

# Barren Heights

## 2025 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



**"They sow fields and plant vineyards that yield a fruitful harvest." —Psalm 107:37**



[barrenheights.org](http://barrenheights.org)



## *There's No Place Like Barren Heights* 2025 Summer Retreats

Summer is quickly fading into fall, but Barren Heights retreats and community events are still going strong! So far this summer, we have hosted 11 family retreats, four community events, **started an online Bible study**, launched our **Fall Sweatshirt Fundraiser**, and sent out the invitations for our **Annual Green & Gold Gala**. Phew! Busy but impactful! We've listed all of our upcoming events **on our website** if you want to pop over there to learn more, including the dates for our winter specialty retreats for women, men, and married couples. As always, these community building, gospel growing, and family enriching opportunities are provided to families of children with disabilities at no cost to them! Learn more about the financial supporters who make these opportunities possible (and how you can help too!) on **page 7**.

As you know, though, it's not the programming of Barren Heights that is our main focus but how everything we do aims to share the gospel, impact families, and glorify God. We ask that you continue to pray for our staff, board, and volunteers as we seek to honor Christ in all of our actions, in our planning, and in the way we treat those around us. It is such a blessing not only to serve this community but also to show them the love of Christ!







Last year we began looking at our facilities and considering how we could best steward, maintain, and expand on what had already been so lovingly established on our property in order to provide many more years of impact to our community. This past spring 2025, we tackled **critical maintenance projects to extend the lives of our facilities**, and this fall, we decided to dial up the fun!

We are excited to introduce you to our newly expanded and highly inclusive Retreat Center playground! Over two weeks in August 2025, our old swing sets were removed in order to make way for a ton of new features for our guests and volunteers to enjoy including the Miracle Museum™ Grand Gallery, Interaxion™ Alpha Climber, Inclusive Whirl, Miracle Museum™ Momentum Corridor, and a new and greatly improved swing set with an Inclusive Swing Seat.

This beautifully expanded (and inclusive!) playground project was funded by the Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Foundation, **Kosair for Kids Advisory Council**, and the **King's Daughters & Sons Foundation of Kentucky**. Thank you to these incredibly generous organizations for supporting Barren Heights and for all the work that they do to enrich the lives of families of children with disabilities. We are humbled by their support and what it makes possible for our community! **[Click here to see a brief video overview of the new playground.](#)**

*Want to see not only our beautiful new playground but also all the updated facility exteriors in person? Come help at one of our **Retreat Center Fall Work Days** in September! You can help maintain our beautiful outdoor spaces and get a peek at all the updates. **[Complete RSVP form here.](#)***





## Meet Megan, Our 2025 Retreat Intern!



This summer, Barren Heights has been blessed to have Megan Smith as our Retreat Intern—longtime volunteer and absolute gem! As part of her Summer of Service for the Lindsey Wilson Bonner Scholar Program, Megan has served at almost every retreat this summer taking photos, loving on families, and being an incredible resource for our volunteers. If you've been at a retreat with Megan this summer, you know she has made each retreat better through her kind heart and eagerness to serve.

Barren Heights is deeply rooted in Megan's story where she grew up serving alongside her parents and grandparents. Now as an elementary education major, she chose to return to make new memories of her own. In her words, "Each weekend leaves me with a full heart and a deeper love for the Barren Heights community." Megan's return to Barren Heights is more than just her Bonner Summer of Service; it's a beautiful continuation of a family legacy, lived out with love, laughter, and purpose.

Words cannot express what it has meant to our community to have Megan with us this summer. **Please join us in praying for her as she completes her Summer of Service and enters her junior year of college this fall!**





# Support Barren Heights This Fall

Barren Heights is able to encourage families of children with disabilities only through the generous and consistent support of our donors and volunteers. And this fall, we have multiple opportunities that will allow you to impact the lives of our community.

## Prayer Team

So much of what we do at Barren Heights begins and ends with prayer. We know there are many in our community who are gifted to intercede on behalf of others, and we have a place for those people! [Learn more about our Prayer Team here.](#)

## Fall Sweatshirt Fundraiser

Want to financially support Barren Heights AND get the word out about who we are? Wear our merch when you're out and about! You can get yourself the snuggliest BH sweatshirt between now and September 21st during our Fall Sweatshirt Fundraiser. [Check out our two fall and winter appropriate designs on page 5.](#)

## Retreat Center Fall Work Days

Our Retreat Center has been used well this summer hosting special needs families during our respite retreats, and it is in need of a little landscaping TLC. So we're calling all landscaping lovers, weeding warriors, and plant proponents to help during our Retreat Center Fall Work Days in Scottsville, KY—September 11th and 15th. [Learn more and register to help here.](#)

## 2025 Green & Gold Gala

You may have recently received an invitation in the mail to our annual Green & Gold Gala on November 1st. You can support Barren Heights by [purchasing a ticket or table to attend](#), bidding on auction items (coming soon!), [purchasing raffle tickets](#), [making a donation](#), or [becoming a business sponsor](#). [Learn more here.](#)

## Kroger Community Rewards Program

It's shopping season—think school supplies, winter clothes, Christmas gifts, big family dinners, so on—and there's no easier way to support Barren Heights than to participate in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. 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 at [kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards).

## Make a Donation

As always, you can support Barren Heights by making a [one-time donation](#) or by [becoming a monthly donor](#). No gift is too small! Visit [barrenheights.org/donations](https://barrenheights.org/donations) to give and thank you for supporting Barren Heights!



# 2025 Fall Sweatshirt Fundraiser

*Preorder by September 21st  
Shipping Available!*



*Navy*



*Heather Dust*

Fall is quickly on its way, so it's time start thinking about all things cozy—warm mugs, crunchy leaves, and comfy Barren Heights sweatshirts! **From now until September 21st**, we are opening preorders to the Barren Heights Community for sweatshirts featuring our 2025 There's No Place Like Barren Heights design in two fall and winter appropriate colors: **classic Navy with a tone-on-tone denim blue design** and **creamy Heather Dust with a warm, coffee-colored design**. Just what you need to stay warm and represent your favorite organization as you sip hot apple cider at the pumpkin patch this fall.

And bonus! By purchasing this versatile and oh-so-schnuggly sweatshirt, net proceeds from your purchase will go toward helping us serve families of children with disabilities this fall and winter through free community events and specialty retreats. Talk about a win-win situation!

## Preorder Details:

- Available by preorder only now thru **September 21st**
- Sweatshirts are **\$55 each**
  - *Shipping is included in the purchase price. Louisville pickup is available at a reduced rate. Sweatshirts should be ready early to mid-October.*
- **Adult sizes only (S–3XL)**
- **Bella+Canvas Crewneck in Navy or Heather Dust**
  - *Retail fit, semi set-in sleeves, ultra-soft sponge fleece, relaxed waistband*

So will you help us provide respite, community, and so much more for families of children with disabilities? Consider preordering one (or a bunch!) for you and your family at [barrenheights.org/fall-sweatshirts](https://barrenheights.org/fall-sweatshirts). PS They would make great Christmas presents! 🎁🌲❄️

**Preorder a Sweatshirt**



*Barren Heights cordially invites you to our*

# *Green & Gold Gala*

*Annual Dinner to Benefit  
Barren Heights*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST**  
**DOORS AT 5 PM • DINNER AT 6:30 PM**  
**WOODHAVEN COUNTRY CLUB**

Barren Heights has loved and encouraged families who have children with disabilities for over 20 years now—an accomplishment we think is worth its weight in gold! So, allow us to cordially invite you and yours to a resplendent Green & Gold Gala to celebrate what the Lord has done and is doing through Barren Heights. The theme is green if you know what we mean, so gallivant in your green or gussy up in gold for an evening of dining, shining, and giving. Barren Heights is going strong today because of the brilliant community that supports it. Help us keep going by purchasing tickets today at

**[barrenheights.org/gala](http://barrenheights.org/gala)**





## High Five for Our Generous Supporters!

All of our community building, gospel growing, and family enriching events and retreats are made possible through the generous financial support we receive from charitable organizations, foundations, and our one-time and monthly donors. We are so thankful for their investment in the lives of families who have special needs children. Their support makes a tangible impact on the families of Barren Heights! This past quarter, six organizations gave BIG to support our mission. **Take a moment to read through this list of generous donors, and click available links to learn more about them.**

### Grant Supporters

*Grants Received Between April & August 2025*

**Edward G. Reynolds Charitable Foundation**

**Enterprise Mobility Giving**

**The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels**

**Southeast Christian Church**

**WHAS Crusade for Children**

**The Wood & Marie Hannah Foundation**



## Become a Monthly Donor

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. Want to become a monthly donor? Visit [barrenheights.org/donations](https://barrenheights.org/donations) and click "Yes! I Want to Give Monthly".