



BH News *Spring 2025*

There's No Place Like Barren Heights



Table of Contents

1 Retreat Center Makeover • **2** Serve & Celebrate in May • **3** Prayer Patio • **4** Specialty Retreats Recap • **5** Mom's Night Out • **6** Spring Campaign • **7** Green & Gold Gala

2025 is the Year of the **Retreat Center** *Makeover!*

Our beloved Retreat Center has been working hard at serving families of children with disabilities for over 20 years now, and it was in definite need of repairs and a little refreshing. And that is exactly what has been going on behind the scenes this spring as we prepare for our 2025 Retreat Season. The New Barn, all guest cabins, picnic shelter, and the Olive Dining Hall (formerly the Olive Pavilion) received brand new siding to match the Lodge. Additionally, fresh coats of interior paint and new floors are going into the guest cabins and the Dining Hall. Lastly, and possibly most exciting for our guest families, our guest cabins now have reliable hot water due to our brand-new propane water heaters!

Much more is planned throughout late spring and summer—new gravel for the wagon path, hammock area tree maintenance, and a HUGE new playground project—so stay tuned for more exciting updates!



Be Our Guest!

Names for our returning guest BH2 retreats will be drawn on April 22nd, so there's still time to apply for both new and returning guests. Know a special needs family who could use a free Barren Heights retreat weekend? Send them to barrenheights.org/retreat-calendar to apply!

Rendering of Our Upcoming Playground Project



Serve & Celebrate *in May!*



Work Day



Saturday, May 10th • 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
BH Retreat Center in Scottsville

Each year we host a fun and productive Retreat Center Work Day where the whole family can serve. Work outside in the sunshine and help us clean, organize, paint, make repairs, and clean up landscaping. Everyone can participate! Participate as a family, couple, or even by yourself. We need you and value your skills! Snacks and lunch will be provided.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." –1 Peter 4:10

RSVP at

barrenheights.org/events/work-day



Volunteer Appreciation **PICNIC**

Friday, May 16th • 6–8 p.m.
Robsion Park in Louisville

We are so thankful for the volunteers who make all of our summer weekend retreats and community events possible! If you are scheduled to serve at our Retreat Center during the 2025 season or served at any event or retreat in 2024, come kick off retreat season at our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. We want to say thank you in a big way with a yummy meal from Chick-fil-A and some fun in the sun at beautiful Robsion Park's large picnic shelter (follow the Barren Heights signs!). Bring the whole family to mingle with all of our volunteers!

RSVP at

barrenheights.org/volunteer-appreciation



The Prayer Patio: A Place of Remembrance

"Barren Heights has been a large part of my life for many years, and it is my desire to give back to this wonderful organization!" –Heidi Pym

Over one weekend in mid-April, Heidi Pym, her family, and a group of volunteers created a tranquil space at our Scottsville Retreat Center that we are calling **the Prayer Patio**. Heidi and her family have been longtime guests and volunteers of Barren Heights, and we are so thankful that she chose to construct this memorial garden as her American Heritage Girls community service project. For many years, we had a cross on our property, and we are excited to once again have this stunning wooden cross within our gates for all of our retreat families to enjoy. Bricks from last year's Lodge Brick Fundraiser also surround the cross alongside lovely plants and stones making this a place of not only peace and prayer, but of remembrance—both of loved ones and of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Thank you to Heidi, all those who volunteered during this project, those who purchased bricks to help fund the Lodge, and to the Larry R. Coffey Charitable Trust who provided additional funds for the Prayer Patio. We know this beautiful area at our Retreat Center will bring comfort and meaning for years to come to all the families who find themselves at Barren Heights.



Heidi spearheaded this project



Lodge Fundraiser bricks honoring loved ones surround the cross



2025 Specialty Retreat Season Recap



Barren Heights is well-known for our fun in the sun summer family retreats, but did you know that we also host three specialty retreats for married couples, men, and women every winter? In fact, we were able to impact 59 people this past 2025 specialty retreat season! What a blessing it is to go a little deeper into God's Word and build new relationships even in the dreary winter months.

"This organization is amazing. I have felt God at work during my visits. I thank you so much for focusing on all aspects of Christian family life, especially for those with special needs. You are amazing people, and I love you."
 –2025 Men's Retreat Guest



Spring 2025 **Mom's Night Out**

On April 17th, [Barren Heights](#), [Critically Loved](#), [Down Syndrome of Louisville](#), and [FEAT of Louisville](#) combined forces to throw a pj pamper party for moms of children with disabilities. Our mommas ate Salsarita's, relaxed in a lavender scented spa room, received professional chair massages, and walked away with door prizes, a craft, and new friendships. Though Mom's Night Out is annual and many mommas can't wait to return, around a third of the moms who attended this year were brand new to this 100% FREE event! Sneak a peek at all the fun we had.



Our Spring Campaign is May 5-15!

When you give, you are truly changing the lives of families of children with disabilities. Monthly giving, one-time donations, and community partnerships ensure our programs remain free for everyone. **Will you help us raise \$20,000 by giving or becoming a monthly donor during our Spring Campaign?**



What will your gift do?

At Barren Heights, 77% of our operating budget goes to programming. That means 77 cents of every dollar given will go toward hosting 19 free retreats in Scottsville and multiple free community events in the Louisville area this year! Because of your financial support, our families can have new, fun, safe, and accessible experiences without adding any financial burden to their already heavy plates.

Additionally, this year we are doing multiple exterior and interior maintenance projects to existing Retreat Center structures like the guest cabins, the Dining Hall, and the New Barn as well as completely overhauling our playground with brand new freestanding, accessible play features this year. **Our generous community makes projects like these possible! See [page 1](#) for a more comprehensive list of all of our exciting Retreat Center projects, including a rendering of our soon-to-be installed playground!**

Ready to help us reach our goals?

Learn more & give online at barrenheights.org/spring.

Mail checks to *Barren Heights, 11420 Watterson Court #800, Louisville, KY 40299*

How can you give?

Give Monthly: Much of our work depends on reliable sources of funds to ensure there are no gaps in the services we provide. Monthly giving enables us to spend less time fundraising and more time serving families.

Give Once: Each gift helps us make families feel loved, accepted, welcomed, and safe. During our Spring Campaign, we aim to raise \$20,000 to send 25 guest families to a retreat this summer!

Increase Giving: Already give monthly but want to do more? Even a monthly increase of just \$5 or \$10 can make a huge impact.

"If you want a place to slow down and enjoy your family, Barren Heights is that place. If you want a place where your special needs child is embraced and fully welcomed, Barren Heights is that place. If you want a place to rest from the stresses of life and caretaking, Barren Heights is that place."
—2024 Retreat Guest Parent



[PS Adopt-A-Box is back! Click to learn more.](#)

Save the Date

Green & Gold Gala

Annual Dinner to Benefit Barren Heights

Saturday, November 1st • Woodhaven Country Club

We had such a grand response to our Emerald Ball last year, that we've decided to stay in our green era. Our annual Benefit Dinner will henceforth be known as the Green & Gold Gala! The theme is green if you know what we mean, so dress in head-to-toe emerald and celebrate all God has done and continues to do through Barren Heights. Bejewel, bedazzle, be generous to families of children with disabilities!

Save the date & watch for your invitation this summer

Will You Be a Benefit Dinner Sponsor?

We had 19 generous businesses help us reach our \$120,000 goal last year. Can you or a business you know make next year's retreats and events possible by sponsoring our 2025 Benefit Dinner? Check out our **Sponsor Form** for more info!



Our guests looked stunning in green at last year's Emerald Ball!