

A young boy in a wheelchair is the central focus, smiling and holding a water balloon. He is wearing a light blue t-shirt with 'BARREN HEIGHTS' printed on it. A man in a black shirt is leaning over him, and another man in a light blue shirt is in the foreground. The background shows other people and a gravel path.

20 | Barren Heights

ANNUAL REPORT

Providing free weekend respite retreats & community events for families of children with disabilities since 2004



"A remarkable experience that allows you to get out of it what you give: authenticity, unselfishness, unconditional love, fun, rest, restoration and connections. Expect God to meet you there!"

-Family Retreat Guest Parent



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One in four families in the US is affected by disabilities, and yet they are often overlooked, unconsidered, and misunderstood in society. Since hosting our first retreat in 2004, we have sought to create welcoming spaces of love, acceptance, and safety for families of children with disabilities through volunteer-led family retreats at our beautiful Retreat Center in Scottsville, KY. In 2015, we multiplied our efforts by opening our Community Center to promote sustained community opportunities in the Louisville area. Through generous donor and volunteer support, we are able to offer opportunities for respite and life-changing community at no charge to special needs families—regardless of age and disability.

WHO WE ARE



OUR MISSION

is simply to love and encourage families. We do this primarily by providing free weekend retreats and hosting community outreach events for families who have children with physical or developmental disabilities.

OUR VISION

is to create more compassionate communities through families serving families with the love of Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, to further the Kingdom of God.

OUR VALUES

- honoring and glorifying God with our service
- keeping our actions above reproach
- doing all things in love
- being wise stewards of God's provisions
- striving for excellence
- bathing our mission in prayer
- keeping God's Word as our foundation

OUR TEAM

Abbi Rose, *Executive Director*

Lori Nelson, *Director of Development*

Maeghan Adams, *Marketing & Operations*

Stephanie Trenaman, *Programming*

OUR BOARD

Courtney Wittsell, *President*

Doug Wood, *Vice President*

Anastasia Cummins, *Secretary*

Fritz Busch, *Treasurer*

Michael Cummins • Mark Lindeman

Libby Elliot • Bert Moore • Dan Pierce

Maya Prentice • Vern Scheiter • John Weires

We Aim to Meet a Great Need Through Community

Families of children with disabilities often find themselves isolated and strained relationally, financially, and emotionally. It may be hard to feel understood and seen in their everyday lives, which can make finding community feel next to impossible. At Barren Heights, we aim to create opportunities that may never be possible otherwise by creating relational space for our families.

A Snapshot of Disability in the US



1 in 6 children in US have a developmental disability



Of affected families, **11.4% fall below the poverty line**



80% of families who have a member with special needs do not attend church



Single mothers are **16% more likely** to have a child with disabilities

Our Twofold Approach to Building Community

Respite Retreats

We host weekend retreats for the whole family eight months out of the year at our beautiful and nature-filled Retreat Center. Our two-to-three-day retreats offer families time to relax and refresh with their particular needs in mind. We strive to accommodate mobility, dietary, and sensory issues to make experiences that are often inaccessible fully accessible! Our uniqueness lies in our ability to serve the entire family, offer all of our services for free, and welcome all disabilities of all ages. From meals to accommodations to activities, the entire weekend is considered—and free!

Community Events

One weekend of fun and relaxation is so valuable, but what about the rest of the year? The community events we host play a vital role in creating year-round and consistent opportunities for building relationships. All of our events are a combination of support, respite, and inclusion and encourage families to connect with other families who understand their experience. We host events for the whole family, caregivers, siblings, and more around twice a month at our Community Center and throughout the Louisville area. And as always, all of our events are free!

WHAT WE DO





Serving & Giving in 2025

In 2025, **401** donors invested in our mission and created more compassionate communities. What an incredible blessing! Because of that generosity, we hosted **3** specialty retreats, **17** family retreats, and **21** community events, impacting over **1,300** individuals. Overall, we served **445** families who have children with disabilities in 2025. Additionally, **458** volunteers joined in our mission to make each guest feel loved, accepted, welcomed, and safe.



458
volunteers served our community



21
community events hosted



401
donors supported financially



20
weekend retreats hosted



911
individuals participated in community



445
families with disabilities served



193
Children received gifts for Christmas



664
scoops of ice cream served





RETREAT-WIDE MAINTENANCE

New siding, new hot water heaters, new floors, new interior paint!



PLAYGROUND EXPANSION

We added five interactive and inclusive features to our playground.



ACCESSIBLE TRAILER

We purchased a custom trailer with a wheelchair ramp for weekend retreat wagon rides!



PRAYER PATIO INSTALLED

A beautiful wooden cross and bricked patio was installed as a place of prayer and reflection.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

We hosted a total of 21 inclusive community events for the whole family in 2025.

New playground with freestanding, accessible features



SUCCESSES



Our new trailer now has a wheelchair ramp and steps to make wagon rides accessible to all!

Guest cabins received new siding, flooring, and paint



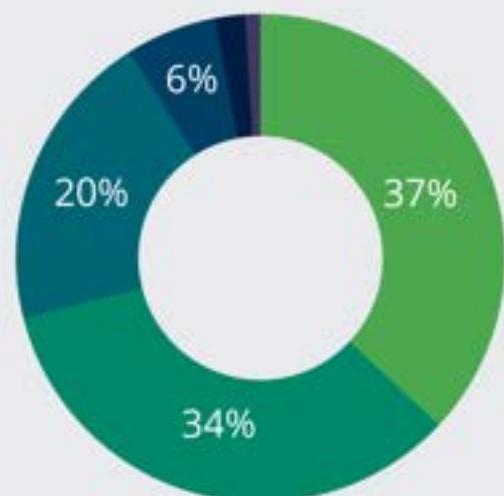
2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

We are committed to sharing our financial status and planning with full truth and transparency. The following numbers and reports are for your review.



Percent of Income by Source

- 37% Monthly Donations & Individual Gifts
- 34% Grants
- 20% Benefit Dinner
- 6% Businesses
- 2% Non-Cash Contribution
- 1% Miscellaneous



2025 Strategic FOCUS AREAS

Building on the momentum of previous years, 2025 was a year of meaningful progress in accessibility, infrastructure, and organizational sustainability.

One primary focus of 2025 was expanding accessibility across our campus. We added inclusive playground elements with standalone units on a unified surface so guests of all abilities and mobilities could play and engage together. We also introduced a new “hay wagon” with a ramp, allowing more families to fully participate in this cherished retreat experience.

In addition, we continued investing in the maintenance and improvement of our Retreat Center facilities. We completed important updates and repairs—including flooring, water heaters, paint, and siding—to support the longevity of our buildings and ensure we can continue serving families for years to come.

Lastly, to promote sustainability, we prioritized organizational growth and volunteer development. Throughout the year, we intentionally strengthened relationships beyond the Louisville area, expanded partnerships, and worked to extend our reach into surrounding communities. All while training leaders, retaining volunteers, and continuing recruitment efforts—strengthening our leadership base and increasing our capacity for future retreats.

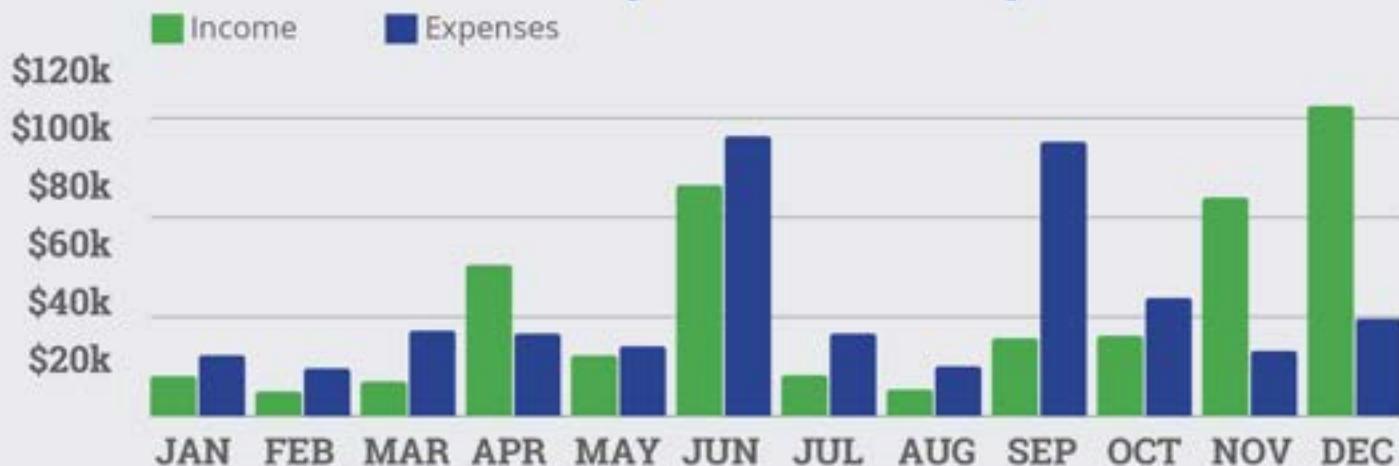
FY2025 Balance Sheet

\$655,170	Total Revenue
\$439.375	Expenses
\$215,795	Excess/Deficit
\$1,735,103	Net Assets - End of Year

Annual Income Growth



2025 Monthly Income vs Expenses





Transition new
**executive
leadership**



**Finish the
basement**
to provide safety
& comfort



Maintain &
recruit more
volunteers



**Build new
partnerships**
with churches &
organizations

2026 AND BEYOND

Building on the incredible momentum of 2025, we enter 2026 with a renewed commitment to growth, sustainability, and accessibility. Our goals will be to:

- **transition executive leadership** that preserves our mission, ensures organizational stability, and supports our staff, volunteers, and families.
- **finish the New Barn basement** and install a generator, allowing us to provide a safe and comforting environment for all of our families, especially during severe weather.
- **invest in our volunteers** through leadership development, training, and support to ensure a strong, sustainable foundation for future retreats.
- **build new partnerships** with churches and mission-aligned organizations to better serve families, expand our reach, and strengthen collaboration.

With these priorities at the forefront, 2026 promises to be a year of meaningful progress as we continue to strengthen our foundation, grow our community, and create transformative experiences for the families we serve.





*Women's Bouquet & Brunch
September 20, 2025*



*Sensory-Friendly Christmas Party
December 6, 2025*

"The absolute perfect escape with a Christian foundation that allows everyone to be themselves without any judgement. Everything is taken care of and it's the perfect respite with a beautiful property where meaningful connections and memories are made!"
—Family Retreat Guest Parent



*Ice Cream at the Park
June 27, 2025*



*Christmas Gift Shop
December 9 & 11, 2025*



*Family Fellowship Lunch
February 17, 2025*

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