

# Chronology

Milestones in the History of the



# Barber National Institute

*Making dreams come true.*



1952

- 1952 Dr. Gertrude Barber worked with parent groups to organize first community based program for children with disabilities at the Y.M.C.A.
- 1956 Opening of pre-school classes at community sites for children with intellectual challenges, vision and hearing impairment.
- First programs for adults.
- 1958 Lakeview Hospital leased to Erie Council for Exceptional Children providing a permanent home for Dr. Barber's programs.



1958

- 1962 Dr. Barber was appointed by President John Kennedy as one of 25 national delegates to the new White House Task Force on the Education and Rehabilitation of Children & Adults with Mental Retardation.
- 1963 The Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center is designated as an Approved Private School by the PA Department of Education.



1970

- 1968 Ground breaking for administration offices and adult services.
- 1969 Opened children's program at Corry satellite.
- 1970 Dedication and opening of new facilities at 136 East Avenue.
- 1972 Residential wing opened for adults returning to the community from Polk State Center.

- 1973 Opened the first three group homes in Erie community.
- Began Family Support Services.
- Opened adult program at Girard Satellite.
- 1975 Opening of gymnasium and library on main campus.
- 1979 Natatorium completed on main campus.
- Corry adult workshop building completed.
- Established Happy Hearts Child Care program.
- 1980 Expanded residential wing.



1973



1986

- 1981 Girard workshop completed.
- 1982 Dedication of Adult Rehabilitation and Training Center; Opened seven more group homes.
- 1984 Established agreements with Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide training and job placement for adults.
- 1986 Established Title XIX Residential Waiver and Supportive Employment Programs.
- 1987 Established Adult Literacy Program & Dual Diagnosis Programs. Completed new Adult Day Services building addition to expand developmental programs.

- 1989 Established Corry Adult Day Care Waiver Program and opening of the Retirement Opportunities Center for older adults.
- Initiated Community Based Instruction model classrooms & Therapeutic Art Program.
- 1990 Established Barber Resources for Delaware Valley in Philadelphia at the request of the Pennsylvania Secretary of Welfare. Opened the first eight ICF/MR community group homes, leading to the eventual opening of 27 homes in Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery counties.
- Dr. Barber attended the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Washington D.C., prohibiting discrimination based on disability.



1990



1991

- 1991 Established Retirement Opportunities Center & Supported Employment Opportunities Center.
- 1992 Converted Family Support Service to Family Driven Model of service delivery.

- 1993 Established In-Home Waiver, Enhanced Supported Living and Family Living Programs.
- 1994 Expansion of Early Childhood Program to provide inclusive preschool program.  
Established Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Educational Institute to provide professional development and consultation in the disabilities and behavioral health fields.
- 1995 Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) established for children ages 3 - 21.
- 1997 Expansion of Family Living and Polk Initiative in the Residential Program.



1993



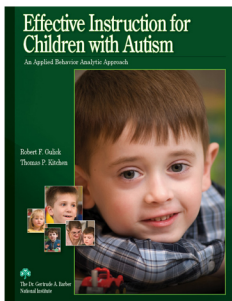
2000

- 2000 Opened six residential group homes in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for persons previously residing at Western Center. Closed large facility-based residential site and eight-person homes, moving 43 adults into smaller group homes. Opened 23 new group homes.
- Initiated Connections Camp, one of the first summer therapeutic programs in Pennsylvania to meet social needs of children ages 5-18 with High-Functioning Autism.
- Launching of Project 2000, an \$11 million capital campaign to build a new school and educational facilities.
- The Barber Institute mourned the passing of our founder, Dr. Gertrude Barber, on April 29. John Barber becomes President and Chief Executive Officer.

- 2001 Collaborated with local colleges to develop ESO (Expanding Social Opportunities) dances, a peer-to-peer social interaction for adults ages 18+ with intellectual disabilities.
- 2003 Grand dedication of the Barber National Institute on September 26 to provide new diagnostic and treatment facilities and state-of-the-art areas for professional development, and the Elizabeth Lee Black School with 11 new classrooms for students with autism and multiple handicaps.



2003



2007

- 2006 Opening of services for children with autism and behavioral health challenges in Warren-Forest counties with a grant from the Department of Public Welfare.
- 2007 Published "Effective Instruction for Children with Autism," a professional manual providing an applied behavior analytic approach for autism treatment.

- 2008 In-Home Waiver program converted to Agency With Choice, enabling families and individuals to self-direct some or all of their services to remain in the family home.
- The Barber Institute became among the first organizations in the country to receive training in A.R.T., Artistic Realization Technologies, to assist adults with physical disabilities in creating art.
- Elizabeth Lee Black School first school in Pennsylvania named "School of Excellence" by National Association of Special Education Teachers.



2008



2009

2009 Two new behavioral health services started for children and teens with autism and their families offering intensive in-home therapy and Blended Case Management.  
Opening of Community Endeavors, a new concept to Philadelphia that provides a community-based day program enabling adults to access community resources to meet their interests and needs.

2012 Research collaboration with University of Notre Dame using robots to reinforce social skill development for children with autism.

2014 Opened new Children's Acute Partial Hospitalization Program for children with behavioral health challenges.

2015 Elizabeth Lee Black School receives the Leadership and Innovation Award from the National Association of Private Special Education Centers for achievements integrating technology in education.



2012



2016

2016 A new wireless infrastructure installed throughout all 51 Barber Institute group homes in Erie County to move toward electronic record keeping and streamline communications.

2017 Certification as Trauma Informed Care Community for behavioral health services.

2018 Elizabeth Lee Black School opens the first of two classrooms in General McLane district for students with behavioral challenges and autism.

2018 Barber National Institute assumes 10 additional residential group homes in Philadelphia.

2019 Prevocational and community participation supports programs in Bedford and Somerset transition to Barber National Institute.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie opens cause for canonization for Dr. Gertrude Barber



2018



2020

2020 Project Search collaboration provides first internships at AHN Saint Vincent Hospital for graduating high school seniors.

Transition of Bollinger campus to Barber National Institute.



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[www.BarberInstitute.org](http://www.BarberInstitute.org)