2020-21 DONOR REPORT

BARBER HONORS



IN A WORLD WHERE all persons differ,



EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE Opportunity



TO DEVELOP TO THEIR fullest potential.

- Guiding philosophy, Barber National Institute



Dr. Gertrude A.Barber Foundation Making dreams come true.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Anniversaries are times to celebrate, and this is especially true as we now mark the milestone of our 70th anniversary. Together, we have navigated the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. While it has been one of the most demanding and dynamic times in our



ANNIVERSARY

history, thanks to the dedication of our employees and your commitment – as a valued donor and friend – the legacy founded by Dr. Barber continues and thrives.

As a human service agency, we do not close our doors when faced with adversity but strive to continue providing the highest standard of care for our vulnerable population. For nearly two years this has meant providing around the clock care, seven days a week, in many of our 95 group homes across Pennsylvania. I am very proud of the determination and resourcefulness that our employees show in keeping our individuals safe and in meeting their needs through challenging circumstances.

Our Board of Directors and administrative leadership understand how vital it is to support our direct care employees and faculty as they work to meet this goal on a daily basis. Their commitment was acknowledged with increases in compensation for direct support professionals and school faculty during the 2020-21 fiscal year that recognized their heroic and extraordinary efforts.

We also understand that a post-Covid world may bring changes in the delivery of services and in the kind of services that our families and individuals want to meet their goals. As we work to safely bring adults back to our day programs, we are also committed to considering innovative alternatives that will bring new opportunities in new ways. We believe that our organization plays a key role in working with state agencies and families to determine what programming can look like moving forward.

The achievements made throughout our history have occurred because we came together to work toward our shared goal of creating a better life for persons with disabilities. These accomplishments would not have been possible without our generous donors. When we had to cancel or postpone fundraising events, our donors were still here to provide support. As services were affected by pandemic restrictions, our donors recognized the role they played in helping us find new ways to support children, adults and families who relied on us to meet their needs.

This celebration of our 70th anniversary is in every way possible your celebration, too. You have stood with us to mark the happy successes and achievements, and in navigating the new and unprecedented challenges.

As we embark on our new decade of service, we look forward to working together in *making dreams come true*.

John Baste



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I am so thankful that I found the Barber Institute

for my brother many years ago. He came to your

group home in Pittsburgh in his older years and has

flourished with wonderful care from so many loving

for my brother, especially in this difficult year of

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Gifts received July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Biking Brothers: A Place Where Everyone Learns

D esarai Sweat will never forget the look on her son's face. "It was like getting your puppy at Christmas for the first time," she said.

After years of trying, her son, Gabe, age 10, rode a bike for the first time. "He had a look that he accomplished something. You don't understand unless you've gone through it."

Gabe had wanted to be able to go out and ride bikes with his friends, but his mother said that his struggle was "heartbreaking."

That all turned around in July 2021 when Gabe began the Learn to Bike Camp at the Barber National Institute. The hour-long sessions, held once weekly for four weeks, are provided free of charge and funded by donors of the Barber Foundation.

While Desarai was hopeful, she wasn't convinced that his first attempt with the program would be successful. At the first session, staff removed the pedals from the bike and Gabe learned how to glide and balance on two wheels. He worked on the skill at home, and when he returned the next week, staff put the pedals back on.

Within minutes, Gabe was riding on his own. "I was crying," said Desarai. "No amount of money could ever replace that."

Desarai's younger son, Dylan, age 7, really didn't want to go to Bike Camp, but agreed to accompany his older brother. After the first week, he marked all of the sessions on his calendar. At the final week, Desiree could barely believe her eyes when Dylan started riding too.

"It was really important for Gabe that his brother also learn to ride," said Desarai.



Brothers Dylan and Gabe Sweat both leaned to ride at the Bike Camp funded by donors in 2021.

Why did Bike Camp work for her children? "They knew that everybody here was learning," said Desarai. "They did not stand out differently." Bike Camp will again be funded by donors in July 2022. For more information, visit BarberInstitute.org/bikecamp.

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The capital campaign supported by donors will bring renovations to the Bollinger Campus.

W hen Clifford and Anabelle Bollinger opened new facilities in the Warren region in 1972, it meant many more opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities. Opportunities for job training, building skills, and developing greater inclusion in their community.

Now, a capital campaign is underway on the Bollinger campus of the Barber National Institute to ensure that the facility will provide new opportunities to enrich the lives of many more adults and their families well into the future.

The campaign, launched in November 2019, will bring renovations and remodeling to the buildings located at 44 North State Street.

In spite of Covid-related restrictions that had been in place, the campaign continued moving forward.

"The effects of the pandemic have been deeply felt across our region, but we know that in difficult times we come together as a community," said Kelly Johnson, chairperson of the Capital Campaign Committee. "Support for this project is even more important as we work to bring services back for adults who need them, as well as look to the future to bring new opportunities to even more individuals whose lives can be enriched by our mission."

The goals of the campaign focus on:

- renovations to better serve adults and families with brighter and more open areas
- · renovations to increase accessibility for current and future participants
- modernization of the current facility to replace outdated systems and equipment

The Warren firm of Larson Karle Architects has developed plans for the facility that include updated and handicap accessible entryways, hallways and restrooms; new electrical, heating and air conditioning systems; and modernized program areas.

Fundraising efforts are now underway, with all funds raised in the campaign remining in Warren. For more information about opportunities to become involved, visit BarberInstitute.org/Bollinger.

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Scholarships Support Staff in Achieving Their Dreams

a'Tashia Gatling is a program specialist overseeing group homes in Philadelphia. Jennifer Moczulski is a behavior consultant working with children and families in Erie. While they have different jobs in different Barber National Institute locations, they have something important in common. Both staff are continuing their education with scholarships funded by donors to the Barber Foundation.

The scholarship program was established to help Barber National Institute employees advance in their careers and develop important skills to better serve our individuals and families. Gatling and Moczulski say that it has done that and much more.

"My educational classes help me develop critical thinking skills, problem solving techniques, planning and grant writing skills, and most of all, finding a balance in life and work," said Gatling.

Moczulski is taking graduate level courses that are required for taking the national certification exam in Applied Behavioral Analysis, a step she sees as important for career advancement and expanding the support she can provide to children and families. "It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day, but the classes help you change your perspective and find new ideas for helping," said Moczulski. "They can be good refreshers, and good to build on what you know."

With the rising cost of higher education, both staff say the scholarships are a great help. "There really aren't any student loans available for graduate level courses, and each cost about \$2,800," said Moczulski. "I am very grateful for the help. I love my job and want to grow in it."

Gatling said the scholarships helped cover registration fees, books, online materials, and a portion of class fees each semester.

"I appreciate Barber for having the scholarships available to those that are furthering their education," said Gatling. "It lets me know they care about reaching my personal/professional goals and they are willing to help me attain them!"



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Student Jose Gonzalez works on writing his name in his "All About Me" book with encouragement from teacher Craig Allegretto.

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EITC Donations Give Learning a Boost

his year, students in the Elizabeth Lee Black School are learning about a very important subject – themselves!

Donations received through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program funded "All About Me" books for students in every classroom. While books are individualized for each child's goals, students can be working on a range of activities, such as learning their addresses and phone numbers or writing their name to identifying and managing their emotions.

When school transitions to remote instruction due to Covid restrictions, teachers report that students continue learning with the books at home. When they have accomplished specific tasks, new goals can be added.

Other donors to the EITC Program funded 41 scholarships for children to attend quality preschools.

A donation through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program offers a tax savings to participating businesses and is a commitment to the future.

For information about the EITC Program, contact Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, 814-878-5960 or maureenbc@BarberNI.org.



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Why I Give

The mission is personal to me. My niece, for decades, has received services at the Barber National Institute. I have witnessed the impact of her work at the Institute in her daily life. Her relationships with her co-workers and friends are a big part of who she is. I know that she loves spending time with her friends and staff in the Day Program.

We are lucky to have such an organization in our community and its work is very important to so many families. God bless the Barber National Institute and the staff who dedicate themselves to this honorable vocation.

Mike Dugan

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In December 2019, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie issued a decree opening the cause for canonization for Dr. Gertrude A. Barber, the first step in an investigation that could lead to sainthood for the founder of the Barber National Institute.

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The Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Legacy Society recognizes those generous donors who have made a planned gift, such as a bequest in a will or trust.

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"The kind and generous donation will allow us to help many more of the less fortunate individuals and families right here in our own neighborhood."

- Our Mother of Sorrows Parish Food Pantry

More than 70 charitable causes -- from feeding the hungry, helping sick children and bringing clean water to desolate areas of the world -- received support last year from employees at the Barber National Institute.

Donations totaling \$51,400 were distributed in 2021 through the Employee Service Fund (ESF) with voluntary contributions made by staff across all Barber National Institute locations. The charities were nominated by the employee members of the Fund, which is overseen by fellow employees from all service lines. Members can also request assistance for an individual or family with an emergency need.

Charities helped across the state and even in other areas of the world through the ESF include the Emmaus and Second Harvest food pantries, Peters Township Volunteer Fire Department, American Red Cross Chapters in Erie and Corry, Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House, Somerset County Food Pantry, Special Olympics of PA, Dare 2 Hope and Band Together Pittsburgh.

The donations made a far-reaching impact on thousands of people, as noted in a thank you letter from Operation Warm:

"Your gift is more than a coat – it not only provides physical warmth, but also emotional warmth, the confidence to socialize and succeed, and hope of a brighter future."

Summer Programs For Children & Adults

Fun and learning on our campus and in the community



CAMP SHAMROCK

Recreational program for children with intellectual disabilities

ESO CAMP Expanding Social Opportunities for adults



CONNECTIONS CAMP

Building social skills for children and teens with high functioning autism

ESY

Extended school year to continue learning for students in the Elizabeth Lee Black School



LEARN TO RIDE BIKE CAMP



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Learn More at BarberInstitute.org

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Gifts received July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report.



Flowers usually look pretty and smell sweet – but in our garden they make beautiful music! Donors to the Barber Foundation funded the creation of an outdoor garden that includes drums and other percussive instruments in various shapes, colors and sizes. Our students love exploring all of the different sounds they can make!



Gamps Greate Summer Fun

visit to a firehouse, sinking a putt at mini-🖰 golf and a trip for berry picking were just a few of the outings that adults enjoyed during the ESO (Expanding Social Opportunities) camp last summer. Many adults in the camp, as well as children in the Camp Shamrock summer program, were able to participate because of scholarships funded by donors to the Barber Foundation. The six-week summer camps provide opportunities to build social and recreational skills to achieve greater independence with outings in the community, arts and crafts and other fun activities. Families have expressed their gratitude for the scholarships that ensured such a valuable experience for children and adults.







ERIE - MAIN CAMPUS 100 Barber Place | Erie, PA 16507

PITTSBURGH CAMPUS 20 Emerson Lane, Suite 905 Bridgeville, PA 15017

PHILADELPHIA CAMPUS 3300 Henry Avenue, Suite 900 Philadelphia, PA 19129

CORRY CAMPUS 670 Sciota St. | Corry, PA 16407

GIRARD CAMPUS 1126 Lake St. | Girard, PA 16417 CHILDREN'S ACUTE PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION 4176 West Ridge Road | Erie, PA 16506

SOMERSET DAY PROGRAM 1219 Red Brant Road Somerset, PA 15501

BEDFORD DAY PROGRAM 181 Friendship Village Road Bedford, PA 15522

BOLLINGER CAMPUS 44 N State St. | North Warren, PA 16365

For a full list of location information, visit: BarberInstitute.org/Locations

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