

# 2019 Winter News



Creating more  
compassionate  
communities  
since 2005



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



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# Battle Buddies

**Dads, we have an exciting** announcement for you...the completion of our Battle Buddies: Shell Shocked video podcast series!

**This is a no strings attached** resource, featuring our own Barren Heights dads, specifically to encourage YOU. This is our initiative to connect with you right where you are physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If you can answer "yes" to any of the questions below, then the Barren Heights Men's Community is excited to provide these videos specifically intended to make it easier for you to connect with a group of men who understand. You are not fighting this battle alone.

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battle alone.

**The *Shell Shocked* video** podcast is a six-part series we released over the course of 2018. Under the direction of expert volunteers and ministry leaders, this project required many hours of dedicated service and was officially completed in October!

**In these videos you will meet a** group of men touched by special needs. You will hear how having a child with special needs has affected their approach to the world around them and the processes they're going through while adapting to a new way of life.

**We invite you to check out each** of the six videos on our Men's Community YouTube channel using the below link. If you find the videos beneficial, then please share them with any friends or groups who you think would also benefit! If you would like to be contacted by someone from our Men's Ministry, please reach out using our confidential email: [battlebuddies@barrenheights.org](mailto:battlebuddies@barrenheights.org)

[Watch the First Video Here](#)

## As a man touched by special needs...

Do you desire to connect with other men who are experiencing the same challenges as you?

Have you wanted to participate in the Barren Heights Men's Community events, but life just gets in the way?

Do you feel alone in your struggles, like nobody understands what you're going through?

# The Dream Lives On

The 13th annual Barren Heights Gala was an incredible night that celebrated the success of the past year as well as defined dreams for the future! Volunteers Susan Duff and Karen Rogers oversaw the best silent auction to date, with many exciting new items as well as the return of many staples. They also mastered a new mobile bidding system that allowed for more creative freedom and easy administration behind the scenes. Their many hours put in before the event truly helped the night run without any major glitches!

Emcee Scott Reynolds once again hosted the festivities, this time with some help from professional auctioneer Mark Bisch. Mark brought an uplifting vibe to the Gala through incorporating a few unique games and competitions that kept everyone engaged and laughing throughout the night!

We heard from retiring Executive Director Toni Rose as well as new Executive Director Abbi Rose as they shared how the Barren Heights dream will live on through the next generation. Brianna Harris reflected on her experience at the retreat as a volunteer when she was younger, and then how that experience changed when she became a single mom of twins boys on the Autism Spectrum.

The night ended with Scott presenting the Volunteer of the Year awards to two very deserving recipients, Emma Foote and Doug Wood! Scott also helped orchestrate a special little surprise as we presented Toni with a basket full of cards and letters from the entire community! Thank you to everyone who participated and made the night one to remember!



# Special Thanks!

## 2018 Gala Corporate Partners

### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors



Hotel Sponsor:



Mobile Bidding Sponsor:



Printing Sponsor:



# Community Events

March

16-17

## Women's "Unmasked" Retreat

Are you a mask wearer? That plastic fantastic. "I'm okay" mask? Ever think about what it may feel like to not put that mask on every time you walk out your front door? Would you like to discover the freedom of living an authentic unmasked life? Join us for our second annual women's retreat led by special needs momma Lori Jackson! Together we will explore how our Lord Jesus Christ, gently and tenderly asks for those masks that bring us bondage.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

## Critically Loved

**Join other parents  
who understand the challenges!**

Critically Loved, a local Louisville nonprofit partner, is hosting an eight week Bible study for parents of chronically and critically ill children. Childcare is free!

[Learn More & RSVP](#)

## Spring Work Day

**Join us as we prepare to open the  
retreat for the 2019 season!**

This is a great 1 day service opportunity for your family, team, small group, or work group! We have a variety of outdoor and indoor projects that are friendly for all ages and abilities.

[Learn More & RSVP](#)

## Barren Heights Community Center Impact

// Barren Heights Community Center is invaluable to me and my family! I enjoy the fellowship with the other special moms in the Women's Bible Studies and other events such as paint nights and "Pound" Class. My husband and I try not to miss and of the Date Nights and couples' Bible Studies which include skilled, in-house childcare! BHCC is a God-send! //

# Meet the **New Staff**



Vicki Spagnuolo

Vicki is a new Ministry Coordinator! We always say God brings the right people to Barren Heights at the right time, and we are so thankful He brought Vicki to us! After hearing about Barren Heights from three different people three times in a row, she knew she needed to apply. Vicki is a quick learner and very detail oriented. She is passionate about connecting people to Jesus and is a true spark of joy and constant encouragement in the office!



Shaun Ward

Shaun is also a new Ministry Coordinator! Shaun and her family got connected to Barren Heights as a host family several years ago. Her husband, Billy, coaches soccer at Boyce and works at The Marketing Squad. She also has three kids, two in high school and one in college! Shawn is a dedicated worker and goes above and beyond in everything she does. She loves creative, strategic thinking and has already brought many new improvements to the table!

Congratulations to former Ministry Coordinator Jessica Cowles on the birth of her second son, Hudson! Jessica was a vital piece of our team for two years and we are thankful for her heart and dedication to this community!



After 5 years of faithful leadership, Craig Thomas rolled off the board at the end of 2018. Craig has touched every aspect of this ministry and has played an integral role in our growth. Thank you Craig for your steady advocacy and leadership! We were excited to welcome Mindy Terrell and Tim Hill to the board at the end of last year!



# Make An Impact

## 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 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!**

Music

Data Entry

Hospitality

Guest Outreach

Photographer

Handyman

Childcare

Technology

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](#)



Christmas Family Barn Church Celebration



November "So Thankful" Date Night

Men's Wild At Heart Retreat



Want more frequent updates!? Follow us!

