

Barren
Heights

Volume 14
Issue 2



BARREN HEIGHTS 2020 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE Executive Director

We, as Barren Heights, have been learning how to continue to serve in this new normal. We are focused on the positives and God's plans to move us forward! Here are some of our most recent updates from **Executive Director Abbi Rose**:

Retreat Cancellations

With careful consideration, the first five retreats of the 2020 season have been cancelled (Retreats A-E). Our team has been working with the guest and volunteer families affected to get them rescheduled to a later retreat weekend. With our community's health and safety at the forefront, Barren Heights staff and board will meet virtually on **May 29th, 2020** to determine whether or not further retreats must be suspended. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we come to this decision!

June Fundraising Campaign

During the month of May we typically host our second biggest fundraiser of the year. With the postponement of retreat season, this campaign is now scheduled to launch on June 15th, 2020! This year we are aiming to reach a \$20,000 goal that will help us launch right into retreat season. This year might look a little different, but the impact on the families in our community remains the same - you can be a part of that impact! **Read more details about the June Campaign on the next page.**



[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



[READ THE LETTER](#)

JUNE 2020 Campaign

When is it?

The rescheduled campaign will run **June 15th through June 26th**. You will be receiving more information both in the mail and in your inbox when the time comes! We hope that you will consider partnering with us and getting involved!

Why do it?

During this global pandemic, we have all lived through an unprecedented time of uncertainty and social isolation. Many special needs families live in this isolation day in and day out, regardless of the virus. We are just getting a glimpse into those realities. The need is greater than ever. Families living with disabilities still need community and still need Jesus.

The Goal?

The bigger goal is to impact one family, one person, one story at a time. The monetary **goal is to raise \$20,000** that will be our launching pad for the 2020 retreat season. This \$20,000 will bring more families the tangible, touchable evidence that Jesus loves them, today and every day.

“

Our family was able to connect with each other and talk about our faith and it's place in our family in a way we haven't before.

- Guest Mom

”



BH2 Drawing Winners!

This season we are hosting three retreats for returning families instead of two! Congratulations to the following families who won:

- The Flemings
- The Crases
- The Hockleys
- The Krogulskis
- The Scotts
- The Luekens
- The Howells
- The Gurtner
- The Tripps

We still have openings!

Despite the official start of retreat season remaining in limbo, we are still planning, hoping, and praying that we will be able to host as many retreats as possible this season! We still have many openings for both volunteer and guest families. **Share with your your friends and reserve your spot at a family retreat today!** In the event that your retreat gets cancelled, we will work with you to find an alternative weekend. Our world has been turned upside down but **we are still creating more compassionate communities through families serving families and YOU make that mission still possible!**

[SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION](#)





Families Serving Families

INITIATIVE



31

FAMILIES
INVOLVED

22

GROCERY
DELIVERIES

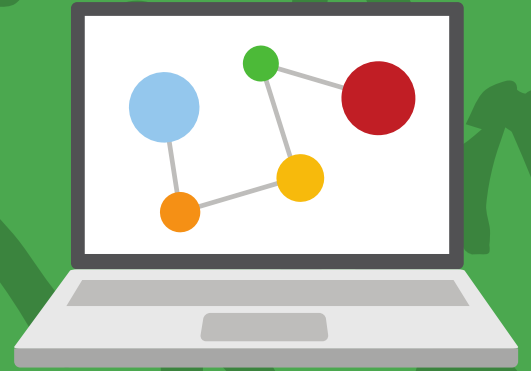
18

FAMILIES
PAIRED

Many of our Barren Heights families have been hit particularly hard by all of the sudden changes due to the pandemic. In an effort to continue making sure everyone feels loved, accepted, welcomed, and safe, the **Families Serving Families Initiative** was launched! The program pairs families together to provide one of three services: grocery delivery, routine phone communication, and the pen pal program. We are so thankful to **Southeast Christian Church** for their generosity in providing boxed grocery packages, and to the many volunteers who drove around town delivering them. We are grateful for partnerships like this and the opportunity for Barren Heights to act as the hands and feet of Christ for special needs families even during a pandemic. Together we are creating more compassionate communities!

At-home Activity & Learning Mega List

Check out our giant list of resources to have fun while staying healthy at home. From national parks, museums, science centers, learning activities, spiritual resources, and more, there's entertainment for everyone!



THE MEGA LIST



Routine Calls

Our community has been so creative in their efforts to connect with one another. Two families who have been paired together have been having weekly phone calls to play games with one another virtually! Their game of choice so far has been Battleship!

“Thank you to your team for setting up the “penpals” program- our kids sent their first letters a week or two back and were so excited to get their first return letters in the mail yesterday! Hoping we get to meet our family when all is clear!”

Pen Pal Program

Our Pen Pals Program, part of our Families Serving Families Initiative, has helped connect kids of similar ages during this time of social isolation. Writing letters can bring creativity and fun to “homeschool!” Want to get your kids connected? **Sign up below!**



**SIGN UP FOR A PEN PAL
HERE**



Mom's Night Impact

"I was able to meet new moms and engage in conversation with women who understood what I face with having a special needs child. Just being able to have a moment outside of my home to enjoy a time where I didn't have to be in Mom/Caregiver mode was AWESOME! I loved the whole night"

- New Guest Mom & Paint Spot Party Attendee

Campfire Concert Impact

"I love that song, our son Evan plays that on the piano sometimes, he loves this song too. He has Autism but he is an Amazing kid who loves Jesus!"

- Guest Mom & Virtual Bonfire Participant



FSFI Impact

"Thank you sooooo much for all that you have sent. It truly is helpful in ways I can't even describe. The bible study was also right on point this week. God is awesome!!!"

- Guest Mom & FSFI Participant



SAVE THE

Dates



Due to COVID-19, events and event details are subject to change based on government recommendations for safety. Our families come first!

Friday, May 22nd

Campfire Concert with Marshall Fall

Our multi-talented volunteer, Marshall, will be performing another Campfire Concert at 7:00 PM! Tune in live for an evening of music and fun on the Barren Heights facebook page!

Friday, July 24th

2nd Annual Ice Cream Social

Join us at the Miracle League Park for free ice cream with friends at an inclusive, ADA accessible park. Grab your whole family and sprinkle on the fun!

Saturday, September 12th

Louisville City Family Outing

Head over with us to the brand new Louisville City Stadium this fall to watch the intense game between the Indy Eleven and our own Lou City!

Saturday, November 7th

15th Annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

We are excited for you to join us for our 2020 Gala to celebrate another year of God's work at Barren Heights! It will be a night of looking back and looking ahead as we continue to **Grow Together**.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE DETAILS ON
EACH EVENT IN THE COMING WEEKS!



Barren Heights

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