

# 2018 Fall News



Creating more  
compassionate  
communities  
since 2005



I will make rivers  
flow on **Barren  
Heights**, & springs  
within the valleys  
**Isaiah 41:18**



## Inside This Issue:

**2** A Message from Abbi Rose

**4** 2018 Gala

**5** Retreat Season Impact

**6** How to Make a Difference

**8** Community Center Impact

# A Message from **Abbi Rose**

## **As I write this letter to you all,**

I am in complete awe. I don't think it has fully sunk in yet that I am an Executive Director. But it is not just the job that has me speechless. It is the fact that I am now the Executive Director for the best organization in the WORLD, Barren Heights. Now that may just be my biased opinion; however, I truly believe it.

As many of you may know, Toni Rose is one of Barren Heights founders, as well as the previous Executive Director. I, Abbi Rose, am her youngest daughter.

I would love to take a moment and share a little bit about myself and about the future of Barren Heights.

## **A Bit About Me:**

- I graduated from WKU with a degree in social work.

- I am currently 22 years old and 4 feet 10 inches. I'm extremely young and short, trust me, I know.

- My favorite food is mac and cheese, but never eat it as a way to practice my self-control.

- I am almost always playing music; however, I am a horrible singer.

- I am extremely competitive when it comes to pretty much any sport, Or really any game. I like to think of this as a good

characteristic that helps me strive towards improvement.

- I may not be the nicest person in the morning.

- I love serving others. Seeing other people happy makes me happy.

- Jesus is my rock.

- Barren Heights is my family. I grew up there. From the age of seven until I was 13, I served at every retreat weekend.

## **The Position:**

As you hear the news that Toni's young daughter is succeeding her, you are probably having several different thoughts. I



I will be moving to the sidelines soon. BUT, I will continue to be your biggest cheerleader as I watch a young ED, an amazing staff and dedicated board continuing to build a God honoring ministry that is changing lives and building more compassionate communities, one family at a time.



**- Toni Rose, Founder**



would love to explain how this happened. It was God. I truly feel like leading this ministry with the help and support of the board is currently God's calling for my life. I have worked for Barren Heights for over a year now and have been a part of the ministry since day one, 14 years ago; and there is nowhere else I would rather be than where I am now. Honestly, I put off applying for the position for the longest time, yet I kept feeling a nudge to put my name in the ring. My thoughts were probably similar to yours..."The board isn't looking for someone my age." "I don't have the experience they are looking for." "What if they are considering me just because I am Toni's daughter?" Despite all these thoughts, I continued to feel that nudge. Thus, I began the application process, still nev-

er fully believing that I would be chosen. This was probably just a faith test like God calling Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, right? Wrong.

Lo and behold, on Monday, September 17th, I was offered the job as Barren Heights' next Executive Director and I am reminded again and again that God does not call the equipped, he equips the called. I could not be more humbled or thrilled about this incredible opportunity. The board has plans to help me learn, grow, and develop in this leadership position and I am looking forward to soaking it all in like a sponge.

#### **The Future:**

I hope to serve God, the board, the staff, the donors, the guests, the volunteers, and the future generations of the Barren

Heights community to the best of my abilities. I am so excited to learn and grow in this role while working with our board and amazing staff. With God guiding this organization, our future children and grandchildren will be serving and attending Barren Heights retreats and events.

Thank you so much for your faith and confidence in me. I am extremely excited about this opportunity.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

**- Ecclesiastes 3:1**

We are so excited that many of you already know Abbi, and will continue to see her around for years to come!



Abbi grew up at Barren Heights, literally! She was around starting with construction on Day 1.



Abbi has worn many hats, from volunteer to intern, ministry coordinator, & everything in between!



We estimate that Abbi has served at over 95 retreats over the past 14 years.

# The Dream Lives On

## Please Join Us!

November 10th, 2018

5:30 PM: Silent Auction & Appetizers

6:30 PM: Dinner, Program, & Live Auction

Louisville Marriott East

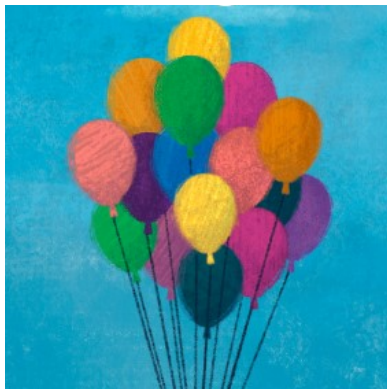
1903 Embassy Square Blvd.

Louisville, KY 40299

It is officially Fall, which means we are deep into the planning stages for our 13th Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction! We are so excited and so confident that this is going to be the best year yet. We have carefully selected the theme “**The Dream Lives On**” and are eager to share with you more behind the meaning of the message.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. at the **Marriott Louisville East** with an impressive array of auction items. We have really focused this year on securing many new and exciting items that will appeal to everyone. Additionally, with enhanced mobile bidding, courtesy of **Riverbend Financial**, the return of emcee Scott Reynolds, live music, volunteer of the year reveal, and a special guest speaker, it is a night you won't want to miss!

Thank you to artist  
Tori Rogers for  
volunteering her  
time & talents to  
create all of the gala  
graphics!



*The Dream  
Lives On*

Tori's mom, Karen,  
is on our Board of  
Directors & also one  
of our super  
auction volunteers!

[Register To Attend](#)

[Buy Raffle Tickets](#)

[How You Can Help](#)



# 2018 Season Quotes

"On Sunday morning during mom and dad time just hearing from the hosts and volunteers about the little things about my kids that made their weekend just was so amazing. Usually we only hear from others about our kids issues or how lucky we are but at Barren Heights the focus was on how beautiful our babies are and that was absolutely the greatest gift I could ever have received." - **2018 Guest**



"Imagine spending your weekend in an environment where everyone speaks your language. You don't have to educate anyone. Make excuses. Explain behavior. AND you're surrounded with REAL HELP! Not just people who continually say "Tell me if you need anything." They don't wait to be told. They jump in and DO! And they have Chick-Fil-A Employee sized smiles on their faces the entire time!" - **2018 Guest**



"Watching the joy on one of my son's faces when he helped another child get a hit in baseball! Seeing him experience joy because of someone else's joy was such a special moment!" - **2018 Volunteer**



"On Saturday evening we sat down on the swing outside of our cabin and just looked at each other and said "today has been a great day" it's been YEARS since we could say that. My family was finally able to have a good day where, even in our specialness, we were able to just have a great day together." - **2018 Guest**

# 2018 Season **Impact**



**The Saenz family** drove all the way from Miami, Florida just to attend a weekend at Barren Heights. How did they hear about us all the way down in Florida? They heard from a family who lives in North Carolina! We have now served guests from 17 different states across our region and beyond.

**The coolest part of this story** is that there was a slight language barrier, but it didn't put a damper on the weekend at all. Freddie, the father and a pastry chef, brought desserts for the entire retreat, and the volunteers went above and beyond to connect through their actions. Love, kindness, and service are a universal language that anyone can understand. Actions really do speak louder than words!

We had 14 families signed up on the waitlist, waiting for an opportunity to attend.



This season, guests traveled from 6 different states to attend a weekend retreat.



9 new volunteer families joined us on our mission to love and encourage families.



"Making 1 person smile can change the world. Maybe not the whole world, but their world."

# Get Involved

## What are you good at!?

We have multiple volunteer opportunities to share and are so thankful for our wonderful volunteers that serve faithfully. Do you want to be a part of the impact this awesome ministry is making and have 1-2 hours to give? Many hands makes light work!

At the Barren Heights Retreat Center in Scottsville, and the Barren Heights Community Center in Louisville, there are literally thousands of ways to get involved, individually, as a small group, business, or as a family. It is our desire to connect your gifts, talents and passions to our mission. **Click the links below to make a difference now!**

[Auction Baskets](#)

[Data Entry](#)

[Hospitality](#)

[Guest Outreach](#)

[Photographer](#)

[Handyman](#)

[Childcare](#)

[Christmas Decorating](#)

[Organizing](#)

## Can You Help Fulfill Our Wish List?

We are in need of several items for the Community Center. These will mostly be used to enhance the programming and childcare events for our kids. The best part of this wish list is all you have to do is complete the purchase and it will be shipped right to us!

### Did you know that Amazon allows you to support Barren Heights while you shop?

Amazon Smile is THE SAME Amazon you know — same products, same prices, same service. The only difference is they donate .5% of every purchase to Barren Heights! Every month we get a donation from Amazon that comes directly from your purchases. This money then goes right back into helping change the lives of special needs families!

[View Wish List](#)

[Sign up with SMILE](#)





In June we launched our sibling community to pour into the siblings of our special kiddos.



Special thanks to volunteer Mindy Terrell for leading such a fun ladies craft night!

Our Men's Community had a blast together on their zipline adventure!



95 people attended our first ever skating party, including 5 new families!

