

BARBER HONORS

2021-2022
DONOR REPORT



Dr. Gertrude A. Barber
Foundation



MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF **CHANGING TIMES**
HELPING TO MEET **CHANGING NEEDS**
WORKING TOGETHER **CHANGING LIVES**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Pivot. Shift. Modify. We've used so many words over the past three years to describe a simple yet universal phenomenon that has affected nearly every part of our lives: change.

What is important is not really the rapid, unexpected and even unprecedented changes that our world has recently experienced, but how well we adapt – and even flourish – amid those changes. And that is not always an easy feat.

We can think back to the vast array of services and opportunities that offered robust social interaction to our children, adults and families. Then, almost overnight, we were trying to find a way to maintain that interaction in a virtual world. We turned to technology to keep us connected and virtual events and activities to provide the means of expression and socialization so important to our wellbeing.

Now, as we imagine what may be a different but hopefully better world, we are so grateful to have the support of donors and friends who continue to be committed to our mission, and employees who are, above all else, dedicated to ensuring the best lives possible for our children, adults and families. Having seen this dedication and generosity of spirit, I am sure ours is an organization ready to view challenges as opportunities, and respond to need with innovation and enthusiasm.

Our donors – those generous individuals and businesses we are so honored to recognize in these pages – are making a difference in so many ways every day. We see some of those differences in the story of a boy who once needed assistive devices finally walk across the stage at his preschool graduation. And a young man, one of many adults, who was hired this year in a job he loves.

Every day, though, there are countless little victories in our classrooms, our day programs, group homes and in the homes of our families that are made possible because you, our donors, believe in our mission. You know how vital it is that organizations such as the Barber National Institute are here to ensure that the most vulnerable among us have the hope and opportunity they need to live the most enriching lives possible.

So yes, we embrace the most important change there is: **changing lives.** Thank you for helping make those dreams come true.



John J. Barber
President & Chief Executive Officer

On the cover:

*Catching bubbles is fun for paraeducator
Alyssa Ritchey and student Lilyanna Dickson.*



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Why We Give...

The Barber National Institute took great care of my aunt for decades, allowing her independence and voice. She was able to enjoy laughter and know she was loved.

Swimming Lessons Lead to Quest for Gold

For Janine Calabrese, swimming is more than a leisurely pastime. Her mother, Marcia Calabrese, calls it a passion – one that began more than two decades ago in the Barber National Institute pool.

Janine began swimming lessons at the community pool when she was four years old, and took to the water immediately. It helped that the pool floor could be raised for Janine and other youngsters as they learned to swim. “There’s no other pool like it around here,” said Marcia. “It is good for everyone, and welcoming to everyone.”

Janine’s love for swimming led her to the Special Olympics, where she earned medals in area and state competitions. In 2015 that drive helped Janine become the first female athlete from Erie to participate in the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, CA, where she won gold and bronze medals in the 100- and 200-meter backstroke events for team USA.

For her achievements, Janine was inducted into the Erie Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame in 2017.

Out of the pool, Janine has been working at a local Country Fair store for the past 13 years, a position she located through the Barber National Institute Supported Employment program.

But no matter how busy she is, Janine still makes it a point to swim several times every week. “If it wasn’t for the Barber National Institute pool, we never would have known about Janine’s passion for swimming,” said Marcia.

Scan the QR code for a video of Janine’s story.



Since opening in the 1970s, thousands of area children have learned to swim at the Barber National Institute Pool. This vital community resource is now in need of updates and plans are underway for a \$3 million renovation project. To donate in support of this project, visit BarberInstitute.org/give.



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Making Holidays Bright

Mary Jane (Jenny) Borrero, Diane Carpenter, Staff Morgan Hilliard and Judith Goldstein enjoy the return of the holiday party.

If good things come to those who wait, it's no wonder the 2022 holiday party for adults with disabilities was amazing!

The annual Christmas tradition had been interrupted for three years due to pandemic restrictions. Staff in Intellectual Disabilities Services organized virtual get-togethers with holiday activities and entertainment presented online, but it was not the same as gathering with friends. When the in-person event was finally able to return on Dec. 11 at the Bayfront Convention Center, adults and staff were happy to celebrate.

"This is an event that is open to adults with disabilities from across the Erie community, and really provides an opportunity to see old friends and make new friends," said Carrie Kontis, chief officer for IDS.

More than 330 adults attended the party, which was held the day after the Christmas Ball and utilized the elaborate decorations created for that event. Adults enjoyed dancing and refreshments and beverages selected to meet a cross section of dietary requirements.

Thanks to donors to the Barber Foundation who provided partial funding to cover costs for the event.

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Gifts received July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.



KeyBank Grant Funds Employment Initiative

Corky Fry, right, owner of Warren Tire, recently hired Andy Whitely through the Supported Employment Program at the Bollinger Campus of the Barber National Institute.

Corky Fry, owner of Warren Tire Center, was having a hard time finding the right employee to fill a part-time position. Then, he heard a radio ad about the Supported Employment program offered by the Bollinger campus of the Barber National Institute in Warren. He made a phone call that soon helped him find a dedicated employee for his business, and led to a great job for a young man looking for community employment.

That radio advertisement was part of a multi-layered initiative to promote employment for persons with disabilities in the Warren

region funded by a \$25,000 grant from KeyBank. “KeyBank’s purpose is to help the communities we serve thrive,” said Dwayne Finney, market president. “We are proud to be part of the Warren community and the many relationships we have built here.”

The grant provided new technology including five iPads used for skills assessments, resume development and online job searches; computer software to help adults learn interview and communication skills important for employment, and a large portable electronic screen used in group instruction. Funds were also included for staff development, including employee certification in supported employment.

In addition to the radio ad campaign, the grant funded a billboard, brochures and videos to help build community awareness about how supported employment can benefit both adults with disabilities and employers looking for loyal, dedicated staff.

KeyBank believed that the initiative reflected the company’s values. “Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to KeyBank’s culture,” said Finney. “Grants from the KeyBank Foundation are one way that we support organizations like the Barber National Institute that are committed to preparing individuals for thriving futures through workforce development.”

Fry knew about the Supported Employment program, but said that the radio ad provided the reminder that he needed. He said that the job coaches made the hiring and training process very easy, and that his new assistant, Andy Whitely, is a real asset to his business. Andy moves tires, provides complimentary car washes for customers – just about anything that comes up around the shop. “He loves cars, and so this was a great fit,” said Fry. “If Andy watches something once, he jumps in and does the job. He is a great addition to our business.”

Other businesses can find great employees through the Supported Employment Program. In Warren, call 814-723-8431; in Erie, 814-455-5961; in Pittsburgh and Central PA, 412-220-6030; and in Philadelphia, 215-871-0731.

“Giving Back” to Communities

Giving means “giving back” for adults in Barber National Institute Community Participation Supports programs across Pennsylvania. And dozens of organizations are grateful for that. Amy Murphy, right, and direct support professional Casey Pelinsky, were among a group from the Club Erie program to be recognized by St. Martin’s Center in Erie. The adults have been volunteering at the organization’s food pantry, helping box up non-perishable food items and distributing to persons in need. Pantry staff said, “These amazing volunteers are building friendships with our staff and other volunteers. We are grateful for their service to our mission.” Each month, adults contribute more than 400 hours of volunteer help to groups and causes around all Barber National Institute locations.





Lincoln Elliott, right, achieved an important goal to independently walk across the stage at graduation.

A Big Step Toward Independence

When Lincoln Elliott walked across the stage at graduation, his family and teachers were celebrating more than just his getting a diploma. The event was the culmination of four years of intensive therapies that finally led to this moment when he could walk all on his own.

Lincoln entered preschool in the Elizabeth Lee Black School in 2018 relying on a supportive walker to maneuver through halls and his classroom. Because of neurodevelopmental delays, he received two hours of physical and occupational therapies each week to improve balance and muscle tone, as well as speech therapy to promote communication. Even when his therapy was interrupted by surgery to his foot, Lincoln bounced back quickly to continue making progress.

Lincoln, like many students in the Elizabeth Lee Black School, benefited from therapeutic equipment and technology funded by donors to the Barber National Institute. In his few short years at our school, he moved from a picture exchange system to communicate with a more complex electronic device, and quickly mastered an iPad. “With all of the technology, Lincoln really figured out a lot of it on his own,” said his teacher, Joy Maisner. “He is a really quick learner, and often taught me a thing or two when it came to technology.”

Lincoln, age 7, now attends kindergarten in his home school district, where he spends half of the day in an autistic support room and the other half in a typical classroom. That walk to graduation was an important step to a brighter future.



Lincoln Elliot, second from left, celebrates graduation with his mother, Courtney, sister Molly, brother Nolan and father Chris.

“He is a really quick learner, and often taught me a thing or two when it came to technology.”

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Happy Hearts Preschool students Jocelyn Richardson and Brice Owens join Executive Vice President Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey in accepting a \$10,000 donation from United Concordia sales associate Oliver Hansen. The donation was made through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program to help fund preschool scholarships for qualifying families.

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My youngest brother attended the Barber Center from a very young age (he was diagnosed as "failure to thrive" and with Cerebral Palsy). We thank The Barber National Institute for their intervention at every stage of his journey. His life was definitely more fulfilled because of your assistance. Thank you very much.

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A donation to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program is a commitment to the future. Businesses participating in the EITC Program funded scholarships for children to attend quality preschool programs, as well as provided technology and adaptive equipment for students in our school.

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



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Dr. Thomas Hunter

In Honor of Alexander Johnson's 16th Birthday

Ms. Dawn Johnson

In Honor of Bea and Tom Kaminsky

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Weiler

In Honor of Doug and Patti Kenehan's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ms. Kathleen McCall

In Honor of John Martin

Dr. Sharon Martin Coursey and Mr. Peter Coursey

In Honor of Judy Mioduszewski

Atty. Mark Mioduszewski

In Honor of Will Morgan

Mr. Steve Belsterling

In Honor of the O'Hare and McMahon Families

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Ms. Elise Michaelson

In Honor of the Employees and Recipients of the Barber National Institute Services

Mr. and Mrs. Franco Camillo

In Honor of Andrew Syrek

Society of Holy Trinity

In Honor of Lisa Syrek

Dr. Jo Ann Holtz and Mr. William Holtz

In Honor of Beth Reske White

Mr. and Mrs. William Sinclair

In Honor of Bob Will

Mrs. Martha Hilbert

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Johnson

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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

2021-2022 GIFTS

Barber National Institute Building 99

Community Foundation Of Warren County

Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center Employee Service Fund

Erie Community Foundation

Friends of Pat Harkins

Holy Rosary Cub Scout Pack 40

IBEW Local 56

Knights of Columbus Corry Council #425

McDowell High School National Honor Society

Polish Falcons Nest 123

Pulaski Club

Slovak National Club

Society of Holy Trinity

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Community Foundation of Warren County

The J&R Barrett Memorial Trust

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The Erie Community Foundation

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The Golubieski Family Foundation Fund

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The Bruce and K.D. Raimy Fund

The Scibetta Family Fund

The Louise K. Wells Fund

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Anonymous

The Kurytnak Family Gift Trust

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2021-2022 DONORS

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Rev. Leo Gallina
Ms. Jenifer Gross
Ms. Marcia Osborne
Mr. Alec Tuckey
Mr. George Wilson and Mrs. Debbie Burbules



LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

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.

To learn more about becoming a member of the Legacy Society or planned giving options, call Laura Schaaf, director of giving, at (814) 874-5802.



Ms. Natalie Allen *	Ms. Eleanor Schuetz Jones *
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Sponsors Make an Impact

The Barber National Institute holds five major events every year, ranging from athletics to arts, luncheons to dances. The common element that makes them successful? Our sponsors.

Through sponsorship, generous businesses and individuals provide support for the events and, ultimately, the mission of the Barber National Institute. It is supporting that mission that is appealing to sponsors.

“The Barber National Institute gives so much back to our community,” said John Bloomstine, president of Insurance Management Company. “The organization has a mission that is very inspirational, it provides quality services and has really set a benchmark for what a non-profit should be.”



Tim and Lisa Necastro along with Colleen and John Bloomstine attend the Barber Ball.



Lisa Slomski reads to PreK Counts students at the Barber National Institute.

Supporting that sense of community is a common goal among sponsors. “F.N.B. Corporation (FNB) is committed to supporting the causes and organizations that matter to our employees, our customers and our communities,” said Lisa Slomski, senior vice president, regional manager. “Doing the right thing for our customers starts with making our communities even better places to live and work – and the best way to do that is to get involved.”

Sponsorships are structured to offer varying levels of financial support and opportunities for visibility at events. The focus of a particular event might be what resonates with a sponsor.

“The Barber National Institute has a tremendous ability to create ways for people with special needs to continue to learn important skills and enjoy life to the fullest. I have seen this firsthand at the Beast on the Bay, which is one of the reasons why I sponsor,” said Kyle Strayer, president and CEO of Erie Strayer Company. “Year after year, I’ve seen the beautiful smiles from participants and their families after they’ve completed the adaptive course and raced toward the finish line. The joy, the cheering and the camaraderie are extremely inspirational to witness.”

While Insurance Management provided sponsorship for three events in 2022, the Christmas Ball is Bloomstine's favorite. "I like that such a diverse group of people attend. For me, it is the kick-off of the Christmas season," said Bloomstine.

Slomski said that every event she has participated in has been an enjoyable experience, and that sponsorships are just a great way to get involved. "Event sponsorships enable us to not only pledge financial support for an organization, but they also allow us to connect with people through volunteerism and witness firsthand the impact that these events can have."

For Strayer, being a sponsor is integral to a business' role in its community. "I believe that business owners have an obligation to give back to their communities and the Barber National Institute is a great place to start," he said. "We all directly or indirectly have friends and family affected by mental, physical or intellectual disabilities and we need to provide support to our local organizations that have a proven track record for enriching the lives of our loved ones in Erie."

Becoming a sponsor is a win-win for a business that will become part of a well-run event while making a real difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. To learn more, visit BarberInstitute.org/sponsorships or contact Laura Schaaf, director of giving, at lschaaf@barberni.org or 814-874-5802.



Erie Strayer Company President and CEO Kyle Strayer, second row, second from right, gathers with members of his team, Amy's Army, just before heading out for the 2019 Barber Beast on the Bay.

Mark Your Calendar for Our 2023 Events



Jay & Mona Kang Art Show & Sale New Hybrid Event:

Donor Debut & Artist Reception Thursday, April 13
In-Person Art Show Friday, April 13 – Monday, April 15
Online Show April 14 – April 27

Shillelagh Golf Tournament
Thursday, June 15
Whispering Woods Golf Course



Barber Beast on the Bay

Saturday, Sept. 9
Presque Isle State Park/Waldameer Park

Ladies Only Luncheon
Saturday, Nov. 18
Kahkwa Club



Barber Christmas Ball
Saturday, Dec. 9
Bayfront Convention Center

For more information about all events, visit BarberInstitute.org/events



At the award ceremony are, from left Bridget Barber, vice president for External Affairs at the Barber National Institute; David Schumacher, president of the Association of Fundraising Professionals; Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president; Jay, Jared, Genelia and Mona Kang; and John Barber, president and chief executive officer.

Celebrating the Giving Spirit

An Erie family and a locally founded organization were both nominated by the Barber National Institute for awards recognizing their dedication to philanthropy and volunteerism.

Doctors Jay and Mona Kang and their children, Genelia and Jared, were named the Outstanding Philanthropists of the Year and Logistics Plus received the award for Outstanding Philanthropic Organization from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

As dedicated patrons of the arts, Jay and Mona Kang have been the primary sponsors for the Barber National Institute Art Show since 2016. Their support has helped keep the show open to adult and youth artists from the region, including artists with disabilities and students from underserved areas.

As the couple serve as role models of philanthropy for the community, they also teach their children about the importance of “giving back” as a family, and in finding their own causes to support. This led Genelia, age 13, to coordinate a fundraising effort that netted \$5,000 for medical supplies for areas of India particularly hard hit by Covid 19. Genelia donated a \$350 prize won in a computer science competition to help fund the cause.

For his part, Jared, age 9, holds a neighborhood lemonade stand with a group of friends and donates the proceeds to the Barber National Institute.

Since Logistics Plus was founded by owner Jim Berlin in 1996, the company has played an active role supporting causes and non-profits in the Erie community and beyond.

With recent international events, Logistics Plus initiated relief efforts with local Ukrainian support groups and churches and donated \$500,000 to launch an online fundraising campaign.

Closer to home, Logistics Plus has been a major donor to Barber Beast on the Bay and many other community events and organizations.

“We are grateful to have generous individuals such as the Kang Family and businesses such as Logistics Plus to not only support our mission, but also make our community and world better places to live,” said Laura Schaaf, director of giving at the Barber National Institute.



Pictured from left are Laura Schaaf, director of giving at the Barber National Institute; David Schumacher, president of the Association of Fundraising Professionals; Yuriy Ostapyak, chief operating officer of Logistics Plus; and John Barber, president and chief executive officer of the Barber National Institute.

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & MATCHING

2021-2022 DONORS

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*Gifts received July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report.*

In the list of donors for Erie Gives 2022, a donation in memory of Francis Patrick Visbal was made by Mr. and Mrs. Gene Natale Sr.





Thanks, Toyota of Erie!

Bob Barber, left, chief of staff at the Barber National Institute, accepted a \$25,000 donation from Toyota of Erie presented by Joshua Bakuhn, general manager of the dealership. The generous gift will help to fund the renovation of our multi-use pool to ensure that this resource will continue serving our community for generations to come.

BARBER NATIONAL INSTITUTE LOCATIONS

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

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

By Mail



Return the enclosed donation envelope or send a check made to the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation to:
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation
100 Barber Place | Erie, PA 16507

Online



Visit BarberInstitute.org/giving All major credit cards accepted; printable form is also available.

By Phone



Make a gift by calling
(814) 874-5802.

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