

B A R O B E R

JUNE 2022

SPRIT



Happy Endings • New Beginnings



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

When we think about fun summertime activities, swimming has to be high on the list. As area children and adults take to pools and beaches over the coming weeks, we know that thousands of them have learned to swim in the Barber National Institute pool. This facility has been a valued resource since it opened in the late 1970s, offering learn-to-swim and a variety of exercise classes for our community.

There are many things that make our pool unique. First, we keep the water at a therapeutic temperature of 88 degrees. Secondly, our pool is one of only a handful in the country with a floor that raises to deck level. Our teachers and therapists can move wheelchairs right onto the pool floor, and then lower the floor back underwater. This has made entering and exiting the pool safe not only for our students and adults in wheelchairs, but also persons with arthritis or other conditions who can benefit from water exercise and therapy.

Now, after more than 30 years of steady use, our pool needs a renovation. We are planning to replace the mechanisms and machinery that enable the floor to raise, as well as create more comfortable and accessible locker rooms and shower facilities.

You will be hearing a lot about this renovation project as we prepare for upcoming fundraisers, including Erie Gives and the Christmas Ball. So many people have benefited from this great resource that we hope to be successful in giving it a much-needed overhaul. We will be looking to our generous donors, who are so dedicated to our mission, to support this initiative.

Speaking of summer, I hope that it is a wonderful time to relax with family and friends. Please know how much we appreciate your support and friendship in our shared goal of *making dreams come true*.

Sincerely,

John J. Barber
President & Chief Executive Officer



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
Pre-Employment Transition Services for Youth

Therapies

Family Based Mental Health Services
Acute Children's Partial Hospitalization Program
Speech, Occupational & Physical Therapy
Intensive Behavioral Health 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
Residential Group Homes
Community Habilitation

Daytime Community-Based Day Services

Club Erie
Community Endeavors
Community Participation Supports
Prevocational Services
Small Group Employment
Supported Employment
Older Adult Daily Living Centers

Support for Families

Blended Case Management for Children & Adults
Family Support Services
Family and Sibling Support Groups

Recreational Opportunities

Connections Summer Camp for children with high functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome
ESO Dances and Summer Camp
(Expanding Social Opportunities)
Learn to Ride Bike Camp
Camp Shamrock Summer Program
Time for Me

Community Resources

Before/After School & Summer Child Care Programs
Consultative services to schools & professionals
Swimming Lessons & Water Exercise Classes
Kids on the Block Puppet Troupe
Online Gift Shop BarberInstitute.org

ON THE COVER

PreK Counts teacher Julie Vrenna celebrates with her graduating preschoolers.



Barber National Institute Mission Statement

We "Make dreams come true." We provide children and adults with autism, 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.



Donor Spotlight: **Fr. Mike's Legacy**

In the nearly 30 years that he was a priest, Fr. Michael Allison was widely known for his generosity and deep concern for others – particularly young people.

"I lost count of the number of young people who came up to me at the funeral to tell me that Mike had changed their life," said Chris Allison, Fr. Mike's brother.

Fr. Mike's youngest brother, Craig, was also moved by many of those same stories. "Mike was always accepting of everyone and wanted everyone to know that God loved them," said Craig.

That's why Chris and Craig were not surprised when they learned that their brother had selected a small group of non-profits that he believed truly helped others, including the Barber National Institute, to receive a gift from his estate.

"My dad's estate had left him well cared for, and he wanted everything that he had to go to charities that helped people," said Chris.

Both Chris and Craig trace their brother's deep empathy for those in need to a time growing up near a man with developmental disabilities who lived in their neighborhood.

This sense of compassion was reinforced by their late mother, Susie Allison, who developed a friendship with Dr. Gertrude Barber and became an early supporter of what was then the Barber Center.

Chris and Craig believe that their brother also came to know many families through his ministry that had been helped by the services of the Barber National Institute. "He had always been impressed by how Dr. Barber dedicated her life to people with challenges," said Craig. "He recognized the Barber Institute for the good work that it has always done."

**"Be good to each other. Love each other.
God is good, all the time."**

Fr. Mike – as he was called by all those who knew him – had served as a chaplain and teacher at Mercyhurst Prep and chaplain at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College. He was the pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Erie before his assignment as pastor of Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City, where he served until his death in 2020. He had also been a teacher at Kennedy Catholic High School and president of the Shenango Valley Catholic School System.

A lifelong learner with many interests, Fr. Mike earned master's degrees in education, theology and divinity.

Every Christmas, he ended his sermon with the same message: "Be good to each other. Love each other. God is good, all the time."

This simple creed guided Fr. Mike as he not only made an impact on those he knew during his lifetime, but also as his legacy brings hope and comfort to many others for years to come. "We are grateful that Fr. Mike was so committed to the mission of the Barber National Institute that he made it part of this legacy," said Laura Schaaf, director of Giving. "Fr. Mike made a difference in the lives of so many people. Now, his generosity will continue making a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities today, and well into the future."

For information about making a bequest, contact the Barber Foundation, 814-874-5802.



Did you or your child learn to swim in the Barber National Institute pool? Or enjoy exercise classes or family swims? Thousands of kids, students and adults have benefited from the Barber National Institute Pool.

Now, it's time for this wonderful community resource to get a facelift! Funds from Erie Gives will support a renovation project that includes:

- A new pool with exciting new features
- New handicap accessible locker rooms and changing areas
- Many updates for a great swimming experience

**Please donate at
ErieGives.org
on Tuesday, Aug. 9.**



WE WANT ALL HANDS ON DECK!



Barber National Institute
Making dreams come true for 70 years.



The Language of Trust

Dorcas Carillo uses an iPad to teach Jesús Claudio common words in English.

For many years, even those closest to Jesús Claudio didn't know much about him. Like how he enjoys sitting out by the water or hates having oatmeal in the morning.

Then, Dorcas Carillo came into his life.

The two met seven years ago when Dorcas started as a direct care professional in Club Erie. Jesús, who left Puerto Rico at the age of 15, spoke only Spanish. As Dorcas began speaking to Jesús in his native language, a bond started forming between them. Then, when Jesús decided to retire from the day program, Dorcas was asked to transfer to Residential to work with him in his group home.

The more Dorcas talked to Jesús, the more she learned about him, including how he grew up in poverty in Puerto Rico and then in Florida. The trust that formed has led to major changes in Jesús' life. "When I started, everyone told me that Jesús would not talk. Now, there are days where he does nothing but talk – non-stop," Dorcas said.



Direct support professional Dorcas Carillo builds communication with Jesús Claudio.

The first thing that Jesús asked Dorcas to do was read the Bible to him. Slowly, he began to talk about his childhood, working alongside his parents as a migrant worker in Florida and around Erie. "Learning about what he went through, I understand better what he feels now," said Dorcas.

Jesús also had a problem with aggressive behavior that Dorcas believes was caused by his inability to communicate. He had a picture communication board, but Dorcas realized that the words were labeled in traditional Spanish, instead of the dialect that Jesús knew.

"We had to find how to get over the barrier of communication. He felt like 'I don't know how to tell you how I feel so maybe if I act out it will get your attention.' We've worked on how he could let the staff know these things in other ways," said Dorcas.

To help expand his options, Dorcas is also using an iPad to teach Jesús how to say commonly used words in English.

Dorcas said that seeing Jesús at ease and feeling understood has been the most rewarding thing for her. "I can see that he has changed a lot. He is not the aggressive man he was when I first met him," she said.

Dorcas also sees him growing in his relationship with other staff. "When new staff come into the home, Jesús won't say their name until he really feels comfortable with them," said Dorcas. "So, when he does start using their name, they get so excited because it means that he fully trusts them."

Dorcas also frequently cooks the food that Jesús liked from his childhood, and takes him on outings to Presque Isle where sitting by the water reminds him of Puerto Rico. "He was really uprooted from his culture," said Dorcas. "But now, I think he feels that even though he is not with his (biological) family, he is really home."

Make Caring a Career

Do you know someone who wants to make a real difference in their work? The Barber National Institute is now hiring direct support staff for residential and day programs. Please share the news with someone who may be interested in a rewarding job. Check postings and apply at BarberInstitute.org/careers.

Supporting Community Employment

For partnering with the Philadelphia campus of the Barber National Institute to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities, Rite Aid Pharmacies will receive the Brighter Futures Award from the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services.

The Barber Supported Employment Program nominated Rite Aid for opening its doors to Margaret Davis, who has been working at the pharmacy since July 2018. Margaret is a valued staff, helping to stock shelves and provide cleaning services in a neighborhood store.

When the COVID 19 pandemic began, Rite Aid ensured that Margaret and all its employees received the necessary PPE to keep them safe, as well as equitable access to vaccine information.

“It was an honor to nominate Rite Aid which is a true community leader in these challenging times and a great source of hope, encouragement, and resilience for others,” said Gale Williams, Supported Employment supervisor.

Rite Aid also provided staffing to ensure all adults in day and residential services received Covid vaccines and boosters.

“Rite Aid embraces a diverse work environment and understands what it means to partner with organizations like the Barber National Institute to create a workplace that best supports individuals with disabilities,” said Williams. “The support they have shown helping Margaret be successful in her job, as well as the health care they delivered to adults across all Barber programs, makes us honored to nominate them for this award.”



Margaret Davis has been a valued staff at a Philadelphia Rite Aid pharmacy since 2018.



Marking a Milestone

To celebrate five years of employment at Bistro 26 restaurant, James Froncek, left, presents an award to his bosses, George and Angie Gourlias.

When James Froncek reached his five-year anniversary at his job, he wanted to have a party – not for himself, but for the two people who made his dream of employment come true.

In February 2017 James started working as a dishwasher at Bistro 26, a restaurant in west Millcreek owned by George and Angie Gourlias. Reserved and quiet by nature, James decided to step out of his comfort zone to finally achieve his goal of getting a job.

The encouragement that he received from the couple helped him be successful at a job he loves. “If I get behind doing the dishes, Angie and George will come over and help me out,” said James. “They are not only my bosses, they are my friends.”

To show his appreciation, James reached out to the Supported Employment staff to help him create a “Best Boss Award” that he could give to George and Angie. He also wrote a letter for George to read at the presentation.

In taking the initiative to create a personalized award, James was able to convey his gratitude. “They are caring, thoughtful ... I plan on working there for many years to come.”

George and Angie also expressed how grateful they are to have found James. “He says that he is lucky to have found this job, but we are lucky to have him,” said Angie. “Everyone should have a James in their life.”

Scan for a video story about James or visit youtube.com/user/theBarberInstitute.





Beasting for Seth & Sophie

Kim Janke has been working with Seth Sheldon through the Barber National Institute Agency with Choice program since 2017. She is gathering a team at her church to do the Beast on the Bay in honor of Seth and another church member, Sophie Heath.

Every week, Kim Janke and members of her church pray together. Now, they're getting ready to slay together – all for a great cause.

It just took a little encouragement from Kim and Pastor Jim Grove to get a group from the ReaLife Assembly of God Church in Erie to sign up for Barber Beast on the Bay. Church members came on board when they learned that they would be honoring two special fellow members – Seth Sheldon and Sophie Heath.

It's the first Beast for all of them, meaning there's a little apprehension with the excitement. "At first, most people said, 'Can't we just give a donation?' But I said wouldn't it be more fun if we actually did this together," laughed Kim. "I said sure, we can do it, and even if we can't, we'll have fun hanging out and it is all for such a good cause."

While the "Supporters of Seth and Sophie" team adds members, others in the congregation have vowed to cheer on those tackling the course. And for the fifth time, Seth will be participating in the Adapted Course.

Kim had been wanting to take part in the Beast for a few years, and decided to take on the challenge in honor of Seth and Sophie, a

ten-year-old girl with Down syndrome who also attends her church. Seth and Sophie became friends at church, and Kim wanted to recognize the special place they hold in the hearts of all of the congregation.

Kim first met Seth 12 years ago in her job in a life skills class in the Millcreek School District. Then, in 2017, when he started with Agency with Choice at the Barber National Institute, Seth's family asked Kim to continue working with him.

Seth, now 23, enjoys their time together playing basketball, bowling and swimming. Kim is also working on helping him develop life skills such as cleaning and meal planning. Every week, they decide on menus, make up a shopping list and then go to the grocery store for the ingredients they will need. It's gotten so that Seth knows how to check the pantry, and then let Kim know what to add to the list. He will quickly go up and down the store aisles to find just the right brand.

Now, as Kim and her teammates prepare to take on the Beast, she hopes what they are doing will mean a better life for Seth and others with disabilities. "I think that the Barber Institute does such a great job, and the people who work there do amazing work," said Kim. "Through the Beast, I want to help provide financial support for that mission, and to help support people with special needs."



Seth is no stranger to the Beast, competing in previous Adapted Course events.

I Beast For

Want to Beast for someone special in your life? You can choose to Beast in honor of or in memory of a person or a cause close to your heart when registering at BarberBeast.org.

Volunteer for a Great Cause

Wouldn't you like a fun day at the beach? That is what's in store when you sign up to be a Beast volunteer. You can choose your shift, as well as options on the course monitoring obstacles or staffing water or snack stations, helping at the start or finish lines, registering participants and much more. Check out all that's available at BarberBeast.org/volunteer.



TAKE THE PLUNGE

TEN MILES, 30 OBSTACLES AND AN EXPERIENCE YOU WON'T FORGET!



WHEN

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022

WHERE

Presque Isle State Park

MAKE THIS THE YEAR YOU BEAT THE BEAST!



Update on Canonization Process

Monsignor Tom McSweeney, Postulator for the Cause for Gertrude Barber, outside the Vatican for a meeting at the Office for the Congregation of the Saints.



A meeting was recently held at the Vatican as the formal process continues concerning the possible canonization of the late Dr. Gertrude A. Barber as a saint in the Catholic Church.

In his role as Postulator for The Cause for Gertrude Barber, Monsignor Tom McSweeney met with representatives of the Office for the Congregation of the Saints, the department within

the Vatican which oversees the complex process of evaluating candidates for possible canonization.

As Postulator, Msgr. McSweeney, a retired priest in the Erie Diocese, is the point of contact for anyone wishing information or to provide testimony as part of the investigation. "We had a very productive meeting where I was able to gain a lot of information that will be helpful to guide us in the process, as well as formally present the credentials that support the opening of the Cause for Dr. Barber," said Msgr. McSweeney.



The Cause was officially opened when The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, Bishop of Erie, issued a decree on Dec. 12, 2019.

The first phase of the process, which involves the gathering of documentation and formal interviews with persons wishing to discuss their interactions with Dr. Barber during her lifetime, is currently underway. Anyone wishing to provide testimony is asked to contact Msgr. McSweeney at tmcsweeney@eriercd.org or call 814-878-5953. Information is also available at drbarber.org

The community is invited to a presentation on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street in Erie. Executive Vice President Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey and Postulator Monsignor Tom McSweeney will address "Gertrude Barber: Exploring her life and the journey to sainthood." The program is free of charge.



Art Show Awards Presented

Awards were presented during a small in-person gathering for winning artists in the 2022 Jay and Mona Kang Art Show. Pictured front row, from left, are sponsors Drs. Mona and Jay Kang; Sofia Masi, Best of Show, Youth Photography; Cynthia Lyons, Honorable Mention; Samantha Woods, Youth Honorable Mention; Cathy Ferraro, Honorable Mention; Judges Alison Stinely and Javian Morel; Nolan Elliott, Youth Honorable Mention; and Robert Barber, chief of staff at the Barber National Institute. Back row are Patrick Barber, vice president for treasury management; Chase Elliott, Best of Show, Youth; Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president; and Yeslian Vargas, Youth Honorable Mention. Not pictured are Brian C. Maloney, Best of Show; Jacque Caringola, Best of Show Photography; and Francis Demaske, Honorable Mention.

The show was presented virtually for the third year and featured works by more than 300 adult and youth artists from the tri-state region. For photos of the award-winning art, visit BarberInstitute.org/artshow

New Look Bringing New Opportunities

Major renovations now underway at the Bollinger campus of the Barber National Institute will soon mean more comfortable and accessible facilities for adults with disabilities and their families. The project is being funded by a capital campaign that is close to its \$1.2 million goal, thanks to support from donors throughout the region.

Updates will include improved lighting, painting and flooring, and additional windows in program areas. Construction will also create a conference room, a computer center and area to view multi-media, a multi-purpose room to enhance staff training, an ADA bathroom/changing area with ceiling track lifts to transfer clients, and an updated elevator that can be used for production and programming.



Program supervisor Kim Nowell, Vennie Hotchkiss, Mary Farnsworth and staff Bertha Neely display a drawing of a new handicap accessible entryway now under construction.

An entryway is also being renovated to add a handicap accessible ramp, automatic doors and a covered and heated walkway, as well as a parking area for easier drop off and pick up of program participants.

"All of these improvements that are being funded by our donors will truly help us better meet the needs of the individuals we now serve and to provide for any future individuals that may have more physical challenges," said Kim Nowell, program manager at the Bollinger campus. "In the past, it was difficult to accommodate these individuals, but now we will be able to serve more individuals with a wider range of challenges in Warren County. That's exciting news for us and for many families in the area." Renovations are expected to be completed by mid-September.

Thank You, Warren Gives

Donors came together for Warren Gives on May 18. With the pro-rated match from the Community Foundation of Warren, the Bollinger campus received \$8,110 to be used for the renovation project.



A New World Opens

Speech therapist Carly Stewart, left, and teacher Lisa Dushole work with Christopher Rose on using his new iPad to communicate.

Christopher Rose asked his teacher for a pair of scissors to complete an art project. Just a year ago, making this simple request wouldn't have been possible. But that was before Christopher learned to use a new communication device that his teacher and speech therapist say has opened up a whole new world for him.

In fact, the Touch Chat program for Christopher's new iPad has led to dramatic changes academically and socially for the 19-year-old. "It was clear that Christopher had a lot that he wanted to say, but had no real way to express himself," said speech therapist Carly Stewart. "Now, we see this whole personality that has emerged."

Christopher started at the Elizabeth Lee Black School in 2020 after moving from Ohio. Teachers realized that he had no functional communication, relying on gestures and sounds that were only recognizable by those closest to him.

Carly began introducing a variety of communication devices, and found that Christopher immediately took to the Touch Chat program for the iPad. The software could be fully customized with words and phrases Christopher would commonly use. Broad categories such as school, clothing, and days of the week are set up, and Christopher presses symbols or pictures within those categories to choose what he wants to convey.

Christopher enjoyed using the device during his weekly speech therapy sessions. "When he got his own iPad and I told him he could take it home he used the device to say 'That is sweet!'" remembers Carly.

Since then, teacher Lisa DuShole has seen Christopher use the device to initiate conversations with his classmates, talk about movies he has seen and even tell jokes. He is now also using the device to learn to sight-read words.

"He is so much happier in school, and learning so much every day," said Lisa. "He gets really excited when he figures out new words and forms sentences that he will clap for himself." On that, all of those working with Christopher agree – he really does deserve a round of applause.



Here's the Scoop!

You'll treat yourself and support the mission of the Barber National Institute at "Customer Appreciation Day" on Friday, July 15 at Connie's Ice Cream, 3150 West 32 St. WJET/Fox 66 meteorologists Tom DiVecchio, Tom Atkins and Craig Flint will be "celebrity scoopers" from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Special meal deals and raffles will be held, and a percentage of all sales from Friday, as well as Saturday and Sunday, July 16 & 17 will benefit the Barber National Institute. Don't be left out in the cold – enjoy the fun!



How about a Disney Vacation?

Win a Disney Vacation that includes a \$4,500 Disney gift card and \$500 spending cash (or \$4,500 cash). The raffle is sponsored by Barnhart Gives, with partial proceeds benefiting the Barber National Institute. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20, and available at the Barber National Institute or BarberInstitute.org/giving/Disney-affle. Winner will be drawn at the Barnhart Transportation Golf Tournament on July 24.



Show Your Barber Pride!

A wide selection shirts, hoodies, hats and other attire for the Barber National Institute and Barber Beast on the Bay are available in the Barber online stores. Shop BarberInstitute.org/store and BarberBeast.org/store any time!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY BENEFITING BARBER NATIONAL INSTITUTE

July 15 – July 17
Connie's Ice Cream



LEARN-TO-RIDE BIKE CAMP

July 6, 13, 20 & 27
Barber National Institute

ERIE GIVES

Aug. 9
ErieGives.org



BEAST ON THE BAY PACKET PICK UP

Sept. 7 & 8, 4 – 7 p.m.
Barber National Institute

BEAST ON THE BAY

Sept. 10
Presque Isle State Park
Beast on the Bay Adapted Course
Waldameer Park

GERTRUDE BARBER & THE CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD

Sept. 28, 7 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society

LADIES ONLY LUNCHEON

Nov. 19
Kahkwa Club

BARBER CHRISTMAS BALL

Dec. 10
Bayfront Convention Center

For more information about all events, visit BarberInstitute.org

A Search for Success

A year of hands-on learning and job skill building culminated for five students with their graduation from Project Search on May 24.

The program is a collaboration among five community partners: AHN Saint Vincent Hospital, the Barber National Institute, the Erie School District, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Erie County Dept. of Human Services to provide real-world training opportunities in preparation for employment.

Job coaches from the Barber Supported Employment Program assist students during in-class instruction on topics such as employment expectations and social skills, resume building and interview preparation, and financial literacy. The job coaches also support the students as they rotate through internships they select from among six departments at Saint Vincent Hospital.

Even though each student's experience might be different, job coach Joseph Marchini said they have all changed significantly by graduation time. "The biggest thing is the way each of them has gained so much confidence. They were all very unsure when they started in September about what they wanted to do and how they would fit in. It is amazing to see how much they have grown," said Marchini.

Three students already have job commitments, and two are exploring opportunities.

This marked the second year for the Project Search program, which last year saw seven graduates. Ten high school students are currently preparing to begin the program in Fall 2022.



Job coach Joe Marchini, left, congratulates Project Search graduates, from left, Morae Ford, Nacere Jackson, Amber Cherpak, Cassandra Adams and Zach Smith.

Graduate Mentors Student



Project Search alumni Javonta Montgomery, right, helps Zach Smith learn responsibilities at Saint Vincent Hospital. After completing Project Search, Zach was also hired at the hospital.

One of the highlights of the Project Search graduation is the opportunity that students have to present their own Star Mentor Award to a Saint Vincent staff who they think has helped and inspired them over the past year.

For Zach Smith, the choice was an easy one. He selected Javonta Montgomery, an employee in the Environmental Services Department who was hired by the hospital after participating in Project Search last year. "He helped me with my training when I started in ESD," said Zach. "He showed me all around the hospital, and taught me what to clean and how to clean it."

Zach learned well from Javonta's example. He is now also being hired by Saint Vincent Hospital to work in Environmental Services.

For Zach, the job is a great conclusion to what was a wonderful experience. "I liked the opportunity to get a lot of different job experiences," said Zach. "I liked meeting new people and learn from them in the jobs they were doing."

With a job, Zach now hopes to earn enough to live independently – and, like every teenager – to get his own car and driver's license. Good luck, Zach!



Shillelagh Tournament Honors Lifelong Advocate

Bob Will, second from right, was named the 2022 Shillelagh Person of the Year for his life's work on behalf of persons with disabilities. He is joined by his wife, Amy, and John and Bridget Barber at the awards presentation. Bob retired from his leadership position at the Barber National Institute in 2019, and now serves on the Board of Directors. He also served on many statewide committees that helped shape service delivery across Pennsylvania. Bob and his wife, Amy, a nurse also retired from the Barber National Institute, continue providing philanthropic support for the mission of the organization.

Play Ball!



Direct support professional Tomesha Howard, right, and Jill Dunda take in an afternoon Erie SeaWolves game. A group of adults attending Club Erie, a day program that offers choices of community experiences, attended the outing that included a picnic lunch at the ball park. Even though the home team didn't score a victory, the game was a hit with adults and staff.



Adults in the Philadelphia Supported Employment and Residential programs came together for an evening at a Philadelphia Phillies game. The outing was even more special for one of the individuals who was celebrating his birthday at the ballpark.

BARBER SPIRIT

Barber Spirit is a quarterly publication for friends of the
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Celebrating Our Graduates

"Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential." – Kerry Washington

For some, the journey here only lasted a year or two. For others, it was for much of their young lives. Regardless of the duration, we are thankful for the time we had with graduates and wished them well as they celebrated the successes they achieved at the Elizabeth Lee Black School and their plans for a bright future.

Eleven students completed the approved private school program and will move onto community employment or adult programs. Twenty-eight students in Erie and Corry also completed preschool programs and will be moving onto kindergarten.

Congratulations graduates and families!



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Erie, PA
Permit No. 355



Looking for a quality preschool for your child? Check out our Keystone Star 4-rated Happy Hearts Program and PreK Counts, full-day preschool free for qualifying families in Erie and Corry. Visit Barberinstitute.org/children/early-childhood or contact 814-878-4026 or kbastow@barberni.org.