

COMMITTED TO THE LEGACY 2018-2019 Donor Report

Dr. Gertrude A.Barber Foundation

Making dreams come true.



6.00

"Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by **HOPE**.

Nothing true, beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by **FAITH**.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by **LOVE**."

Dear Friends,

Our founder, Dr. Gertrude Barber, often referred to this quote by American theologian Reinhold Neibuhr as she worked to change our world – and our hearts – to bring hope to persons with disabilities. It helped remind her, and those working alongside her, to forge on despite obstacles and setbacks that could have easily discouraged them.

It also serves, we believe, as her encouragement to us to carry on this legacy that she dedicated her life to creating. Indeed, with the support of our donors, we celebrated many achievements over the past year including:

- The opening of community participation support day programs to serve adults in Bedford and Somerset, PA
- Implementation of a new online learning management system funded with a three-year grant from Erie Insurance to help our staff remain on the cutting edge in their training
- A performance by our students on the stage of the Erie Playhouse as part of an artistic collaboration
- Completion of more than 200 hours on average each month by our adults volunteering at non-profits in our community

We are so grateful that our donors remain committed to sharing Dr. Barber's vision for greater hope and opportunity for children and adults with disabilities and their families. Thank you for all that you are doing to help us make dreams come true.

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As we end one decade and embark on 2020, we would like to recognize those generous donors who have made a financial donation in each of the years from 2010-2019. Their names are listed in green with a heart ♥ to show our appreciation for their loyalty to our mission.

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Wider hallways and doorways so wheelchairs can move easily. Lower kitchen counters where you can prepare meals. And a beautiful large bedroom in blue, her favorite color.

These are some of the many things that Jonie likes best about her new home. The beautiful new structure was designed and built for adults with significant physical challenges to offer the greatest opportunities for access and inclusion.

In addition to the wider doors and hallways, the home offers a large kitchen with portions of the counter at wheelchair level, four spacious bedrooms providing privacy, two large completely accessible bathrooms, and two comfortable living areas for family visits and individual preferences.

The 4,800-square-foot structure is expected to become a model home to help an aging population of adults remain active even as they may be acquiring greater physical disabilities. "We believe that it is important to be able to support our adults as their needs change," said Pam Baker, Vice President, Program Development/ Family Focused Services.

The \$20,402 contributed by 146 donors to the 2019 Erie Gives contributed to construction of the new home.

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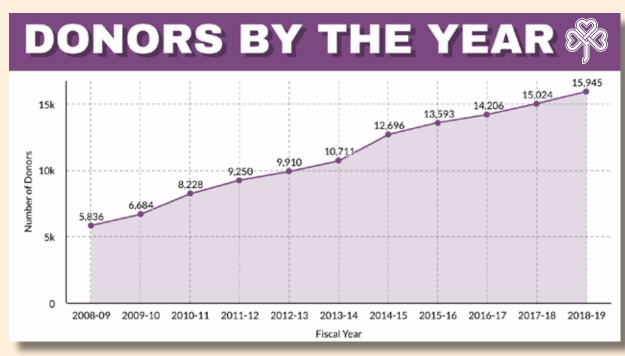
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Brian O'Donoghue's family has a tradition of donating to specific charitable projects at Christmas. A few years ago, as he looked for a cause that would resonate for his young son, Brian found exactly what he was looking for. Since then, Brian and his family are continuing to fund scholarships for children and young adults to attend summer camps at the Barber National Institute.

"As a dad, I know how hard it can be to find outlets for kids to express their talents and energies when school is out. The opportunity to help other families facing that challenge was an easy call."

In all, Brian and the other donors provided \$5,700 in scholarships for 13 summer campers.

For Brian, focusing his son's Christmas holiday on giving – and not just getting – is very important. And seeing photos from camp, and even a video of the campers in their talent show, has really touched his family's hearts. "My son loves seeing the kids have fun. He watches the video again and again. His face lights up every time."

A lawyer currently living in Chicago, Brian's donor experience is different from many other donors. He learned about the Barber National Institute through his friendship with Barber family members, and became impressed with the work of the organization. As he looks to make a charitable impact, Brian prioritizes two qualities in his search.

"First, do you see a return on your investment and secondly, is there a palpable sense that my gift is making a difference in the lives of others. Although my charitable giving has shifted over multiple institutions over the years, Barber remains a constant because it never fails to meet both goals," said Brian. "I can think of few organizations that are so apparently worthy of support."

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Physical Therapist Amanda Richardson helps preschool student Emma Jaruszewicz through an expanded obstacle course.

Thanks to donors to the Barber Foundation, students at the Elizabeth Lee Black School started the school year with new facilities for receiving occupational therapy. The renovation that began in May 2019 brought many updates that enable therapists to expand activities that promote the development of fine motor/visual motor, strengthening and coordination, handwriting, and daily living skills.

The renovation project included installation of a new swing system with varying swings that use spinning, bouncing and swaying movements to promote balance and coordination. An obstacle course has been expanded with structures to encourage other aspects of development; a computer terminal is added for students to work on keyboarding skills; and new preschool and wheelchair-accessible sinks mean all students can practice handwashing skills.

Flooring that was dipping due to years of use was shored up and covered with rubberized flooring that is safer for students as they use scooters and other gross motor equipment during therapy. An observation room with a one-way mirror also allows parents and behavior specialists to watch therapy sessions without distracting the students.

A new ductless heating and air conditioning system provides a comfortable environment throughout the year, while a coat of serene blue paint helps provide a calming atmosphere. The space also benefits the occupational therapists, providing enough office work stations next to the therapy room to complete planning and paperwork.

"The occupational therapists actually got to do the design and layout for the rooms, so we were able to create what we have found to be most effective for the students," said occupational therapist Amanda Richardson. "It gives us the opportunity to really see what the children can do and develop activities that best meet their goals."

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EITC 2018-2019 PARTICIPANTS Education Improvement Tax Credit

EITC Dollars Raised: \$75,500

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, Executive Vice President at the Barber National Institute, at (814) 878-5903.

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Teacher Julie Moore leads drumming circles with a variety of drums purchased through EITC donations.

A little girl shyly walks to the stage as classes of students wait for her direction. Teacher Julie Moore asks the student to tap out a rhythm on a drum, and soon all of the other children are keeping time to the beat. A smile beams across the student's face as she hears her peers imitate her lead.

The ability to build student confidence is just one of the many benefits of drumming, according to Julie. She sees it every time she holds drumming sessions with students using a group of tubano drums purchased with donations to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. The drums are tunable percussion instruments known for producing rich, warm sounds ideal for drumming groups.

"Our language has rhythm, and once students begin to recognize rhythm with drumming it actually helps promote their language development," said Julie.

As an enjoyable sensory experience, drumming reduces problem behaviors, while also promoting focus and attention to task. Julie said that even students who struggle with attention loss remain focused as she gives them directions to follow accompanied by a drum beat. "It's so apparent when you see the students' faces that they are focused, and because of this concentration, they are able to increase their attention span."

As a fun learning activity, you just can't beat it.

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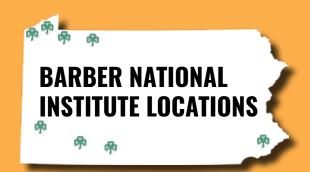




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