

THE FRIENDSHIP OF THOSE WE SUPPORT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR

PROGRESS

FALL 2023

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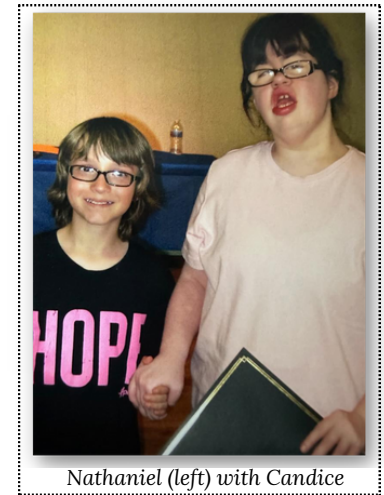
Calendar of Events Page 12

A Forever Friendship

By Carrie Wright, Home Manager

In 2011 Nathaniel met all the ladies at one of our Upper Bucks Residential homes by volunteering at Track and Field. Nathaniel was just 10 years old when he started to volunteer. That's when Candice immediately took a liking to him, and they started their forever friendship.

Nathaniel grew up very comfortable around individuals with special needs, having both parents who worked in the field since he was born. Throughout the next several years, Nathaniel would volunteer at many of the major Soc/Rec events, including Track and Field, BARC's annual Holiday and Halloween Party, and Carnival. Nathaniel and Candice would always be together throughout these events. Nathaniel even joined in with the house's group Halloween costumes by being Prince Eric to Candice's Ariel. Candice would then start to invite Nathaniel to her birthday celebrations at her home along with several Christmas parties.



Nathaniel (left) with Candice

In 2015, Candice started to ask for Nathaniel to go to BARC's Prom with her. Nathaniel would match his tie to her dress for every Prom. They would continue their friendship with special outings such as going out to eat, to the pool, to Night to Shine, and to Christmas at Peddler's Village.



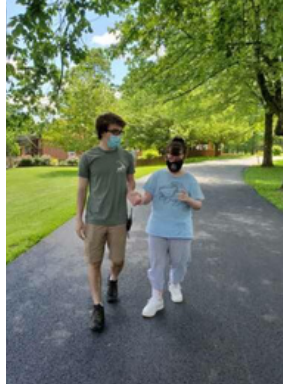
In 2019, Nathaniel invited Candice to his high school graduation party held at the zoo. Candice was very excited to join and fed giraffes with Nathaniel. When Nathaniel went out of state to college, he continued to maintain his friendship with Candice by visiting and going out to eat with her when he was home on breaks.

During COVID, Nathaniel would still see Candice at her patio door where they would put their hands up to the window to touch through the glass. Nathaniel and Candice then started a regular video call which included watching a movie together virtually.

continued on page 2

A Forever Friendship *continued*

Candice would chat with Nathaniel on facetime and tell him what movie she wanted to watch. Nathaniel would play the same movie so they could watch and talk about it together. Occasionally, during the movie watching, they would both eat breakfast together as well. With Nathaniel now living in New York, he still makes time every other week to continue to facetime and watch a movie with her. Candice keeps a calendar for every upcoming video call and counts down until she will see him again. This truly is a forever friendship.



Membership Is An Opportunity To Make A Difference

2024 Membership Campaign

As a member:

- You are invited to attend the annual Membership Meeting held in May and participate in the election of the volunteer Board of Directors;
- Your vote directly impacts the future of the organization;
- Your tax deductible gift contributes to the support of the men, women, and children receiving services through our early intervention, residential, and vocational programs;
- You will receive this bi-annual newsletter, PROGRESS, which keeps you up to date on the agency's goals and accomplishments, as well as informing you of upcoming events.
- **New for 2024, Member only raffle for one of five \$100 Amazon Gift Cards!**

For a full membership list, please visit barcprograms.org.

YES! I would like to support the **2024 BARC Membership Campaign**. Please accept my donation of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

___ **Check**. Make payable to BARC Developmental Services

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Name on Card: _____

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Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

**Mail Membership form and payment to:
BARC Developmental Services, P.O. Box
470, Holicong, PA 18928-0470**

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A Message from the Executive Director Mary Sautter, MSOL



I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and well. BARC Developmental Services is celebrating over 72 years of supports and service to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. 2023 was a busy year for the agency, as we made several long-term investments such as expansion of programs, renovating residential homes and advancing our IT infrastructure. We look forward to continuing our commitment to long-term sustainability.

BARC Developmental Services continues to offer supports to children and adults in the three service departments – Early Intervention, Residential, and Vocational.

Our Early Intervention Department offers therapies for over 450 children living in Bucks and Montgomery County aged birth to 3 years old in their natural environments. The two vocational workshop facilities continue to operate on a limited basis. Fortunately, we have increased participation and contract work has been steady. We have also purchased a new delivery truck so keep your eyes open for it on the roads of Bucks County! Our Residential Department provides every form of living options in Bucks and Montgomery County.

The agency had a positive bottom line in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. As we head into 2024, we face several challenges: advocating for greater funding on the federal and state levels; simplifying the system as COVID-related flexibilities end; the staffing crisis; and residential service model changes. With the potential elimination of federal 14(c) certificates, which allow qualified employers to pay wages commensurate with individual productivity and other factors, the Vocational Department faces the predicament of sourcing jobs to support paying client workers a federal/state mandated minimum wage or having to close our facility-based workshops in the coming years. We hope advocacy efforts will be successful to justify continuing 14(c) programs to offer vocational options and work alternatives for people of all skill levels. In the interim, the department looks forward to expanding Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) opportunities for individuals who are interested and capable of pursuing community-based jobs.

The agency's Development Committee oversees and monitors all fundraising activities. We were able to hold several successful events over the summer and fall months. We are grateful for all our sponsors, participants and volunteers and thank them for their generosity. Our 2023 capital campaign was successful in raising the necessary funds for a new ramp at a residential home (see picture in this newsletter). Our 2024 capital campaign will support building new sidewalks at the rear emergency exits of two homes to increase safety.

We continue to be proud of the quality of supports we provide to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. Thank you to all our stakeholders and constituents for your support, it is very much appreciated. I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mary Sautter, MSOL

The Meaning of Lifesharing

By: Melanie Tiedeman, Program Coordinator



October was Lifesharing Awareness Month.

I would like to introduce everyone to Charles Hill. Charles has been a part of the lifesharing family since 2015. Supported individual Brian G. lives with Charles and his family. Charles includes Brian in every aspect of his life, from going grocery shopping to any vacation Brian wants to be a part of.

Charles has assisted Brian with his community employment alongside Brian's job supports. Brian feels so comfortable with Charles that he most often will go to him to talk if he needs help working through a problem or situation. Brian is always receptive to Charles, even if the response is not what Brian was hoping for.

Charles takes Brian with him for his annual family fishing trip, which usually is in Massachusetts. Occasionally, they like to go further south. Charles tries to have an annual family reunion and always includes Brian.

Charles has gone with Brian to Florida and on cruises of Brian's choosing. Recently, Brian heard Charles planning a trip with a family member to the Dominican Republic and expressed an interest in going. Without hesitation, Charles was on the phone to figure out how to make it happen for Brian and Brian was able to go on the trip in June/July of 2023.

On more than one occasion, Charles has stated that "Brian is a part of my family, and even if you didn't have the funding to stay in the Lifesharing program, Brian would remain living with me." In my eyes this is the true definition of what Lifesharing is.



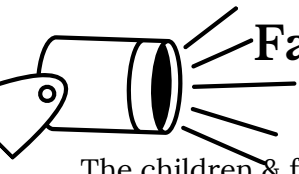
Charles Hill (left), Brian G (right)



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Fall Spotlight: Early Intervention at Core Creek



By Noreen Coleman, Director of Early Intervention Services

The children & families arrived on a beautiful fall day to participate in activities, songs and pumpkin fun. The event was organized by the Interventionists: Susan Gordon, Kathy Fitchett, Randi Leon, Madeline Ziebel, and Jackie Warburton with the Program Supervisors: Brooke Cohen & Selena Pawlowski and our Administrative Assistants: Georgeanne Hopkins & Christi-lee Kindermann. It was a wonderful opportunity for the families to connect, the children to interact and all to learn & play together.

Our department provides support to over 450 infants & toddlers and their families across Bucks County as well as expanding into Montgomery County this year. The department moved from our center in Croydon to our Langhorne location in 2022. Last month we reached the one-year mark at the new office. We have been in the Holicong location for 10 years since moving from the Warminster center.

The two offices allow the Interventionists that support the children in their home or community setting to stop at either office for picking up/dropping off documentation, brainstorming, obtain resources or to freshen up. The children are provided services determined by their evaluation, they may include Occupational/Speech/Physical Therapies or Special Instruction ~ Hearing & Vision services.

Our Program Supervisors obtain the referrals and match the Interventionists to best meet that family's needs. They then stay on top of the vast amount of documentation and data required by our regulations. Our Administrative Service Coordinators enter all intake information into our database and create the child files. They maintain the files through the discharge process. They are instrumental in keeping us all organized.

We love our job in EI for all of the "little reasons."



(Above) Administrative Assistant, Georgeanne Hopkins and Program Supervisors, Brooke Cohen and Selena Pawlowski at Early Intervention's Langhorne Office.

Throughout the Agency

Stay up to date with all current happenings throughout our agency on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/BARCDevelopmentalServices/> or sign up for our monthly digital newsletter. Email the Development Department at melissa.bradford@barcprograms.net

Length of Service Awards

Held annually, the 2023 Length of Service Awards took place on Friday, October 6th at Peace Valley Park. The ceremony honored associates for their length of service to the agency from 5 to 35 years! Congratulations to those who've devoted their careers to individuals with intellectual disabilities! Alissa Gerber, Support Associate, was also recognized as the recipient of the 2023 Justin. T Schram Memorial Award. The BARC Developmental Services Foundation created the reward in 2016 as a means to recognize exceptional contributions by an associate to the agency.

Read more at www.barcprograms.org/blog



Direct Support Professionals Week



The Pizza Wagon food truck served a delicious pizza lunch for associates.

The week of September 10th through September 16th was Direct Support Professionals Week! From a pizza truck to a PAR award winner, one week is not long enough to celebrate all of the compassionate and dedicate DSP's at BARC Developmental Services! We are so grateful for you!



PAR "We Are Worth It Awards"

PAR (Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability) has been instrumental in advocating for agencies like ours for higher pay for associates and increased focus on the needs of individuals. Early in the summer, "We Are Worth It" awards sponsored by PAR were announced to recognize associates for the care and support they provide. Congratulations to Marie Pierre, Home Manager, for winning Direct Support Professional Advocate of the Year!

Marie was nominated for her outstanding support and advocacy she provided to an individual whose spouse of more than twenty-five years passed away suddenly after a tragic accident. Thank you, Marie, for your amazing advocacy efforts for those we support!



Fall Festivities

To celebrate the new fall season, staff and supported individuals enjoyed many fun and spooky activities! The Quakertown ATF program visited AGA Farms for a fun hayride and a few folks also visited a local farm for pumpkin picking! Everyone also enjoyed dressing up in costumes to take part in the Halloween activities!



Glad We Work Together

The BARC Developmental Staff Appreciation Committee hosted Glad We Work Together events to bring associates and supported individuals together quarterly to continue to maintain a team approach to our services. A barbecue cookout and luau party were hosted at the Quakertown and Warminster locations along with a tropical themed get-together at one of the Residential homes. Lastly, associates dressed up for a Halloween event located at our Executive Office in Holicong.



All Summer Long



Although the fall season brought us new and enjoyable activities, we can't forget about the fun we had all summer long.

Folks supported in the Residential Department, enjoyed a day on the Spirit of Philadelphia cruise along with many day trips to Hershey Park and the Elmwood Zoo. They also enjoyed picnics with friends to celebrate the summer holidays.

Individuals supported in the Vocational Department learned new karate tactics, visited a local park to enjoy the beautiful outdoor weather and watched an Iron Pigs baseball game!

Although the season has passed, we look back at all the fun memories we made all summer long!



Events

3rd Annual Duck Derby

On Saturday, June 10th, BARC Developmental Services hosted its 3rd annual Duck Derby event virtually. Supporters were invited to “adopt” a duck (or ducks), and all adopted ducks were tossed into a private pool where Mary Sautter, Executive Director chose five at random for cash prize winners. The event, which was sponsored by U.S. Medical Staffing and many others, quickly became a success selling over 1,200 ducks! The event was conducted LIVE on the agency’s Facebook page with several of our supported individuals in attendance as well as a few agency volunteers. Congratulations to our five winners: Lori Vail (\$1,000), Tony and Teddy Manero (\$500), Eric Macklin (\$250), Doreen Bowen (\$100) and Christina Seitz (\$50). A very special thank you goes to Amanda Selkow, Program Director, who kindly donated her pool for the event.



Ivyland Open Golf Outing



For over 20 years BARC Developmental Services has been partnering with members of the community to put on the Annual Ivyland Open Fundraising Golf Outing. This year the rain held out long enough for our 24th event to take place. Golfers enjoyed 18 holes of golf with friends and business associates, skills contests, raffles, and lunch. Special thanks to our Corporate Sponsor, Corporate Synergies and the many volunteers who helped the event run smoothly. All money raised from this event will directly benefit the men, women and children with intellectual disabilities and autism supported by the agency.

Save the date! Next year’s event will be held on Monday, June 24th, 2024. We hope to see you all there!

Designer Bag Bingo

BARC Developmental Services hosted a Luau themed Designer Handbag Bingo. The event, attended by over 100 supporters, took place on Friday, September 15th at St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church in Jamison, PA. Attendees played 12 games of bingo for a chance to win a variety of designer handbags. They also had the opportunity to participate in a 50/50, two raffles and a cover-all game. Many participants also took part in our Luau themed costume contest!

Congrats to all the winners and thank you to our many handbag sponsors. Proceeds from this event benefit the Social/Recreational Fund, which provides outings and social opportunities for those supported in our Residential programs. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2024! Save the date for Designer Handbag and Gift Card Bingo on Friday, March 15th, 2024 at Benner Hall in Richlandtown, Pa.



2023 Car Raffle

For more than 40 years, BARC Developmental Services hosted an annual Mercedes Benz Raffle where a winner was drawn to receive their choice of a two-year lease on a current, well-equipped Mercedes Benz or \$24,000 in cash. The COVID-19 pandemic gave us the opportunity to revamp this popular event and the NEW Car Raffle was born. Congrats to this year's winner, Chumlong Deangdeert, whose name was drawn at the Fred Beans Kia of Langhorne dealership showroom! Chumlong chose the cash prize and was presented with his check at the executive office with BARC Executive Director, Mary Sautter.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Autumn Luncheon



The 42nd Annual Autumn Luncheon took place at the Spring Mill Manor in Ivyland, PA on Sunday, November 5th. Guests enjoyed a three-course meal and a chance to win some of the 70 baskets generously donated by many individuals and local business supporters!

Congrats to all the lucky winners and save the date! Next year's event will take place on Sunday, November 3rd, 2024. We hope to see even more of you there!



GROWING TOGETHER 2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

BARC Developmental Services is proud to announce the launch of the **2024 Capital Campaign**.

This year the campaign will support building new sidewalks at the rear emergency exits at two of our Residential locations to increase safety and efficiency.

Your tax-deductible contribution directly benefits the men, women, and children supported by BARC Developmental Services.

We invite you to join our campaign.

Expanding Our Possibilities



BARC
Developmental Services www.barcprograms.org



To donate toward our
2024 Capital Campaign
scan below or visit our website:
www.barcprograms.org/capitalcampaign



OR
mail payment to
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VOLUNTEER

For more information about volunteer opportunities available in our various programs, please visit our website at www.barcprograms.org/volunteer



#GROWINGTOGETHER



Thank you to our 2023 Corporate Sponsors



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Nancy's Farm



GIVING TUESDAY November 28th, 2023

barcprograms.org/givingtuesday

2023 Holiday Raffle

benefitting BARC Developmental Services Vocational Programs



Dogwood

By Natalie Searl

Award winning photographer Natalie Searl captures the beautiful Dogwood flower, 8 x 10 textured photograph on canvas.

Tickets are \$3.00 a piece, or four tickets for \$10.00.

If you have any questions, please call the Development Department at 215-794-0800 ext. 332 or 369. Winner will be drawn on Monday, January 8, 2024, and notified by phone or email. Winners will also be publicized on our website at www.barcprograms.org, the BARC Developmental Services Facebook page, Bits of BARC (our monthly online newsletter), and in the spring edition of PROGRESS.

No physical raffle tickets will be mailed this year

Mail your payment and completed order form to:

BARC Developmental Services, 2023 Vocational Holiday Raffle
P.O. Box 470, Holicong, PA 18928-0470



Scan to purchase tickets online or visit www.barcprograms.org

Please check one:

- I have enclosed a check (made payable to **BARC Developmental Services**).
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2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 8:** **Vocational Holiday Raffle**
LIVE on our Facebook Page
- March 11:** **Sports Raffle**
LIVE on our Facebook Page
- March 15:** ***NEW* Spring Designer Handbag & Gift Card Bingo**
Benner Hall, Richlandtown, PA
- April:** **Spring Apparel Fundraiser**
- May 2:** **Annual Membership Meeting**
BARC Production Services, Warminster, PA
- June 24:** **Ivyland Open: Golf Tournament**
Five Ponds Golf Club, Warminster, PA
- July 13:** **4th Annual Duck Derby**
LIVE on our Facebook Page

For the most up to date information regarding our fundraising efforts, visit our website at:
www.barcprograms.org

Find us on our social media platforms:

