah, at age 15, felt the effect. "Every day, it was sadness," remembers Marsala.

Then, Sarah began receiving Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy from the Barber National Institute with therapist Tracey Durkin.

Marsala remembers that her granddaughter had times that she wanted to give up, but that Tracey helped her feel hopeful. "Tracey was able to reach her and Sarah started to express her feelings more. They developed a friendship so that Sarah felt she could talk to Tracey, and she was able to understand that things could get better," said Marsala.

Tracey describes trauma therapy as an evidenced-based approach that helps children move past their devastation. "We say, 'this happened to you but it does not define you. You can overcome it,'" explained Tracey. "You may think that your life is over, but this gives you hope."

Jessica Cramer also credits the therapy with helping her foster daughter express her feelings and fears after a history of abuse in her natural family. "She was suffering from depression and very intense PTSD, and not willing to talk about what had happened," said Jessica.

Her foster daughter also formed a bond with Tracey, and soon became comfortable enough to express the feelings she had held in for years.



Therapist Tracey Durkin, right, and Sarah, talk about recovery after a loss.

"We saw improvements almost immediately," said Jessica. "Everything is still not 100% better, but we have had so much progress."

Jessica and her husband began the process of adoption, and she said that Tracey helped her and her family through that transition. "Tracey has helped our new daughter assimilate into a new family with two new siblings, and helped our biological children understand their new sister," said Jessica. "And for me, it was helpful to understand what a child who experienced trauma is going through."

Tracey said that the therapy gives children permission to be angry or sad and, "allowing yourself to get through the pain and anger but at the end to let it go. You choose a path toward some sort of acceptance and say this is not going to rule my life," said Tracey.

"Tracey has been a godsend. We are really thankful that we had her," said Marsala. "Without her, I don't know how we would have been able to manage."

For more information about the trauma focused therapy, in Erie call 814-878-5945 and in Pittsburgh call 412-772-6962 or visit BBHI.org.

Supports Broker Service Opens in Philadelphia

The Barber National Institute is now offering a Supports Broker Service in the Philadelphia region that provides assistance to persons with an intellectual disability and their families who choose to self-direct some or all of their services.

To participate, the individuals must reside in their own private home or the home of family and the service must be authorized in their Individual Support Plan (ISP). The Supports Broker is chosen by the participants and works for them, and can assist participants with the responsibility for managing their services such

as identifying the services they want to self-direct, recruiting and hiring new support workers and providing support at team meetings.

This Supports Broker Service is also administered in Erie through the Institute's Agency with Choice Program.

For more information about the Supports Broker Service in Philadelphia, contact Jamaal Curtis at 215-871-0731 or JCurtis@BarberInstitute.org; in Erie, contact Jaclyn Zacherl Herrmann at 814-878-4088 or JHerrmann@BarberInstitute.org.

ESO Dances a Special Occasion for All Involved

The themes sound like they're reserved for the most exclusive A-List parties – Winter Wonderland, A Night in Hollywood, Mardi Gras, and, last but not least, the Beach Ball.

The list of attendees is like a “Who’s Who” of new friends and familiar faces from the Barber National Institute and the four Erie colleges, making the Expanding Social Opportunities (ESO) dances feel like a special soirée every time.

It’s exactly the way Jaclyn Herrmann, the FMS Family Liaison at the Barber National Institute who coordinates the ESO dances, wants them to feel.

“Every dancer who I have seen has said how excited they were for the themes,” Herrmann said. “One even asked if we were going to have paparazzi [at the Night in Hollywood dance], and, actually, we are going to have volunteers dressed as paparazzi.”

The Barber National Institute has sponsored the ESO Dances since 2001 for adults ages 18 and up with an intellectual disability and their college aged peers in collaboration with students at Edinboro, Penn State Behrend, Gannon and Mercyhurst Universities. So far this year, the dances have had an attendance of more than 200, and it’s not just the individuals who are having fun.

Emily Bond, a junior at Edinboro University, has volunteered at many of the dances and said the dances have meant so much to her during her college career.

“I have met so many exceptional people that I now call friends and consider them to be like family. These dances are a way of life and something that personally gives me a purpose,” Bond said. “It’s fun not only to those who are dancers, but volunteering for an organization like this makes the volunteering so rewarding.”

Herrmann said she has seen a similar reaction from other volunteers.

“ESO dances are the favorite volunteering event for the members of the clubs that are involved from the colleges. Going to the ESO dance for the first time, the members can’t say enough good things. It is fun and they get to connect with the dancers and have a great time. It creates a very positive community for dancers and volunteers because we are all equal there,” said Herrmann.

“Students not only enjoy dances but are also able to gain experience and knowledge from them. There are just so many positive interactions that come from the volunteers.”

One such positive interaction developed with an individual who came to the dances but stood along the



Emily Bond, left, poses with Becky at a recent ESO dance. Bond said of the ESO dances, “It’s fun not only for the dancers, but volunteering for an organization like this makes the volunteering so rewarding.”

wall every time. After talking with his mom, Herrmann paired him up with a college volunteer to dance. Ever since, he has been there dancing, smiling and wanting to visit with the other dancers and volunteers.

All said, the events offer benefits for all involved.

“I tell all my friends about it and I am a huge advocate because I truly feel ESO changes lives and perceptions for those who are involved,” Bond said.

“When you walk through the doors, it does not matter if you are a dancer or a volunteer, you’re there for a fun time. ESO dances are a way for dancers to have fun in a positive and safe environment, and it gives them a chance to be with peers their own age or close to their age,” Herrmann said. “The dances mean that the dancers create different friendships with the volunteers and they get to look forward to coming back to the dances to see them and their peers.”

Upcoming ESO dances will be held Friday, April 8 at the Gannon University Yehl Ballroom, and Friday, April 22 at the Edinboro University Crawford Center.

For more information and photos of past dances visit www.BarberInstitute.org/ESO



Join Us at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

When does walking at beautiful Presque Isle mean a brighter future for children and adults with disabilities? When you are supporting the Barber National Institute at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! Sign up now for the event that is set for Saturday, June 4, 2016.

Highmark Inc. underwrites the cost of the walk so that 100% of the money raised by our walkers and donors goes directly to the Barber National Institute.

The event includes:

- 5K walk starting at 9:00 a.m. near Beach One
- One-mile Fun Walk at 9:15.
- Post-walk celebration with food, entertainment, prizes and fun activities for children.

Participants can register as an individual, form a team, or donate to our organization. Registered walkers who raise \$30 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!



Researchers Dan Portenier and Jen Musloff control the robot being tested in therapy for children with autism.

Robot Research Project Concludes Study

Research into adding a robot to therapy for children with autism has moved into a new phase as individual testing concluded this fall. Researchers at the Barber National Institute are continuing to work with researchers at the University of Notre Dame and the Logan Center in South Bend, Indiana, to compile the results for publication.

The collaboration was undertaken to study the effect of adding an interactive robot in clinical therapy for children with autism as compared to a therapist working alone.

Since the research began in May, 2012, ten students at the Barber National Institute participated in the study. Students ranged in age from three to nine years, and all had an autism spectrum diagnosis.

Once compiled, the results will be submitted for publication in professional journals.

A new phase of the project is also being studied that will involve adding the interactive robots to social skills training in small group settings. Parameters are being established for a pilot study that is expected to begin in classrooms at the Elizabeth Lee Black School later this spring.

Calendar of Events

Beast on the Bay Celebrity Bartending Event

March 10
BrewErie

Sibsessions

March 19, April 16 & May 21
Cafeteria & Pool

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Guelcher Art Show & Sale

April 8, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Public Wine & Cheese Reception 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
April 9 & 10, noon - 3:00 p.m.
April 11, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
North Complex

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

June 4
Presque Isle State Park

ESO Dances

April 8

Gannon University Yehl Ballroom

April 22

Edinboro University Crawford Center

Autism Awareness Month: Ask the Experts

April 21, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Forum

Shillelagh Golf Tournament

June 9

Riverside Golf Course



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.

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“UPTOWN CHRISTMAS” HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHT

The 2015 Christmas Ball, Uptown Christmas, helped kick off the holiday season for more than 1,200 guests at the Bayfront Convention Center. Chair couple Atty. Robert and Jan Brabender, left, joined Barber National Institute President John Barber and his wife, Bridget, in welcoming attendees. The theme was carried out with art deco decorations in gold, black and white, including more than 30 chandeliers suspended over the Great Hall. The following day, the Barber National Institute sponsored a holiday party for adults in day and residential programs as well as in the community. This year's Ball is set for Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016.

