THE JAY & MONA KANG ART SHOW & SALE

BARBER

MARCH 2024

DONOR REPORT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

This issue of Barber Spirit is one of my favorites. It's an issue dedicated to celebrating you, our donors, and sharing the direct impact your gifts have made in the lives of our individuals.

So often, we make charitable donations and never see how someone's life has changed. The following pages highlight projects and services that you have made possible for adults and children with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Because of you, we've:

- Formed a new support group for parents of children with an autism diagnosis and filled a critical gap in community resources
- Broken ground on a \$3M pool renovation project which will modernize the facility and create new opportunities for therapies and water safety education
- Welcomed children and adults to expanded social opportunities and summer camps which build confidence and community connections
- Hosted an artist-in-residence program at the Elizabeth Lee Black School where students explored selfexpression by working with clay.
- Purchased educational technology for the Elizabeth Lee Black School to increase independence and develop future-ready skills

This issue also spotlights important community partnerships that are deepening our impact and expanding

our reach. Our community garden collaboration has been recognized statewide as an innovative model program and a new curriculum at the Elizabeth Lee Black School provides young people with the life and social skills they will need as they move on to the next stage of life.

Our Mission Statement

We are "making 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. Lastly, I want to extend my heartfelt accolades to Barber National Institute Employee Service Fund, Dollar General stores, Erie Sports Commission and Barnhart Transportation for their support this past year.

Thank you for walking with us and making dreams come true!

Sincerely,

John Barter

John J. Barber President & Chief Executive Officer





MAKING CONNECTIONS, GETTING HELP

Raising a child with disabilities offers unique challenges that many parents must face alone and without guidance. However, Barber Behaviorial Health (BBH) is providing these families an opportunity to come together for support.

On the second Tuesday of every month, parents gather at Barber National Institute for an autism support group facilitated by BBH Blended Case Manager Robin Fox. The group serves as a support network and allows participants to discuss various topics, ranging from coping techniques to community resources.

"This is a place of unity," Fox said. "We discuss the ups and downs of raising a child on the spectrum and the blessings which come along as well."

After only a handful of meetings, the parents in the group are already beginning to form bonds with one another. Parents with older children provide comfort to those new to the diagnosis, and together they have shed a few tears and shared plenty of laughs.

"The parents are extremely supportive of one another and have found friendship in the process," Fox iterated. "I am blessed to be a part of this program."



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PARENT AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP, CONTACT BARBER BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH AT (814) 453-7661.



CONSTRUCTION CREWS DIVE IN ON POOL RENOVATION PROJECT

Excitement buzzed through the air as Barber National Institute friends, families and staff gathered poolside to celebrate the beginning of the \$3M pool and natatorium renovation.

After its initial construction more than 40 years ago, Barber National Institute pool has been a one-of-a-kind resource for the Erie community but was in dire need of its first major renovation. This important project was announced in August of 2022, and after tremendous support from donors, construction began late last fall.

To celebrate this monumental next step in the project, a construction kick-off ceremony was held in early November. Barber National Institute President and CEO John Barber and Senior Vice Presidents Robert and Patrick Barber addressed the crowd to express gratitude for the community's support and excitement for what's to come.

The ceremony culminated as attendees were invited to cut the yellow tape signifying the official start of construction. Renovations have been underway since and are expected to be completed this fall.

LOCKING BACKAT 2023

The world Dr. Gertrude Barber, founder of Barber National Institute, faced in 1952 held few opportunities for persons with disabilities. Schools were not required to educate children with disabilities, whose only options were to remain at home without a formal education or be sent to a distant institution. Having a job or being a part of the community was not even considered.

Dr. Barber decided to change that.

Our employees play a vital role in carrying out that legacy to bring hope and opportunity to more than 5,400 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, autism and behavioral health challenges throughout Pennsylvania.

Human services careers, like those at Barber National Institute, are among the fastest-growing professions with jobs readily available all around us.

What makes Barber National Institute special is a deep spirit that has been cultivated for decades and is exemplified in the daily care provided by direct support professionals, nurses, therapists, teachers, paraeducators, job coaches, and program specialists.

Among a myriad of professional choices, only a select few offer the profound experience of forging deep human connections, making these human services careers truly exceptional.

Within Barber National Institute, a rich tapestry of careers unfolds, offering a diverse array of professional pathways without the need to seek opportunities elsewhere. Our commitment to employee well-being is evidenced through strategic



Club Erie participants pose for a photo at the community garden this fall.



investments in professional development, generous paid-time-off policies, and a progressive approach to supporting staff with initiatives like tuition assistance and student loan forgiveness.

Our dedicated employees have not only navigated the challenges of a post-pandemic world but have also demonstrated exceptional creativity by reimagining our programs and services. Their efforts have led to the establishment of innovative and meaningful partnerships that contribute significantly to our organization's success and resilience.

The future of Barber National Institute shines brightly, filled with promise, growth, and continued positive impact as we navigate new horizons and opportunities ahead. In the words of Dr. Barber, "all individuals are people of God, with feelings, emotions, needs and capabilities unique to these persons and their heritage. In a world where all people differ, everyone should have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential."

Together, we are making dreams come true.



Barnhart Gives/Barnhart Transportation receives the award as Outstanding Philanthropic Organization from the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Pictured left to right: Bridget Barber, Patrick Barber, Laura Schaaf, Stephanie Law, Tim Barnhart, David Schumacher, Sueann Wiest, Mackenzie MacKay.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- New sensory playground at Elizabeth Lee Black School
- New support group for parents of children with an autism spectrum disorder
- \$3M pool renovation project to modernize the facility
- Educational technology throughout the Elizabeth Lee Black School
- Statewide recognition received for an innovative community garden partnership
- Renovations completed to Barber Bollinger Campus in Warren, PA
- Featured article in Sports Destination Magazine for Barber Beast on the Bay's adapted course's inclusive atmosphere
- Day programs engaged over 1,000 through recreation, employment and community participation
- Residential community & Lifesharing homes supported independent living of over 300 individuals
- Behavioral health services aided more than 3,000 individuals in dealing with emotional and behavioral challenges
- Family-focused services connected more than 1,800 individuals with programs and services to foster relationships and a high quality of living



John and Bridget Barber are joined by Rev. & Mrs. Jon Swart and their daughter Rebekah at the Bollinger campus open house.



This rendering from architects Weber Murphy Fox shows updates to the pool and natatorium expected to be completed this fall.



Elizabeth Lee Black School students showcase their original artworks at the student art show. Guided by clay artist Jessie Simmons, who served as the Erie Arts and Culture artistin-residence, helped our young artists explore clay.







The arts are often forgotten when considering therapy options for children with learning and developmental disabilities. Painting, drawing, music, dance and theater can provide a range of benefits for them (and those facilitating such activities).

Barber National Institute's Elizabeth Lee Black School is known for its innovative art program which includes its students in engaging arts activities that help them develop self-confidence, make independent choices, express themselves and enhance fine motor skills.

"Art encourages our students to use artistic mediums to express their feelings and thoughts nonverbally," said Barber National Institute Executive Vice President Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey. "The teaching philosophy at the Elizabeth Lee Black School is to adapt our instruction to each child's learning style. Infusing our classrooms with art is not only uplifting for the students and teachers but creates unique learning opportunities."

Erie-based studio potter Jessie Simmons is an Erie

Arts and Culture teaching artist and completed an eight-week artist-in-residence creating original clay works in the fall of 2023.

Turtle Tsland

Simmons presented the students with slabs of turtle, fish and animal-based clay shapes. Students worked with shaped slabs and manipulated tools such as stamps, carvers and cutouts. "I brought a simple idea to the students – a simple shape. The students made the shape their own with texture and tools. The shape allowed for creative interpretation and expression".

Clay offers primal and tactile opportunities. Simmons says it's a material that wants to have a conversation with your hands. "Working with the children at the Elizabeth Lee Black School has been very rewarding. The first time the students touched the clay was fantastic. They quickly learned how to adjust to the material and how it felt. It wasn't long, and they took off on their own!"

Simmons's residency concluded with an art exhibit on November 27. The artist-in-residence was funded by Erie Arts & Culture and the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation.

COMMUNITY GARDEN COLLABORATION RECOGNIZED AT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Barber National Institute community garden collaboration was recognized during the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs Everyday Lives conference January 9-11 in Hershey. Barber National Institute was selected through a competitive statewide submission process focusing on innovative program models that encourage healthy lifestyle habits among individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Barber National Institute's poster "Digging into Healthier Lives" was selected among 10 posters to be featured at the state wide symposium. The poster centered around nutrition education plus the physical and mental health benefits individuals receive from gardening.

"For the past two years, Erie Insurance has donated a plot of land right within the heart of the Bayfront Eastside Taskforce neighborhood. Penn State Master Gardeners facilitate the annual plans for the garden. They also provide plants, seeds, tools and education. The garden has approximately 60 raised beds plus a corn field, pumpkin field, orchard and pollinating perennial garden," said Barber National Institute Chief Officer of Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Day Services Carolyn Kontis.

Barber National Institute's Club Erie program meets at the plot from May through October with Penn State Master Gardeners for educational lessons and assistance with the next steps in the process of the garden.

Club Erie is a community-based service designed to help adults with intellectual disabilities acquire, maintain and improve skills while accessing their community, building friendships and having fun. The caring and energetic staff at Club Erie works with adults either individually or in small groups to support them in achieving goals identified in their Individual Supports Plan (ISP) such as: participating in activities of interest, learning skills, volunteering or increasing socialization skills through experiences with others.

Barber National Institute's Club Erie was selected t present at the 2024 Everyday Lives Conference. Featured presenters were Jenifer Gross and Julie Little STRESS ANAGEMENT posure to nati ght can be eficial in low MENTAL HEALTH d press WELLBEING ONNECT WITH Positive GARDENERS riends ment with Contact the Americ rticulture Society Social interaction with members of the cal gardene ind kno community wiedow eeded to grow a Pride & enjoyment of Digging cessful gard Raking Having fun RITION & HEALTHY DIET Learning new skills that boost self Increase in access to Jattin resh healthy foods esteem Lifting Fruits and vegetables Helps with mindfulness which ave a positi Walking can lower stress & pact on the diet Gaining knowledge about food & nutr

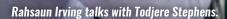
"Individuals

maintain 10 of 60 beds. They

also maintain pumpkin, corn, sunflower, potato and pollinating gardens. The individuals are very involved in choosing what they want to plant for the season. They all get an opportunity to plant their favorite vegetables. During the summer, individuals take turns watering the garden beds daily. They work from start to finish preparing, planting, maintaining, harvesting and cleaning the beds for the winter. They harvest and use all that is grown. This year, they also started a seed library from the harvest," said Kontis.

Taste testing is extremely popular - Asian pears, sour vs. sweet cherries, chocolate peppers, snow peas vs. snap peas. "For some, they are trying certain fruits and vegetables for the first time," said Club Erie Operations Supervisor Jenifer Gross. "The neighbors comment often on the quality and flavor of the produce."

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND AUTISM: A GUIDE INTO ADULTHOOD



mproving social skills is indeed a key focus for individuals with autism and developmental challenges. It's essential to approach everyone uniquely, considering their specific strengths and challenges. Tailored interventions and support can make a significant difference in enhancing social skills and overall social functioning for adolescents with autism and developmental challenges.

Barber National Institute's Elizabeth Lee Black School piloted Healthy Relationships, a curriculum that prepares adolescents and young adults with autism or other developmental disabilities with the life and social skills they will need as they move on to the next stage of life.

"My personal and professional experience found that these topics are not addressed in the general or special education curriculums, so students graduate with minimal knowledge of these essential topics. For this reason, following a review of the curriculum, we chose to purchase for our school students," said Barber National Institute Executive Vice President Maureen Barber-Carey, Ed.D.

Purchased with COVID Relief and Rescue Plan Funding, the 39-lesson curriculum was developed by a team of educators and therapists at Wesley Spectrum, field-tested for four years and then published in 2015. It has been used in classrooms, schools, districts, organizations, agencies and residential facilities in 37 states.

"We purchased our first curriculum kit after a twoday training for essential staff from physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, behavior, teaching/education and supervisors. Like most schools, we struggled to best Sawyer Shaffer is just one of the students at Elizabeth Lee Black School benefiting from the new curriculum.

meet the needs of lifelong learning for this population," said Barber National Institute Director of Children and Youth Cindy Priester. "The same year we initiated the curriculum in a single teenage classroom. The room viewed over 200 videos and explored 1000 visual engagement materials. All materials and strategies were sent home for use with families. This family component helps with meeting social expectations, how to handle or discuss sensitive topics and exploring value-based personal issues. This is the first curriculum that focuses on social, sexual and emotional issues that students do not get in public education."

All lessons have a topic, objective, opening session; review of rules, steps to complete, closing session, assessment quizzes, and then take-home materials. Each session has a fidelity checklist and completes a skill and retention log. Lessons include Caring for Myself, Human Sexuality and Relationship Development. Topics cover body image, basic health, hygiene, privacy, social media safety, how to have private talks, secrets, safe dating and social challenges.

"Highly adaptable lessons and activities teach challenging life and social skills both in person and virtually to meet each student's learning style," continued Priester. "The Elizabeth Lee Black School remains passionate about getting this information covered. We will be using the curriculum across all grades from elementary through high school. Communication is key; our students have questions, and we need to find the best way to talk/model/role play with them about these sensitive subjects. Our goal is to offer a weekly trainer for hands-on implementation of this program thus ensuring our student's success."

For more information visit Batter Bat

One of the region's most eclectic exhibits is back during a once-in-a-lifetime event! From portraits to landscapes to abstracts and more – the Jay & Mona Kang Art Show & Sale at Barber National Institute will illuminate the talent of regional artists while Erie is in the path of totality for the solar eclipse.

This year's in-person event will be held:

- FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 10 A.M. 7:30 P.M.
- SATURDAY, APRIL 6, NOON 3 P.M
- SUNDAY, APRIL 7, NOON 3 P.M. Youth Artist Award Ceremony, 1 p.m.
- MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1 P.M. 5 P.M.

Grab your official eclipse viewing glasses available at the show!

Visitors will have an opportunity to enjoy art in a variety of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, clay, fiber art and more. The best part? Admission is free!

Every piece of art is available for purchase, allowing visitors to own an original piece of artwork while supporting local artists. Additionally, a portion of every sale benefits Barber National Institute.

Like last year, the Show also will offer a hybrid experience and be available online for viewing and making purchases from **APRIL 5 – 15.**

A panel of judges will select artwork for cash awards in the adult and youth categories, but in-person visitors to the show can cast their ballots to select winners for the "People's Choice Awards."

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2024 ART SHOW SPONSORS

JAY & MONA KANG











BARBER EMPLOYEE SERVICE FUND DONATES OVER \$48,000 TO CHARITY IN 2023

The Employee Service Fund of Barber National Institute donated over \$48,000 to charitable organizations and individuals in need in 2023. The Fund allows staff to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions.

"The Employee Service Fund is a shining example of what can be accomplished when we work together. By pooling our resources, we can make a real difference in the lives of others," said Employee Service Fund member Joe Geppert. "It's a reminder that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves."

The Fund is administered by Barber National Institute employees throughout Pennsylvania contributing annually to more than 60 organizations ranging from health care, social services, animal-related agencies, arts programs and community organizations such as volunteer fire departments. The Fund also contributes to Barber National Institute individuals in dire need and employees, in extenuating circumstances, who need support and were nominated by a member of the Fund.

DONORS MAKE SUMMER DREAMS COME TRUE

Chances are, you or someone you know, benefitted from a summer camp experience. Overcoming an obstacle to trying something new, building confidence away from Mom and Dad and finding new friends with common interests are just a few of the intangible benefits of summer camp.

The American invention of summer camp dates to the mid-to-late 1800s as a new generation of children, were missing out on the character-building, healthpromoting experiences of hardy rural life. A stint at summer camp–surrounded by nature and engaged in hard work and healthy play, all under the guidance of caring counselors–was thought to be the perfect solution.

Today, the modernization of summer camps has specialized day camping experiences popping up and filling critical experiential gaps for all children. At Barber National Institute, four specialized camps for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism are offered.

"Being able to participate in activities with your peers is an important part of childhood," said Barber National Institute Executive Vice President Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey. "It is especially important to provide opportunities for children that will lead to greater inclusion in their schools and community."

Camper scholarships are partially funded through gifts made to the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation. Many families do not receive funding to cover the cost, leaving some children and adults who would benefit most unable to attend camp. A donation of \$300 funds a scholarship for a child or an adult to attend camp for one week. Donations can fund partial scholarships or multiple weeks of camp.



Summer dreams come true for children thanks to the generous support of donors to the Barber National Institute! Our inclusive summer camps offer a world of fun, friendship, and growth for every child.

John Pearson's smile shows the special bond with his dedicated caregiver Susan Margosian-Lee.

ohn Pearson was just 10 years old when he and his brother met Dr. Gertrude Barber while she was visiting the Polk State Center. He recalls Dr. Barber saying, "you're too bright to be in this place."

John, now 66, lives independently in downtown Erie and receives care and support through Pennsylvania's Agency with Choice, a program that allows individuals and their families the ability to self-direct their services.

His caregiver of five years Susan Margosian-Lee was introduced to Agency with Choice by accident. "You know when someone says, 'it fell in my lap,' it did. "

Margosian-Lee works as a hairdresser and met an individual in the community. "We saw each other at community events, and we became friends. Soon, I was inviting him to Easter dinner and taking him to and from appointments. That was my first informal introduction to becoming a caregiver through Agency with Choice."

Sean White, Barber National Institute's lead family liaison, introduced Margosian-Lee and Pearson through a formal match process. "I thought they would be a good match and had them meet. Susan intuitively knew it was a match and quickly began working with John. She has taken him in as part of her family." And, speaking of family, Margosian-Lee recruited her sister, and her daughter, as members of Pearson's care team.

"John is an unexpected gift. He's brought light to my life. I've had the wonderful experience of people helping people and, like John, I've made some great friends through this program. It's rewarding knowing he's well taken care of, and I love the work I do," concluded Margosian-Lee.

Pearson's on the go daily, filling his days with bowling leagues, cooking classes, bike rides and visits to Presque Isle and Cracker Barrel. "Sue's a good caregiver. She takes me out. I like to go around Lake Erie on the Lady Kate. In cooking class, we make different dishes and then sit at a table and share what we have made with my friends. I have made good friends going to cooking class," says Pearson.



For more information about Agency with Choice visit BarberInstitute.org



Jason Shea celebrates as he crosses the finish line at the Barber Beast on the

BARBER BEAST ON THE BAY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

The Barber Beast on the Bay has been recognized nationally by two national sports tourism industry publications: Sports Destination Magazine and SportsEvents Magazine.

The Beast was featured in the January issue of Sports Destination Magazine, a national publication for sports event managers and organizers that provides planning and location strategies essential to hosting a successful event.

"The Barber Beast on the Bay has evolved into one of the most impactful events that we support annually," said Mark Jeanneret, executive director of the Erie Sports Commission. "We are extremely fortunate to have a team of talented individuals at the Institute who work together to execute an event that stretches light years beyond our mission. Not only does the Beast consistently attract participants from across the country, but it also embraces its mission to provide an opportunity for everyone to overcome whatever obstacle they may be facing."

The annual event, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2023, also was selected as a Readers' Choice Award winner for All-star Destination Partner and Best Long-term Partnership between Planner & Destination (Erie Sports Commission) by SportsEvents Magazine, a national publication that helps planners of amateur sporting events and competitions be more effective, informed and successful with their events.

Barber National Institute CEO John Barber reflects, "We started the Barber Beast on the Bay as a visible example of our belief that all people must be afforded every opportunity to attain the greatest use of their potential. This is one of the things that is so special about our event and something that participants say is gratifying about our finish. It speaks to how everyone is striving to overcome obstacles and enables us to celebrate these achievements together." The Beast's adapted course was the creation of Barber National Institute Elizabeth Lee Black School educator Lindsay Kalika who has a brother with intellectual disabilities. "In the beginning, it was Lindsay who brought the adapted course to life. She designed the adapted course to be challenging for the participants because she wanted them to believe they could do it," said Barber National Institute Director of Giving Laura Schaaf.

Presque Isle State Park's Beach 1 was the original location for the adapted course, which was separated from the 10-mile course. "Ten-mile participants would pass through the adapted course not realizing what was going on," said Schaaf.

A phone call from Paul Nelson, owner of Erie's premier amusement park Waldameer and Water World, eventually relocated the adapted course and merged the two courses into one final obstacle and finish line. "From the beginning, Waldameer and Water World hosted the afterparty for all participants. But, one day, Paul had an idea to completely move the adapted course to the amusement park, join the two courses at its wave pool and create a shared finish line," said Schaaf. "This was a pivotal decision that provided the opportunity to fully integrate the two courses."

The Beast's obstacles are conceptualized and built by a team of "beast builders" who collaborate with Barber National Institute Elizabeth Lee Black School's physical education teacher to create new or modify existing adapted obstacles. According to Schaaf, "The builders spend hours batting around ideas to reimagine and craft the obstacles. They look at an obstacle and start talking – what if it moves this way, or you go over it instead of around it they are very analytical and mathematical."

For beast builder Andy Zimmerman, there's much to consider when designing the adaptive course. He says they must consider sensory stimulants, strength levels, sight lines, obstacle sequence and mobility. "We avoid flashing lights and loud sounds. We must consider the structural integrity of the obstacle, wheelchair accessibility, differing eyesight levels, strength of the participants, and the experience."

All Beast proceeds are directed to Barber National Institute's foundation. In total, since its 2013 inception, the Beast has raised over \$700,000. "For our 10th-anniversary event, we directed over \$100,000 in proceeds to our important therapeutic pool renovation project."

Schaaf says, "Our individuals are at the center of our work. This event gives us a platform to demonstrate their abilities and dispel common misconceptions about people with disabilities. There's a perception that an individual with disabilities can't do something. It's about making sure that the individuals are successful."

When asked to share what is most rewarding, Zimmerman says, easily, it's the participants. "Watching the participants is what brings me the greatest joy. Words will never express the pride I have for the builders, the Barber National Institute and all we've accomplished. This has always been a true labor of love for me."

Drs. Kate and Brian Stark have completed the Beast on the Bay all 10 years. "The Beast on the Bay is a unique and fun experience, but it's also a challenging long-distance athletic event. Inevitably you start thinking about the special-needs adults and children that benefit from this fundraising event, and it helps you dig deep and push on," said Dr. Brian Stark. "When the two courses merge, suddenly, the sweat, sand, fatigue and pain fade away. It's then I



remember how much the Institute does and how much my participation matters."

Scan the QR code above to read the digital edition of the magazine.



JOIN & BE A PART OF THIS FUN, LEGENDARY, ALL INCLUSIVE, BLAST OF AN OBSTACLE RACE!



For more information & registration visit BARBERBEAST.ORG

Emily Winters, along with her Beast teammate, Kristin Lorei-Barry, give a big smile when they receive their medals.

Patrick Sullivan's Beast teammate cheers him on as he rings the bell near the end of the course.



PA EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDITS PURCHASE TECHNOLOGY

Thank you to businesses who have contributed to Barber National Institute through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit program



equipping 24 classrooms with communication and teaching technology. Scan the qr code to see the video !

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Adults took many opportunities to give back during the holiday season. The Salvation Army in Somerset and Home Instead Senior Care in Erie are just two organizations where individuals volunteered. Holiday parties, hand-crafted ornaments and a visit from the man in the red suit topped off a busy December.



Our adults lend their time and talents to make a meaningful impact. Through volunteerism, they forge connections, break down barriers, and enrich the fabric of our community.

Children at the Elizabeth Lee Black School entertained family and friends at our annual Christmas Showcase. It was great to be back in person!



ELIZABETH LEE BLACK SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOW

More than 100 children from the Barber National Institute Elizabeth Lee Black School presented their interpretations of their favorite Christmas songs, dances, poems and more. We were delighted to bring back this holiday tradition after a several-year hiatus.

SHINING BRIGHT, WINTER NIGHT

More than 1,200 guests kicked off the 2023 holiday season at the Barber Christmas Ball Shining Bright, Winter Night. Hosted by the John and Colleen Bloomstine family, the Ball touted a record \$186,000 in sponsorship given by more than 60 businesses, individuals and families; that is the highest number in the history of the Christmas Ball!



The annual Barber Ba<mark>ll was one of the most successful in history. Pictured together are the Barber and Bloomstine families left to right: Bob Barber, Will Bloomstine, Patrick Barber, Courtney Barber, Bridget Barber, John Barber, Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, Ryan Carey, Elise Bloomstine, Colleen Bloomstine, John Bloomstine, Jill Bloomstine, Joe Bloomstine, Jack Bloomstine and Peter Bloomstine.</mark>



OUR FAVORITE DAY OF THE YEAR

It's our favorite day of the year! More than 300 adults and their caregivers gathered at the Bayfront Convention Center for our annual holiday dance. The dance floor is packed from the first note of music until the last. This event is open to adults with disabilities from across the Erie community and provides an opportunity to dress up, see old friends and make new friends.

LADIES ONLY LUNCHEON RAISES OVER \$40,000

Over 300 ladies enjoyed an afternoon of friendship at Erie's Kahkwa Club raising important funding for the Elizabeth Lee Black School. Thank you to our chairwoman Beth Lewis, our volunteer committee, sponsors and individual patrons for a memorable event.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR 2024 EVENTS!

Jay & Mona Kang Art Show & Sale: Total Eclipse of the Art

Donor Debut & Artist Reception: Thursday, April 5 **In-Person Show:** Friday, April 5 - Monday, April 8 **Online Show:** April 5-April 15

For more information about our 2024 sponsorships & events, visit BarberInstitute.org/events.

Shillelagh Golf Tournament Thursday, June 20 Whispering Woods Golf Course

Barber Beast on the Bay Saturday, Sept. 7 **Presque Isle State Park** Waldameer

Ladies Only Luncheon Saturday, Nov. 23 Kahkwa Club

Christmas Ball

Saturday, Dec. 14 **Bayfront Convention Center**



BARBER HONORS 2022-2023 DONOR REPORT

Gifts received July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

We truly appreciate every contribution made to Barber National Institute. Please note that every effort was made to ensure accuracy in the listing of our generous supporters. We apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions. Please contact the Advancement Office at (814) 874-5802 if you have any questions or concerns.

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2022-2023 GIFTS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EITC PROGRAM CONTACT DR. MAUREEN BARBER-CAREY, (814) 878-5960 OR MAUREENBC@BARBERNLORG

Gifts received July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023



Barnhart Transportation CFO Tim Barnhart presents \$75,000 in proceeds from their annual golf outing to Barber National Institute and Shriners Children's Erie.

Barnhart Transportation was named Outstanding Philanthropic Organization of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals on National Philanthropy Day November 15, 2023. They were honored during a ceremony at Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom.

Owners Bryan and Tim Barnhart have a passion for giving back to the community and supporting young people. They believe that giving back creates a workplace culture that allows for relationships to be built within and outside the organization and creates a sense of community. Barnhart Gives, formed in 2017, has raised over \$200,000 through annual events such as a golf outing, bowling tournament and clay shoot with the support of employees, volunteers, and business partners. Their fundraising efforts have benefited Barber National Institute, Shriners Hospital, Grady's Decision, Hunt of a Lifetime, Special Olympics and Transplant Hope Foundation. Barnhart Gives asks that all dollars donated stay in the region to support local children and families.

BARNHART TRANSPORATION NAMED PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Bryan and Tim have a long history of supporting Barber National Institute and have contributed over \$100,000. In the early days, Barnhart Construction, started by their father, Tom, built several residential community homes for individuals with severe mobility issues. They have been bringing friends, staff, and family to the Barber Christmas Ball for over two decades and began sponsoring the event in 2012. In January of 2022, Tim joined the Board of Directors providing guidance and support. When the Barber Beast on the Bay needed transportation for obstacles, Barnhart Transportation stepped up supplying trucks, drivers, and Tim's sweat equity, tearing down obstacles. In 2022, the Barber National Institute became an annual recipient of partial funding from the Barnhart Gives annual golf outing, sharing the honor with the Shriners Hospital of Erie.

Barnhart Gives continues to make a difference in the non-profit community of Erie County and beyond.

Members of Club Erie volunteer to deliver hundreds of donated Christmas gifts from Dollar General stores to Elizabeth Lee Black School students.



DOLLAR GENERAL TOY & SUPPLY DRIVE

Eleven Erie Dollar General stores collected toys and supplies during the holidays for students and families of the Elizabeth Lee Black School. Participants in Barber National Institute Club Erie assisted in picking up and delivering the gifts from the Dollar General stores.

BARBER

Barber Spirit is a quarterly publication for friends of the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc. 100 Barber Place • Erie, PA 16507-1863 814-453-7661 • FAX: 814-455-1132 BNIerie@BarberInstitute.org BarberInstitute.org John J. Barber President/Chief Executive Officer Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey

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IPS K

One of the region's most eclectic exhibits is back during a once-in-a-lifetime event! From portraits to landscapes to abstracts and more – the Jay & Mona Kang Art Show & Sale at Barber National Institute will illuminate the talent of regional artists while Erie is in the path of totality for the solar eclipse.

WHEN & WHERE

IN- PERSON

The live show will be held in the north complex of the Barber National Institute on:

FRIDAY. APRIL 5, 10 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 6 & SUNDAY, APRIL 7, NOON - 3 P.M.

Youth Artist Award Ceremony, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1 P.M - 3 P.M.

ONLINE

The show will be available online for viewing and making purchases from:

APRIL 5 - APRIL 15

Visitors can vote for the People's Choice Award for their favorite adult and youth artwork during the in-person exhibit.

Official eclipse viewing glasses will be available at the show!

/PECIAL THANK/ TO OUR 2024 /PON/OR/!



LAMAR







MAZZA

Barber National Institute

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