

B A R B E R

SUMMER 2023

SPiRiT

WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT THE BEAST

**10 YEARS OF FUN
& FRIENDSHIP**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Most of us can still remember that feeling we had rushing through the doors on the final day of school, eager to begin our summer vacation. I recall that sense of joy when I see the children and adults in our summer camps. The excitement they show as they go out for field trips and other fun activities is a contagious delight that brightens the day for all of us.

We see a different kind of happiness in the bike camp that is now underway on our campus. There is nothing like the look of pride on the faces of children and young adults, many of whom have struggled for years to ride a bike, to finally feel the thrill of riding independently. This accomplishment is made possible by our donors who completely fund bike camp, making it free of charge for our campers and families.

While summer is a time of rest and relaxation, we are preparing to undertake one of our largest projects in many years. Our pool renovation will soon get underway, promising many needed updates to make our pool and locker rooms even better for our students and adults, as well as the thousands of community members who use this multi-use facility every year. There are many ways to support this project, including with a gift to Erie Gives on Aug. 8.

This issue celebrates the ten-year anniversary of Barber Beast on the Bay, an event that has become a major fundraiser and friend-raiser for our organization. While the 10-mile obstacle challenge literally draws participants from across the country, it is the adapted course that is at the heart of the event and a celebration of our mission. We invite you to become involved – either as a participant or volunteer – or to come and check out the fun on Sept. 9.

I hope that this summer brings you many opportunities to reconnect with family and friends and time for renewal. On behalf of those children, adults and families we are privileged to serve, thank you for your friendship and support that is truly *making dreams come true*.

Sincerely,



John J. Barber
President & Chief Executive Officer



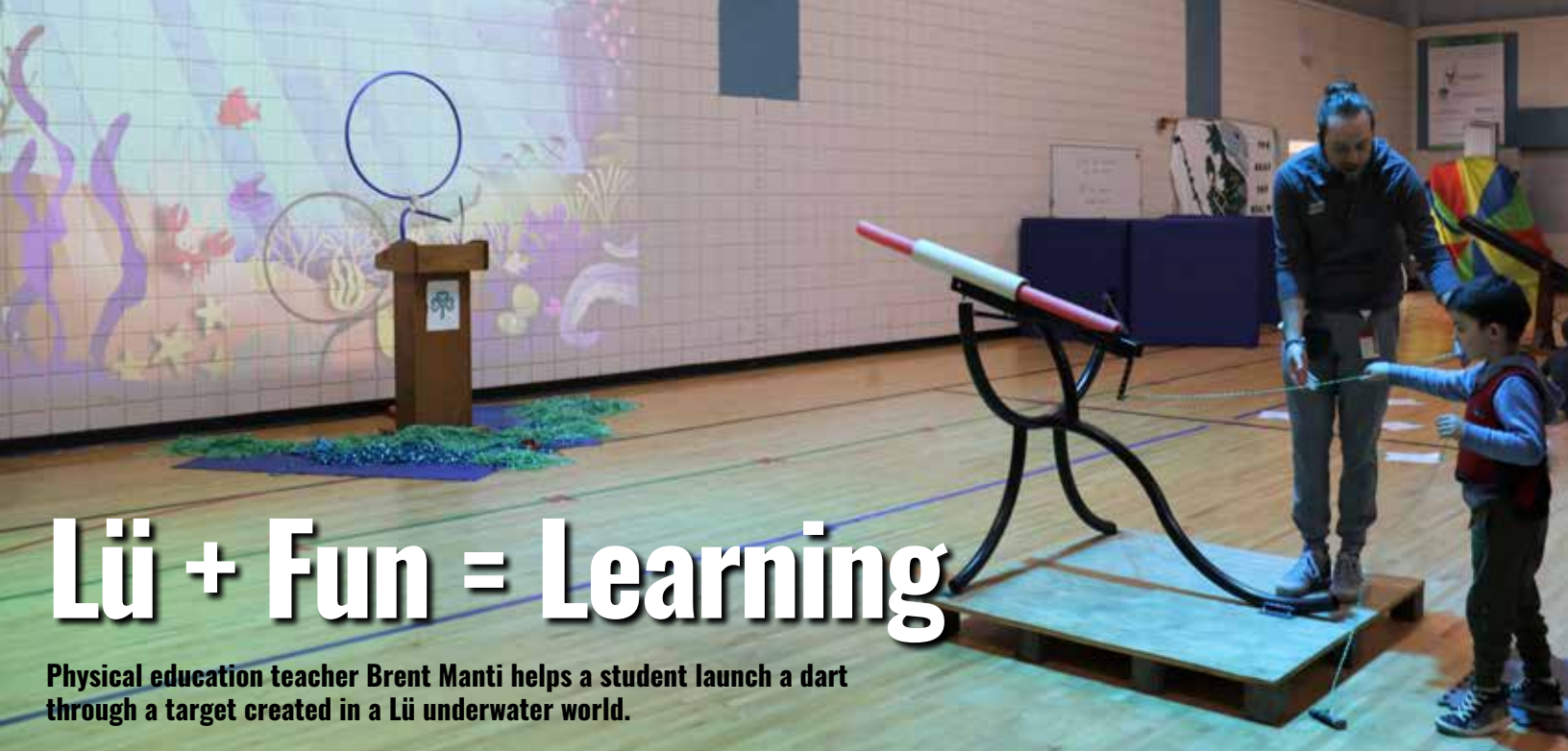
ON THE COVER

The Beast welcomes Mathew Serafin to the adapted course.



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.



Lü + Fun = Learning

Physical education teacher Brent Manti helps a student launch a dart through a target created in a Lü underwater world.

One by one, students line up to kick a soccer ball but they aren't facing any ordinary goalie.

This is a larger-than-life robot projected onto the gym wall in amazing detail. Scores and misses are accompanied by sound effects and graphics that delight children almost as much as the game itself.

The game is one of hundreds of recreational and educational apps that are part of Lü, a new interactive playground that transforms a traditional school environment into an immersive and interactive space.

In April, the Elizabeth Lee Black School became the first school in the region to install the system that provides a host of interactive activities designed to develop the whole child.

"The Lü system makes learning an immersive experience in ways I never could have predicted," said physical education teacher Brent Manti. "It can be customized in so many ways, depending on the students and what they are learning."

The system includes a sensor unit mounted on the ceiling that projects 12-foot images on the wall and controls light and sounds, and a wall-mounted computer that enables users to choose from the apps as well as upload photos and access websites or YouTube videos.

Manti begins many of the classes by asking children to describe their moods and feelings as they enter the gym. Students touch words such as happy, calm or anxious that are projected on the wall. The system tallies the responses and projects the totals for the class.

"This is a way to give the students some control over what they are feeling when they are entering a new situation," said Manti.

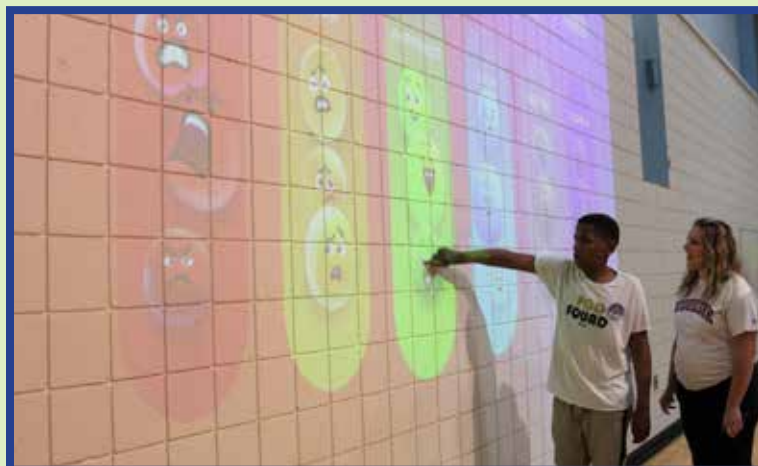
In addition to the long list of options that Manti uses for gym and fitness classes, the Lü also has a menu of interactive activities to teach lessons in identifying colors, animals and words, and solving math and science problems.

All can be tailored for the age and abilities of the students. Preschoolers love throwing balls to hit bricks in a wall. When they hit strategically placed bricks, the wall crumbles. Older students love matching words to objects that are placed within an interesting setting, such as a jungle or underwater sea.

Once a week, Manti also uses the Lü for yoga classes and relaxation exercises for faculty.

"We just had this system installed in April, and we are all excited to explore all of the things that it can do," said Manti.

The Lü was made possible through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Grant.



Student Derean Lomax uses the Lü to tell teaching assistant Shaina Marini that he is feeling happy today.



Overcoming Obstacles and Having a Great Time

After completing the adapted course, Mathew Serafin, left, crosses the finish line with family and friends in the Miles for Mathew team.

When the idea for an obstacle course challenge was first proposed more than 10 years ago, there was one certainty. Any event would include a challenge for persons with disabilities.

And so the Barber Beast on the Bay adapted course was born, providing a mile-long experience integrating obstacles that could be adjusted for adults and adolescents with intellectual and physical disabilities. The adapted course is so tied to the 10-mile challenge that participants both cross the same finish line together to be awarded the same medal for their achievements.

This shared ending is the best part of the event for Kim Serafin and her son, Mathew. While Kim and her team of family and friends are out on the 10-mile course, Mathew is completing the adapted event. "One of his favorite parts is coming through the finish line with his family," said Kim. "He loves getting a medal at the end and all the cheering for him. The event makes him feel included."

Physical and occupational therapists, teachers and direct care staff from the Barber National Institute have worked with a team of builders to develop obstacles that are fun and can be adapted for every participant, whether they are ambulatory, using walkers or wheelchairs, or experiencing other disabilities.

"Mathew drives a power wheelchair and has a lot of physical limitations, but with the help of the volunteers and adaptations to the obstacles, he is able to do the event," said Kim. "There is such a wide variety of obstacles making it very fun and interactive for him."

While obstacles change slightly every year, they generally involve activities such as rolling a variety of different sized balls through a tube, turning a wheel to raise a flag on a boat, and using pulleys to raise and lower buckets of sand.

For 25-year-old Erik Groshek, the event is "the highlight of his year," according to his mother, Karen Groshek. "It is a day that we see his 'abilities' instead of his disabilities," she said.



Erik Groshek proudly shows his medal to staff Randy Schlegel, left, and his father, Steve Groshek.

The adapted course has become a family outing that Hope Martinson and her husband Tom Jost enjoy with their son Aidan, age 20, and Addie, age 15, who both have autism.

“We have been participating for the last two years and look forward to it every summer,” said Hope. “The obstacles are creative, fun and challenging, and designed to be accessible to people of all abilities. The staff and volunteers at each obstacle are always so helpful and encouraging; it is so heartwarming to see them cheering our kids on!”

Kim also values the spirit of inclusion in the adapted course. “Mathew loves to be active and be a part of his community,” said Kim. “The event makes Mathew and our family feel very supported.”

Before Barber Beast on the Bay, the idea that individuals with intellectual and physical



Aidan and Addie Jost pull up buckets of sand in one of the obstacles on the adapted course.

disabilities could conquer an obstacle course challenge — and have a good time — hadn’t ever been considered. Now, it has become an annual celebration of what can be possible.



Celebrating 10 Years

It’s been a decade of climbing, crawling, pushing and yes, a whole lot of sand. And it’s also been 10 years of unparalleled camaraderie, proud achievements and unforgettable experiences.

That’s what makes the 10th annual Barber Beast on the Bay such a can’t-miss event on Saturday, Sept. 9. This anniversary will be a special celebration with a commemorative medal, participant shirt and many other surprises in store to mark the milestone.

We’re also planning an awesome party all day long near the finish line at Waldameer, with the Chameleon and Atacolypse Food Trucks and Smiley’s Ice Cream.



Here’s how to get involved:

- Sign up now for the 10-mile event; participants must be registered by Aug. 1 to be guaranteed a t-shirt and medal.
- Individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities can sign up for the adapted course.
- Many volunteers are needed. You can choose your shift and location, and you’ll receive a volunteer shirt.
- Businesses have many sponsorship opportunities at varying levels. This is a great way to support a great cause.



Ready? Just go to BarberBeast.org to become part of this anniversary event and support the mission of the Barber National Institute!



Jim Hellyer, pictured to the left of the Beast, gets ready for the 10-mile course with members of his team, Stampeding Turtles.

Jim Hellyer had participated twice in Barber Beast on the Bay and was already signed up for his third event when he found out he was facing one of the biggest challenges of his life.

But even cancer was not going to stop him.

The 69-year-old General Electric retiree had always been athletic. When he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in 2018, he started walking and eating better to help control his disease. After trying a few 5k races, his sister and niece convinced him to try the Beast.

"It was a lot of fun but I realized I wasn't ready for all of the running on the sand," said Jim. But right after finishing, he signed up for the 2019 event and decided to get better prepared. He focused on diet and training, including running in the sand. "I'm not saying it was easy, but it was a lot easier that year," said Jim.

In 2020, he had just finished his first half-marathon and felt like he was in the best shape of his life when he suddenly became jaundiced. Testing showed that he had B-cell lymphoma, a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma that originates in the body's immune system cells. "It was a shock," said Jim. "I had just told my wife that I hadn't felt this good since high school."

Chemotherapy began in September 2020, and involved six week-long infusions that were administered during an inpatient stay. Jim was admitted on a Monday morning and released on Friday afternoon.

To alleviate the boredom, and to try and maintain some of his fitness, Jim began walking the halls on the eighth floor of AHN Saint Vincent Hospital. By the third treatment he noticed he was tolerating the chemotherapy a little better. He wore a fitness watch to monitor his vital

signs and track his progress. By the time his last chemo treatment was completed in January, he had tracked more than 60 miles in the hospital.

"I've never been one to sit still, and I think that the walking really helped," said Jim.

The 2021 Beast was just eight months away at this point, but Jim wanted to try it. While he said he was "a little apprehensive," he knew he had a team of supportive friends and family and could take it at his own pace.

"I was a little slower, but we got it done," said Jim.

The Beast was a big motivator as Jim focused on strength training to build back some of the strength and muscle mass he lost. The 2022 event felt much better and he's now looking forward to this year.

He plans to keep participating until he reaches his ultimate goal. "I want to be the oldest person to ever do the Beast," Jim laughs.

Jim also takes pride in the way his team has grown, from the original six members to 18 already signed up for 2023. Family and friends, and even people he doesn't know, have asked to join their team. "I've made a lot of new friends by doing the Beast," said Jim. "It is such a great event, and it is for such a worthy cause."

Jim's motto has always been *"Never give up, never give in. You can't let the small stuff stop you."* For him, even cancer was 'small stuff' that would not get in his way.

"You have to forge through. It will make you feel better if you try. Challenge yourself. We all need to do that."

Good advice for the Beast – and for life.

Graduation Celebrations

Applause, cheers and even a few tears. As the 2022-23 school year came to a close, we bid a bittersweet farewell to our graduates.

Students in Happy Hearts, Pre-K Counts, and the Elizabeth Lee Black School Approved Private School Program concluded their educational journey here with two graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 5.

The ceremonies – held in the Barber National Institute gymnasium for the first time since 2019 – were attended by proud families, faculty and peers.

In the early afternoon, 26 preschoolers graduating from Happy Hearts Child Care and the Pre-K Counts Program walked across the stage, taking their first steps into the next phase of their education.

The day ended with a ceremony for eight graduates who have been part of our Approved Private School Program for many years. Over that time, we have seen them grow, learn, and achieve their dreams.

“Be proud of what you’ve accomplished,” said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president. “We are truly inspired, and we are proud of you. Please know that you will always be part of the Barber National Institute family.”



Mini Beast, Mighty Fun

The Mini Beast returned in a big way to the Elizabeth Lee Black School this spring, offering students the chance to take on more obstacles than ever before. The architect behind the obstacle course challenge, physical education teacher Brent Manti, designed 30 unique challenges to be adaptable for all ages and abilities with one goal in mind – having fun! Once students completed the course, located in the gymnasium, they were awarded a shiny new medal to commemorate their achievement.





Search Leads to New Experiences

Representatives from all Project Search partner organizations were on hand to congratulate graduates in May.

Students in Project Search learned a lot of practical lessons about stocking supplies, cleaning waiting rooms and preparing nutritious meals during their nine-month internships at AHN Saint Vincent Hospital. But it was another lesson that hospital president Dr. Christopher Clark really wanted the graduates to take with them.

"I hope that you learned about the importance of service to others. Wherever your career takes you, I hope that you will find a way to carry that lesson forth," said Dr. Clark.

The remarks were part of graduation ceremonies held for nine high school seniors who participated in the innovative collaboration among 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. The program provides real-world training opportunities in preparation for community employment.

Since September, students have been able to choose internships in three of 16 departments at AHN Saint Vincent, including the emergency department, pharmacy, nutritional and environmental services and radiology.

While hospital staff spend part of the day working with students in the various departments, 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.

By graduation in May, four students had already been hired for permanent positions at the hospital, and others had ideas about where they would like to pursue a job search.

During graduation, each student is asked to recognize one hospital staff member who made the greatest impact on their training experience.

"Seeing the relationships that the students have developed and the ways that they have been motivated and inspired is really moving," said Carrie Kontis, chief officer of Intellectual Disabilities & Autism Day Services. "In the three years that we have been involved with Project Search we have really seen the profound impact that this program has on the future of young people."



Family Thanked for Support

Drs. Jay and Mona Kang, right, have been dedicated patrons of the arts – including the art show at the Barber National Institute – along with their children, Genelia and Jared (not pictured). The couple has served as the naming sponsor of the Jay & Mona Kang Art Show and Sale for the past seven years, helping ensure that the event has been a forum for youth and adult artists and arts appreciators across the region. Patrick Barber, senior vice president, left, and Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president, presented the couple with artwork created by an adult at the Barber National Institute arts program as an expression of appreciation of their support. More information about the art show, including photos of this year's winning artwork, is available at BarberInstitute.org/artshow.



Celebrating Seuss

We had crazy socks and funny hair – and cats in hats everywhere! Our students and faculty had a lot of fun observing Read Across America Week that marks the birthday of Theodor Geisel, beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Lisa Slomski, senior vice president, regional manager of First National Bank (FNB), was among the nearly 30 guest readers from the community who came in to share their favorite books with our students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ERIE GIVES

Aug. 8 at ErieGives.org

BARBER BEAST ON THE BAY

Sept. 6 & 7 – **Packet Pick Up**, Barber National Institute north lobby

Sept. 9 & 10 – **Mile Obstacle Challenge**, Presque Isle State Park
Adapted Course, Waldameer Park & Water World

FOUNDER'S DAY

Sept. 22

LADIES ONLY LUNCHEON

Nov. 18, Kahkwa Club

BARBER CHRISTMAS BALL

Dec. 9, Bayfront Convention Center

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec. 10, Bayfront Convention Center

For more information about all events, visit BarberInstitute.org



A Welcome for Everyone

Andrew Heidt, certified behavior analyst at the Barber National Institute, held a training session about autism for staff at the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury Woods. The organization works to make sure that its facilities and programs are welcoming for everyone.

Thousands of summer campers and school students come to the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury Woods every year to learn about the wonders of nature, and an increasing number of those children have autism. To ensure that these youngsters, as well as adults on the autism spectrum, have the best experience possible, Asbury Woods staff recently participated in a training provided by the Barber National Institute.

"It was really informative for our staff," said Sarah Bennett, director of Education and Community Programs. "We got a lot of new information, and also received answers to questions about situations that we commonly have."

The session, led by certified behavior analyst Andrew Heidt, covered basic information about autism, strategies for responding to common needs and behaviors, and ways to best structure recreational and educational activities.

Staff at the Erie Zoo and the Erie Art Museum also completed similar training sessions.

"We think it is wonderful that organizations in our community are so accepting of persons with autism and other intellectual disabilities and their families," said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute. "We are really happy to partner with these organizations so that children and adults with autism can be included in every aspect of what makes our area so welcoming."

Sarah said the training was a good reminder that no two people with autism are the same, and that staff put one piece of advice into action immediately. "Andrew suggested that we contact parents before camp to talk about what works best for their children," said Sarah. "He said parents would welcome this, and it's been true." Parents have talked about the best ways to communicate with their child, how to recognize if the child starts feeling overwhelmed and how to help. The result has been a better camp experience for everyone.

"It was great working with the Barber National Institute, and we are very appreciative," said Sarah.



Direct Care Staff Excel

Congratulating Jenifer Denial, third from left, on her national DSP certification are, from left, Tamara Reese, associate director, IDS day programs; Heidi McKenrick, director, IDS Day Programs; Lori Johnson, associate director, Education and Training; and Jay Rozelle, Operation Specialist at Iroquois CPS.

When she was younger, Jenifer Denial always knew she wanted to help others. That's why her job as a direct support professional (DSP) in a community participation support program seemed like a perfect fit. And when the opportunity arose for her to make even more of a difference, she jumped at the chance.

In spring 2023, Jenifer became the first DSP at the Barber National Institute to successfully complete all three levels of a national certification from the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

Jenifer has been a direct care staff at the Barber National Institute for more than 18 years and wanted to become certified to provide even better care for the adults she works for.

"Some of the adults think of me as family," she said. "They make me a better person and I want to give back and do better for them."

To achieve this level of certification, Jenifer underwent 100 hours of online training that covered a wide range of topics, such as crisis management, health and wellness, and person-centered strategies. She then had to write reflections on how she would incorporate what she would learn in her work.

"I learned a lot," she said. "You think that just because you have been here a long time you know a lot, but there are still so many things to learn."

Jenifer began the training in January and was extremely focused on finishing the program. One of the main driving factors for her was to complete the training to make her children proud.

"Any chance that I got to do the trainings, I would take it," she said. "I felt that the Barber National Institute was putting its faith in me, and I wanted to make sure that I met this commitment."

After months of hard work, Jenifer completed all three levels of certification and was recognized during a small ceremony at the Barber National Institute.

Now, more than 90 direct care staff have been accepted into the certification program from Barber National Institute day and residential programs across Pennsylvania. The following staff have also recently completed all three levels of national certification: Harold Bentley of Erie; Rebecca Miller, Judy Segeleon and Rebecca Klanchar of Pittsburgh; Tara Nelson of the Bollinger Campus; and Cheri Johnson of Bedford.

The training is funded by a one-time grant from the PA Office of Developmental Programs (ODP).



Educational Opportunities

Bright Beginning Early Intervention (birth-age 3)
The Elizabeth Lee Black School
(Approved Private School)
Happy Hearts Preschool & Child Care
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program
PreK Counts Preschool
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

Agency with Choice
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

Information at BarberInstitute.org



For Child Development, the Earlier the Better

Occupational therapist Stephanie Stoops, right, shows Jackie and Michael Walling activities that promote Oliver's fine motor skill development.

First-time parents Jackie and Michael Walling say they were terrified when they brought their new baby home from the hospital. Oliver had arrived four weeks early, had respiratory issues and spent three weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

"In the hospital, he had a lot of monitors on him. But now we were on our own," said Jackie.

Within days, the couple found support from Stephanie Stoops, an occupational therapist in the Barber National Institute birth-to-three early intervention program. "We are so thankful that she was there for us," said Jackie.

The family's main concerns were making sure that Oliver was on track with his development and with his feeding abilities. Stephanie explained that he had a hard time eating with a coordinated suck, swallow, breathe pattern and latching onto his bottle when feeding. Oliver took 40 minutes to an hour to finish a 2-4 ounce bottle.

After Stephanie showed Jackie and Michael how to promote oral motor skills, Oliver began developing a good suck, swallow, breath pattern and was soon finishing a bottle in a reasonable amount of time. Now, he's working on drinking from an open cup.

The Bright Beginning Early Intervention program at the Barber National Institute provides a variety of supportive services and therapies for babies from birth

to age three to help them learn and grow during this important time in their development. The professionals, including occupational, speech and physical therapists and instructors focused on learning and behavior development, provide services in the home, day care or any other setting needed by the family.

Since the therapists are only with the child for one or two sessions each week, involving family members is key to the success of treatment.

Physical therapist Savannah DeMayo found ways that Rosa and Drevelle Showers could be involved in therapy for their son, Phinn, who began services at three months of age for Torticollis, a tightness on one side of the neck. Torticollis can cause a child to tilt his head to one side and have difficulties turning his head to one side. If not treated, it can cause asymmetry throughout the body and can later affect crawling, walking or many other movements.

Savanah incorporated play strategies, stretches and strengthening activities to promote symmetry of his movements and developing muscles, and would help Phinn's parents incorporate the strategies into their daily routine."

"Mom would take turns with me engaging Phinn throughout the session," said Savannah. "We would

identify concerns together and come up with ways to address them. The family would continue to practice with him throughout the week and let me know what had gone well or what they would like to focus on more the next week. We would monitor progress, develop goals together and communicate on his plan of care when there would be any changes.”

Therapists adjust therapies to make sure that children are reaching developmental milestones. For Oliver, over time this meant working on rolling over, crawling and then walking. “Stephanie was really intently focused on each milestone. She gave us the right tools to use to help us in reaching the stage that he needed,” said Jackie.

As Oliver turns two years old, Stephanie is helping Jackie and Michael use strategies to develop dressing skills, using utensils during meals, and isolating his index finger to push buttons on toys.

Children learn more in their first three years than at any other time in their lives, making early intervention vital. “The earlier the better is really true for a child’s development,” said Colleen Hanson, early intervention manager. “The appropriate therapy can help ensure that early delays don’t become obstacle to learning and development later in the child’s life.”



Physical therapist Savannah DeMayo, right, works with Rosa Showers to help her son Phinn develop the muscles and strength on his right side.

Early intervention services are provided free of charge to children identified with developmental delays. For information, call Bright Beginning Early Intervention at 814-874-5567.



Person of the Year Honored

A tradition of more than 30 years continued with the Shillelagh Golf Tournament on June 15. A highlight of the annual event is the presentation of the award for Person of the Year, given in 2023 to Bill Gloekler. Bill, along with his wife, Patty and son, Geoffrey, are holding a commemorative piece of artwork prepared by an adult at the Barber National Institute. Congratulating Bill are, from left, Bridget and John Barber, Robert Barber, Bill’s friend Bill Lasher and Patrick Barber. The Gloekler’s two other children, Brigid Churmusi from Fairfax, VA and Dr. Dan Gloekler from Arlington, VA, also attended the event. Bill was recognized for his leadership on the Board of Directors, which he has served as chairman for more than a decade, and his support of services for persons with disabilities.



Update on the Cause

Monsignor Tom McSweeney greeted supporters of the Cause as the John Mark Gannon Knights of Columbus Color Guard stood at attention.

Supporters of the Cause for Canonization of Gertrude Barber gathered for a celebratory memorial mass on April 27 at Saint Patrick Church.

In a homily, Monsignor Tom McSweeney, postulator for the Cause, compared Gertrude Barber's mission with the Beatitudes. "She knew how to mourn with others, to weep with those who weep – the confused and suffering parents... She knew how to argue for justice for those who were vulnerable... She saw and acted with mercy. She kept her heart free to genuinely love her neighbor... she faced conflict head on and sowed peace."

A requirement of the canonization process is the confirmation that two miracles have occurred after prayers were made to Gertrude Barber for her

intercession. Anyone with questions, or who may be aware of possible a miracle that has occurred, can contact Monsignor McSweeney at 814-878-5953.

With approval of Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Diocese of Erie, Rev. James Power has been approved as vice postulator to assist in efforts for the Cause.

An Erie native, Fr. Power was ordained in 2016 and was recently appointed pastor of Saint Joseph Church in Sharon, PA.

More information about the Cause is available at DrBarber.org.

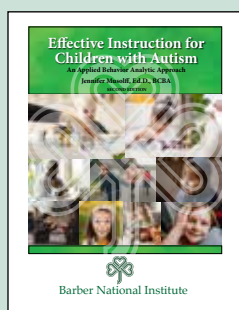


*Fr. James Power
Vice Postulator for the Cause
of Gertrude Barber*

Revised Autism Resources Available Soon

For more than 16 years, "Effective Instruction for Children with Autism" has been used by parents and professionals, as well as in college classes across the United States and Canada, to provide step-by-step guidance on treating autism.

Now, this trusted resource is being revised to incorporate the latest research on treatment methodologies.



The revised edition of "Effective Instruction for Children with Autism" has been researched and written by Jennifer Musolff, Ed.D., BCBA, a board-certified behavior analyst at the Elizabeth Lee Black School at the Barber National Institute. She wrote the updated text based upon the latest studies and her experience that spans 20 years working with Applied

Behavior Analysis (ABA) to support children with autism and their families. Musolff has dedicated her career to providing training and consultation to professionals

working in the field, and working with families to implement behavior plans and strategies to benefit their children.

ABA is an evidence-based therapy based on the science of learning and behavior that can help children with autism increase language, communication and social skills; improve attention spans, focus and academic performance; and decrease problem behaviors.

Trends in autism have made the revised edition timelier than ever. "When we first published this manual in 2007, an estimated one in 110 children was being diagnosed with autism. This year, that number is one in 36 children," said Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president of the Barber National Institute. "The need for a practical guide that is based on sound scientific research is even more important today. The principles outlined in this book are what we believe provide the best road to successful treatment."

More information, including how to purchase the revised manual, is available at BarberInstitute.org.



Open House Welcomes Visitors to Updated Facilities in Warren

Ron Heinrich, right, production manager at our Bollinger Campus, takes visitors on a tour of the renovated facilities that include the addition of new kitchenettes and a laundry room. New lighting, window, flooring and painting have made the program areas more welcoming and comfortable.

A fresh new look welcomed guests to the Barber National Institute Bollinger Campus open house and dedication on Thursday, June 22. The event provided donors, families and other members of the community with an opportunity to see the renovations funded by a \$1.4 million capital campaign.

Improvements include improved lighting, painting, and flooring throughout the facilities; added windows and covered patio and picnic area; more handicap accessible rest rooms with ceiling track lifts to transfer adults; a first aid station, computer banks, and a multi-purpose room for education and recreation.

All of the renovations were undertaken to create more welcoming and comfortable facilities to better serve adults with intellectual disabilities and their families in the Warren-Forest County region. The project was made possible with community support and will enable the facility to offer new opportunities and serve persons with more physical challenges.

“Our mission is sanctified every day by the support of this entire community; it’s sanctified by our dedicated staff and the love of the individuals who come here to participate in programs and to work. And it’s especially sanctified by the love and dedication of the families of the individuals who come here to be with us each day,” said Barber National Institute President and CEO John Barber. “We are very fortunate and very grateful to be able to participate in this wonderful mission.”

Dedication ceremonies included blessings from Fr. James Power and Pastor Jon Swart of the Global Methodist Church.

Renovation plans were developed by Larson Karle Architects in Warren, PA and work was completed by Construction Services of Pennsylvania (CSI) headquartered in Union City, PA.



Senior Vice President Patrick Barber and Bob Crowley look over the renovations.

BARBER SPIRIT

Barber Spirit is a quarterly publication for friends of the
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc.

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Our multi-use pool is undergoing a major renovation to update the pool and locker room facilities to ensure that this valued resource is here for generations to come. An endowment will help provide swim lessons to underserved populations in our bayfront neighborhood, as well as lifeguard certification for teens and adults to promote water safety.

Many giving opportunities are available to help make this dream a reality. Visit

BARBERINSTITUTE.ORG/POOL-PROJECT

for more information.



In 2022, we launched our pool renovation during Erie Gives, raising more than \$65,958 for the project. We hope to surpass that during the 2023 Erie Gives on Tuesday, August 8 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at ErieGives.org.

- Donors can also give ahead of the event with a donation form that can be downloaded at **BARBERINSTITUTE.ORG/ERIEGIVES**.
- All Erie Gives donations will receive a pro-rated match from the Erie Community Foundation and its Erie Gives sponsors.

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FLOATING SOME FACTS ABOUT OUR POOL

**DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY YEAR, THE BARBER
NATIONAL INSTITUTE POOL:**

Provides weekly swim lessons for more than 200 students with autism or physical or intellectual disabilities in the Elizabeth Lee Black School, the approved private school at the Barber National Institute.

Provides swimming and recreation for more than 120 children, teens and adults with autism or intellectual disabilities in Camp Shamrock, Expanding Social Opportunities (ESO) Camp and Camp Connections for youngsters with high functioning autism.

Provides American Red Cross learn-to-swim lessons for more than 1,000 children and adults in our community.

Provides Arthritis Foundation exercise classes to more than 200 adults with debilitating conditions.

Enables more than 65 persons to achieve lifeguard certification with classes and testing.

