

Barren Heights Gazette

SCOTTSVILLE & LOUISVILLE, KY

FEBRUARY 2025

WINTER NEWS

ALL THE GOINGS-ON AT BH



Men gather at our 2025 Men's Retreat weekend on January 18th–19th

The weather has been cold. We've had too much rain and some might even say too much snow. But we here at Barren Heights have still been serving families of children with disabilities!

We've thrown parties, hosted specialty retreats, and even held a fellowship lunch, all while gearing up for what we will be our best summer retreat season yet. Keep reading for all the details.

From the DIRECTOR'S DESK



As we step into 2025, we are filled with gratitude for another incredible year! In 2024, our twentieth year of operation, we witnessed God's faithfulness through the generosity and dedication of our guests, volunteers, donors, and partners.

We hosted 44 retreats and events, providing a place of belonging for families living with disabilities. The completion of The Lodge, our new multipurpose building, was a major milestone, and we are excited for its future impact! We also expanded volunteer involvement, ensuring even more families experienced the love and community of Barren Heights. This year, our focus is growth, accessibility, and sustainability. We are revamping our

Retreat Center playground to increase accessibility and inclusivity as well as prioritizing much-needed updates and repairs to our aging retreat facilities. We want Barren Heights to be welcoming families for many, many years to come! Lastly, we plan to extend our reach by developing partnerships in the areas surrounding Louisville (and beyond!) while also aiming to grow our volunteer base, allowing us to expand our retreat season in the future.

Barren Heights thrives because of you—our volunteers, supporters, and families. If you've ever considered serving or know a family who would benefit, now is the time! Visit barrenheights.org to get involved.

We trust in God's perfect plan and can't wait to see what's ahead in 2025! ■

—Abbi Rose, Executive Director



2025 will be our first full year of having the Lodge for both winter and summer retreats!



VOLUNTEER IN '25

A new year at Barren Heights means an abundant amount of volunteer opportunities! We are a volunteer-driven organization that relies heavily on the amazing volunteer support we receive from individuals and families. Want to serve on a week night for a couple hours? We have an opportunity for that! Want to take a weekend mission trip with the whole family? We have soooooo many opportunities for you to check out. So grab your calendars, pull up your browser, and complete the volunteer application so we can get you plugged in! *If you are interested in serving at our Community Center or at one of our Community Events, please reach out directly to our Programming Manager Tyler at tyler@barrenheights.org.*

Dates & Info for Volunteers

Retreat Volunteers
Applications Open Now!

New Volunteer Training
Thursday, April 24th

Retreat Center Work Day
Saturday, May 10th



WINTER RECAP

A lot has happened at Barren Heights since the last edition of our newsletter hit stands in October. Here are just a few of the many highlights. To see all the fun things we'll be getting up to this year, make sure to join our email list at barrenheights.org/email.



Launched Growing Families Partnership in February



2025 Marriage Retreat



2024 Christmas Party



2024 HoliDate Night



2025 Family Fellowship



Speakers Craig & Kelsey Thomas

2024 Benefit Dinner

DATES TO KNOW

As winter comes to a close, Barren Heights is just getting started! We have many opportunities for our community in the near future, so grab your calendar and jot down these dates. *Click images for info and registrations.*



Sweatshirt Fundraiser ends at midnight on 2.28



MNO RSVPs open 3.6



Mom's Night Out on 4.17



Volunteer Training on 4.24



Spring Campaign begins 5.5



Work Day at BH on 5.10



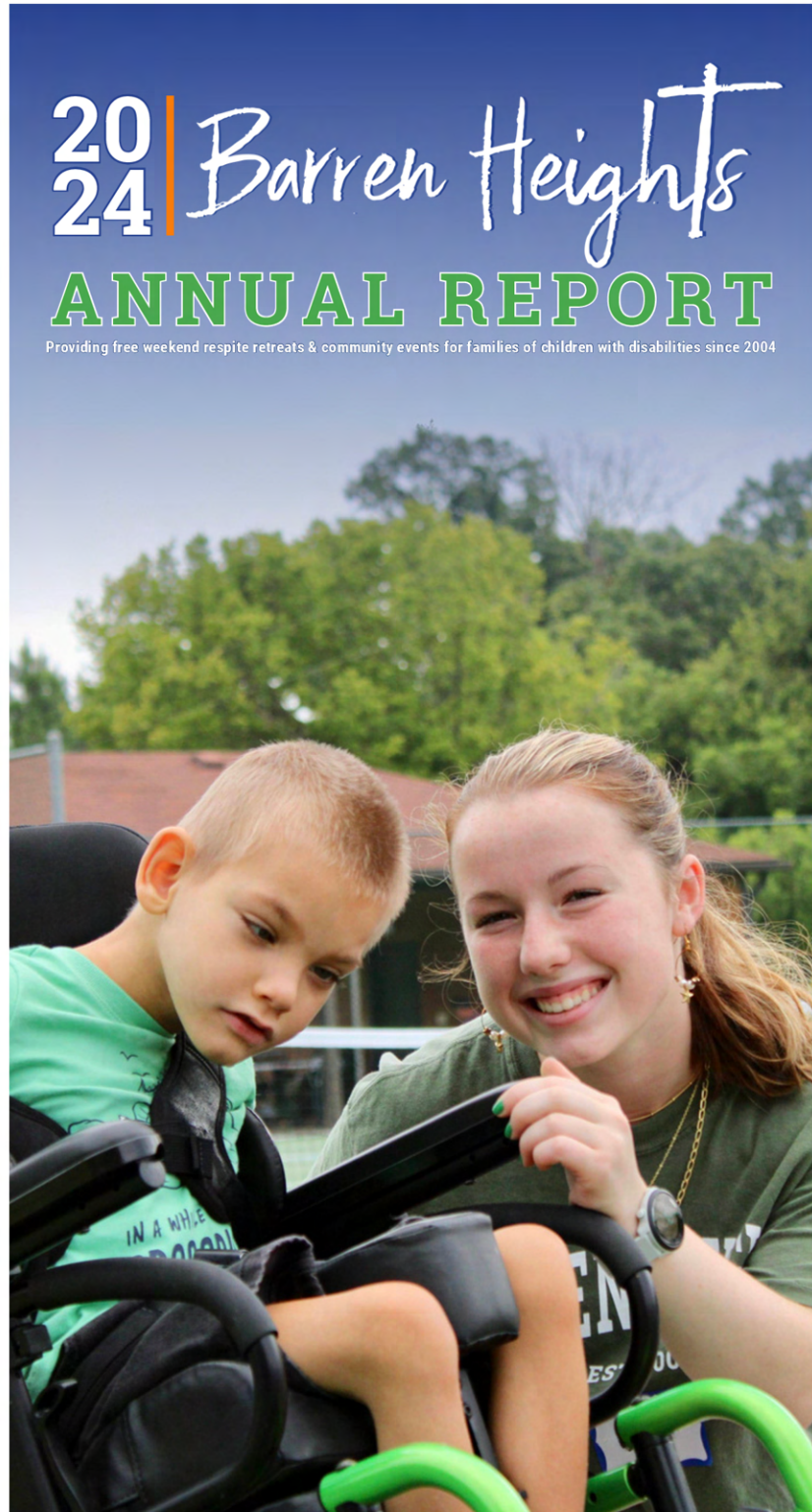
Spring Campaign ends 5.15

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

At the beginning of each year, we celebrate last year's accomplishments and look forward to the year ahead in our Annual Report. In 2024, we hosted 19 weekend retreats, 25 community events, and served 401 families of children with disabilities! Those numbers represent tangible experiences and real families that we were able to impact simply through hosting opportunities for connection where families could feel loved, accepted, welcomed, and safe.

Our 2024 Annual Report is loaded with statistics, financials, photos, and goals and is now available online. We invite you to take a look [HERE](#), and celebrate with us!

Tap the image to read our [2024 Annual Report](#)



Three Cheers for Generosity! PARTNER APPRECIATION

In 2024, we received a over **\$218,000** in grants from foundations and charitable organizations! These funds were given to Barren Heights to help finish the Lodge, replace the New Barn HVAC system, and cover the cost of weekend retreats and community events. Additionally, we received major funding from the Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust and Kosair for Kids for an upcoming playground project at our Retreat Center. We can't wait to tell our community all about it later this spring, so stay tuned!

We are so grateful to all of the organizations that believe in the mission and vision of Barren Heights and support us through financial grants. In each quarterly newsletter, we like to give shout outs and huge THANK YOUS to the organizations that have given in the last quarter. The following list is just the most recent grants we have received, but you can find a [complete listing of our 2024 grant supporters on our website](#).

Could You Give Us a Boost?

While we can do so much through the generous grants we receive, we can do **EVEN MORE** when monthly donors partner with Barren Heights and provide sustained support throughout the year. Would you consider coming alongside Barren Heights and becoming what we call a "Barren Heights Booster"? Not only will you help us serve special needs families, you'll get to join our Booster community which includes periodic gatherings, exclusive monthly communications, and perks just for our Boosters. [Will you join us?](#)

Barren Heights qualifies for tax exempt status under section 501-c-3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible under section 170. EIN:32-0121355

Grant Supporters

October 2024–February 2025



Major Donor



Major Donor



Playground makeover coming soon!

Special Thanks to Our BENEFIT DINNER SPONSORS

Last November, we celebrated 20 years of Barren Heights at our Emerald Ball Benefit Dinner, and it turns out that our community is one mean green giving machine! We ate good food, got a little emotional, ooh'd and ahh'd over the fabulous green outfits, and had the best time remembering all that God has done these past 20 years. And by the end of the night...we raised over \$120,000!

Nearly a quarter of what we raised was thanks to the generous corporate sponsors listed. We are able to serve families of children with disabilities only through the support of our donors, corporate sponsors, foundations, and volunteers. Thank you for changing our community and for supporting Barren Heights through your prayers, presence, and financial support.

Gold Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

