

FALL @ BARREN HEIGHTS

**"THEY SOW FIELDS AND PLANT
VINEYARDS THAT YIELD A FRUITFUL
HARVEST." —PSALMS 107:37**



RETREAT 0 - OCTOBER 4-6

'24 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Barren Heights



Yoo-hoo! Big Summer Wrap-Up!

When we last chatted, we had just prepped the Retreat Center at Work Day and were getting ready for our 2024 Retreat Season. Well, a lot has happened since then! We had a wonderful Retreat Season where 55 different volunteer families or organizations (some families served multiple times!) served 51 special needs families between June and mid-October. In all, 494 people crossed through the gates of our Retreat Center this summer to experience rest, peace, service, and love in ways they may have never experienced before. What a blessing it is to do what we do!

We also hosted eight community events including (but not limited too!) Men's Bonfire Night, Ice Cream at the Park, Women's Picnic, and Couple's Topgolf Date Night. We had so much fun creating more compassionate communities in the Louisville area and can't wait to keep the fellowship going this fall!

On this Season of BH Community Events

Crisp fall air has us dreaming of cozy community events. Here's a sneak peak of what's to come this fall and winter and how you can support us as we serve!

Emerald Ball Benefit Dinner

Saturday, November 9 | 5 p.m. | Woodhaven

Barren Heights is in our 20th year, so we are throwing an Emerald Ball to celebrate! The theme is green if you know what we mean, so dress in head to toe emerald and celebrate 20 years of serving special needs families with us. We'll share in a delicious meal followed by a fun auction and raffle. Get your tickets at barrenheights.org/benefit.

HoliDate Night

Thursday, November 21 | SECC Blankenbaker

Join Barren Heights founders Joe & Toni Rose and Growing Your Marriage leaders John & Lorie Weires for a one night workshop where couples can work on their relationships and grow closer to God. *HoliDate Night is currently full, so please pray for the couples who will be attending and the leaders as they prepare and lead this meaningful event!*

GivingTuesday

Tuesday, December 3 | Online

The year's biggest celebration of generosity returns on Tuesday, December 3rd. Each GivingTuesday, people across the globe take a moment to support the causes and organizations that are nearest to their heart. This GivingTuesday, we hope you will remember Barren Heights as you donate and share on your socials! Make a donation at barrenheights.org/donations.

Sensory-Friendly Christmas

December 7 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | ecotech

Begin your family's holiday season with a visit from Santa and his elves in a sensory-friendly environment. Participants will enjoy yummy treats, cookie decorating, holiday crafts, and, of course, time with the big guy himself. We'll even have a photographer taking Santa photos! Learn more and RSVP at barrenheights.org/events/christmasparty.

Christmas Gift Shop

December 10 & 12 | 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Families of children with disabilities are invited to join us for this free event as we open our gift shop of Christmas goodies. You can stop by to pick up a few gifts and stocking stuffers for your kiddos and even wrap them before you leave at our wrapping station. We'll have all the supplies you need to get your gifts ready to put under the Christmas tree! Learn more at barrenheights.org/events/christmas-gift-shop.

Winter Specialty Retreats

January, February, & March 2025

Our summer retreats are officially behind us, but that just means we're getting ready for our winter specialty retreats! Beginning in January 2025, we will host three free restful and encouraging retreats—one each for men, women, and married couples of children with disabilities. Find dates and info on [page seven](#).

Stay up-to-date on our upcoming events at barrenheights.org/events or follow us on socials.

facebook.com/barrenheights.org

instagram.com/barrenheights



The Lopez Family Our BH Retreat Experience



Our weekend at Barren Heights was such a gift to our family. We got to relax, have fun, and leave refreshed! I can't remember the last time we left anything (other than a kid-free weekend) feeling refreshed, but this weekend, we did. The volunteers really were the hands and feet of Jesus to us this weekend. It was exactly what we needed, and we were so grateful!



My daughter had the best time. She definitely felt accepted, welcomed, and loved just as she is! She was thrilled to play with so many kind friends and loved the activities that were set up for her. As parents of a child with disabilities, we often feel exhausted and depleted. It was such a blessing to be able to share the load of caregiving for a weekend and for people to jump at the chance to serve not only our daughter but our other children and us too!

The volunteers at Barren Heights are AMAZING. They looked for opportunities to serve and were always happy to step in to play with our daughter or help us out. All throughout the weekend we felt accepted, included, served, and loved on. We didn't have to ask for help or apologize when our daughter was having a hard time. It was such an incredible gift to have strangers step in and meet her and our family's huge needs.

I would highly recommend this retreat to any parents with children with disabilities. It's a unique chance to connect with other families similar to yours, experience built in accommodations, and get to experience fun things together as a family that were designed to be accessible to our special needs kiddos. What a blessing!



Barren Heights cordially invites you to our

Emerald Ball

ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

*Saturday,
November 9th*

DOORS AT 5 PM ♦ DINNER AT 6:30 PM
WOODHAVEN COUNTRY CLUB

Barren Heights is in our 20th year, so we are throwing an Emerald Ball to celebrate! The theme is green if you know what we mean, so dress in head to toe emerald and celebrate 20 years of serving special needs families with us. We'll share in a delicious meal followed by a fun auction and raffle. We can't wait to celebrate the past 20 years and dream about the year ahead alongside all of our Barren Heights family. Bejewel, bedazzle, be generous to families of children with disabilities! RSVP or donate online today.

barrenheights.org/benefit

Coming Winter 2025 Specialty Retreat Season!

Winter specialty retreats are the overnight getaway you'll be craving after a busy holiday season and a gray winter indoors. Plus they're free to families of children with disabilities, so you can't beat the price! Applications will open in December 2nd, so set a reminder and keep an eye on our socials for links to apply. *All retreats are hosted at our Retreat Center in Scottsville, KY.*



Men's Retreat
JANUARY 17-18, 2025



Marriage Retreat
FEBRUARY 15-16, 2025



Women's Retreat
MARCH 8-9, 2025

*Give While
You Shop*

Want to financially support programs like our specialty retreats for special needs families? One easy way to give back is to take part in the Kroger Community Rewards program! >>>

**kroger community
rewards**

Holiday season is here, which means there are big family meals on the way! Give back to the community while purchasing the supplies you need. When you swipe your free Kroger Rewards card, a percentage of the profits goes to Barren Heights!

Register Barren Heights as your benefiting nonprofit today on
[kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards)

Welcome to BH, Tyler!



Fun Facts About Tyler:

A book I wish I could read for the first time again: Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis or The Inheritance Games series

Favorite color: forest or sage green

If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be? A monkey

Something on my bucket list is:
To spend a birthday in New York City

In mid-October, Barren Heights welcomed a new member to the team, **Tyler Schmitt!** Tyler will be assisting Kelly as our Programs Coordinator. She was born and raised in Louisville and graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in May of 2024 with a Master of Divinity. During her time at Asbury, she worked for the Community Formation department as a Chaplain for students in single housing on campus. She describes her time at Asbury as the most formative years of her life. "From commuting from Louisville my first year, to moving in with three strangers who quickly became like family, to working on campus and experiencing the Asbury Outpouring, to graduating and moving back home and going back to working at Starbucks, the Lord's hand in it has been so evident."

Tyler is passionate about building community and people being seen and loved in every season of life. Outside of work, she loves to spend time with friends, read, garden, bake/cook, and enjoy a good cup of coffee. We are so glad she is here and are excited to welcome her to the Barren Heights community. **Welcome to BH, Tyler!**



Music Park Glow Up

Earlier in October, our music park got an accessibility glow up! This project—funded by **WHAS Crusade for Children** and beautifully executed by **Luxury Garden Center, Inc.**—makes this sensory experience easier for our guests to access and easier to maintain landscaping-wise. We're so excited to have an even more guest-friendly space next season!



Three Cheers for Generosity!

These charitable organizations and foundations were on our team and gave BIG this year, so we just want to show some team spirit and mention them by name. Their grants went/will go toward weekend retreats, Retreat Center projects, Community Center programming, and even an upcoming playground renovation project at the Retreat Center. Take a moment to read through this list of team players, and click available links to learn more about them.

Carson-Myre Charitable Foundation

Cralle Foundation

Edward G. Reynolds Charitable Foundation

Enterprise Mobility Giving

Forwith Family Foundation

Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

Janice Gardner Foundation

LG&E & KU Foundation

Paul & Kristie Jordan Family Charitable Fund

Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust

Southeast Christian Church

WHAS Crusade for Children

Wood & Marie Hannah Foundation

Want to be on our team and become a monthly donor?
Visit **barrenheights.org/donations** and click "Yes! I Want to Give Monthly".



Sometimes you just gotta be silly!

Find Us
Online or
Nearby!

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Tyler made everyone
espresso drinks



Our cozy Snack
Group circle



Snack Group
Bingo Champion!

