

**75**  
YEARS  
1951-2026

**BARC DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**  
THE FRIENDSHIP OF THOSE WE SUPPORT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR

**Progress**

## A Legacy of Empowerment: Celebrating 75 Years of BARC



### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Mary Sautter**  
CEO



In 2026, BARC Developmental Services proudly celebrates its 75th anniversary, a milestone that reflects decades of dedication to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. Our story began in January 1951, when a small group of parents and friends of children with what was then referred to as “mental retardation” met to form the Bucks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded and Handicapped Children, Inc. At that time, no resources existed to educate or prepare children for their future, nor were there supportive services for families. These 12 pioneers met monthly in homes and community spaces, united by a mission to train and educate children so they could reach their fullest potential and to advocate for families in their pursuit of fulfilling lives.

While the term “mental retardation” was widely used in the 1950s, it is no longer considered appropriate and has been replaced by person-first language such as “individuals with intellectual disabilities.” This evolution reflects the progress in understanding, respect, and inclusion that has shaped our field, and our agency, over the decades.

Their vision quickly took shape. In 1953, the chapter opened its first day care training center in Doylestown, followed by a second in Bristol. Soon came summer camps, preschool classes, and vocational workshops. By the 1970s, residential programs offered alternatives to institutional care, and over the decades, services expanded to include larger workshop facilities, more residential homes, and Early Intervention programs in natural settings. Through policy changes and evolving needs, the agency adapted, changing names but never its core mission: to serve and advocate for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Today, BARC Developmental Services stands as a leading human services agency in Bucks County, touching thousands of lives. The hope those first families had in 1951, to empower loved ones to lead fulfilling lives, remains at the heart of everything we do. As we celebrate 75 years, we honor the children and adults we support, their families, our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Together, we have built a legacy of compassion, inclusion, and opportunity and we look forward to continuing this mission for generations to come.

*Mary Sautter*

### What's Inside?

<b>JTS Award</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Residential Updates</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LOS Awards</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NCEI Award</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EI Outings</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2026 Capital</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Fresh Start</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Around BARC</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Vocational Updates</b>	<b>7</b>

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## 2025 Justin T. Schram Award



*Muna Mohammed (Center) with her nominator Kim Rochford (Left) and BARC CEO Mary Sautter*

The Justin T. Schram memorial award was established by the BARC Developmental Services Foundation in 2016 to honor the memory of former executive director, Dr. Robert Schram's son, Justin Schram, who passed away in January of 2016. Justin was an avid musician, bandleader, therapist, and certified k-6 teacher in both New Jersey and Colorado. Justin was dedicated to helping others, and this memorial award now honors an associate who has performed above and beyond their normal job duties.

Nominations are submitted by agency associates, and the foundation has the difficult assignment of selecting a winner.

This award is sponsored by U.S. Medical Staffing Inc. and Trinity Asset Protection.

This year's winner is Muna Mohammed. From her nominator: It is with great admiration and appreciation that I nominate Muna Mohammed for recognition of

their outstanding effort in supporting individuals in the BPSW ATF program. Her unwavering dedication, compassion, and advocacy has had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of those she serves.

To read more about Muna please visit us online at [www.barcprograms.org/blog](http://www.barcprograms.org/blog).



*The Warminster Team who attended the 2025 Length of Service Award Ceremony.*

## Celebrating Life Sharing Month: A True Family Connection

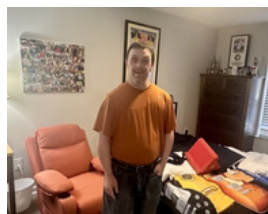
We celebrated the incredible providers who open their homes and hearts, making sure individuals with intellectual disabilities are embraced as family. Life Sharing is about connection, compassion, and community.



*Life Sharing Families including Phil and Michael (Left) and Alissa and Dorothy (Right)*

## Welcome to Our Residential Program!

We are excited to share that one of our longtime day program participants has officially joined the BARC Developmental Services residential family! After thriving in our day programs, Eddie now enjoys the comfort and support of living in a BARC home, where independence and community are at the heart of daily life. We're thrilled to provide a safe, inclusive environment that fosters growth and connection, and we look forward to seeing all his wonderful milestones ahead!



*Eddie showing off his new room!*





## 2025 Length of Service Awards

On October 10, associates from across BARC Developmental Services gathered at beautiful Peace Valley Park in Doylestown to honor colleagues who have reached significant milestones in their careers. The Length of Service Awards celebrate the commitment, teamwork, and passion that define our agency and the people who make our mission possible, our associates!



This year's honorees represent years of dedication to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. From five years to thirty five years of service, each recipient has contributed to creating inclusive environments, fostering independence, and enriching lives. Their efforts remind us that progress is built on the steady foundation of care and compassion.



*Congratulations to the 2025 Length of Service Recipients.*

## Noreen Coleman Early Intervention Peer Recognition Award

For 25 years, Noreen Coleman, was an integral part of the Early Intervention Department here at BARC Developmental Services. Serving as the Department Director since 2016, her focus has always been on making a meaningful difference in the lives of children. She passed away in early 2025 and to honor her memory the BARC Foundation and Early Intervention Department launched a new

award: The Noreen Coleman Early Intervention Peer Recognition Award. This award will be presented twice a year, once in September and once again in March, to recognize fellow BARC Early Interventionists who truly go above and beyond in their work with children, families and our team.

Congratulations to Occupational Therapist Joanne Kirk, this year's recipient. Visit our website to read Joanne's nomination.



*Joanne (Left) with her nominator, Andrea Braccio*



## Early Intervention Team Outings: Celebrating Community and Connection



Our Early Intervention team recently enjoyed a wonderful day at a local farm! Families explored the sights and sounds of farm life, meeting friendly animals, taking hayrides, and soaking in the beauty of the fall season. These experiences offer more than fun, they help children build sensory awareness, social skills, and confidence in a natural setting. It was a day full of smiles, learning, and togetherness.

Families gathered for a day of outdoor play, nature walks, and group activities at Core Creek Park. The fresh air and open spaces provided the perfect backdrop for physical activity and language development, while fostering friendships and family bonding. Watching children engage with nature and peers reminded us why these moments matter so much.

We're grateful to everyone who joined us and made these outings so special. Here's to more opportunities for growth, connection, and joy!



BARC Early Intervention Administrative Team at Core Creek Park.



(Top) Families and Interventionists enjoyed a mini-Fall Outing at the park. (Bottom) An EI Interventionist looks on while a supported child interacts with a donkey at Helping Friendly Farm in New Hope, PA.



# EARLY INTERVENTION IS HIRING!

**APPLY NOW!**

## INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR POSITIONS

Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (TDHH)  
Teacher of Visually Impaired (TVI)  
Physical Therapist  
Occupational Therapist  
Speech Therapist

**MORE INFO ONLINE!**

# Join Us for Our 75<sup>th</sup> Year and Beyond

As we celebrate 75 years of service, we invite you to become a member for 2026 and help us continue our mission of empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. Your membership supports vital programs, advocacy, and community events, ensuring that every person we serve has the opportunity to thrive. Whether you're renewing or joining for the first time, your commitment makes a lasting difference. Be part of our legacy, sign up today and help shape the future of BARC Developmental Services!

**Membership That Matters. Join at [barcprograms.org/membership](http://barcprograms.org/membership) or send in form.**

**YES!** I would like to support the **2026 BARC Membership Campaign**. Please accept my donation of:

\$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Holicong, PA 18928-0470**

\_\_\_\_ **Check.** Make payable to BARC Developmental Services

\_\_\_\_ **Visa or Mastercard (circle)** Amt: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (including zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2026 Capital Campaign

As we look ahead to 2026, our Capital Campaign will focus on general upgrades and repairs at the BARC Production Services Warminster Facility. This facility is essential to providing meaningful work opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and maintaining a safe, efficient, and modern workspace is critical to our mission. Through this campaign, we aim to fund necessary improvements that will ensure continued quality and safety for all who work there. Your support will make a lasting impact, whether through donations, sharing our mission, or engaging with our efforts. Together, we can build a better future at Warminster and strengthen opportunities for those we serve.

**Better Spaces. Brighter Futures. Donate at [barcprograms.org/capitalcampaign](http://barcprograms.org/capitalcampaign)**



**YES!** I would like to support the **2026 Capital Campaign**. Please accept my donation of:

\$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## Making an Impact Together: Our Recent Fundraising Successes

Over the past five months, our community has come together for a series of vibrant fundraising events that have benefitted BARC's mission and brought families, staff, and supporters together. We kicked off the summer with our annual Golf Outing, where participants and sponsors braved the heat for a day of friendly competition and camaraderie, raising vital funds. In July we held our ever popular Duck Derby,

which drew a record number of participants and sponsors, making a splash for our programs and excitement for all ages. As autumn arrived, we hosted our Fall Bingo at St. Cyril Social Hall and our Car Show & Community Day at Sellersville Fire Department. Both events offered fun, prizes, and opportunity for connection, while also generating important support for our services.

Throughout this period, our Cash and Prize Calendar Raffle and Gift Card Raffle engaged the community with daily chances to win, thanks to generous donations from local businesses and supporters. Each fundraiser not only helped us meet our financial goals but also strengthened the bonds within our BARC family, ensuring we can continue to provide quality supports and opportunities for those we serve.



*Our most recent fund raising and community events including our Fall Classic Car Show, Fall Bingo and Duck Derby!*

## A Fresh Start in Warminster: New Paving

We're excited to announce the completion of the newly paved and updated parking lot at our BARC Production Services Warminster site, creating a safer and more accessible space for everyone we serve. This improvement was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony, marking another step forward in enhancing our facilities and supporting our mission. Thank you to all who contributed to making this upgrade possible!



*Mark cuts the ribbon with colleagues, friends and members of the BARC Board of Directors.*



## Adventures and Celebrations: A Season to Remember



Over the past few months, our folks have enjoyed an incredible variety of experiences that brought joy, connection, and adventure. From festive Halloween celebrations and birthday parties to scenic trips to AGA Farms, Peddlers Village, and Ott's Exotic Plants, every outing was filled with laughter and friendship. We explored the wonders of the Zoo, cheered at an IronPigs game, and even set sail on the Spirit of Philadelphia.

Some of our most unforgettable moments included magical days at Disney and relaxing getaways to Virginia Beach. These experiences remind us that life is richer when shared, and we're proud to make these opportunities possible for those we serve.



*Dr. Tobi Bruhn of FCP with Jordan Pfister, Gianna Gomes, Catherine Sumpf and Mary Sautter of BARC.*

For our 2025 Capital Campaign, we've been focused on creating calming, engaging sensory spaces within our Adult Training Facilities, and we're thrilled to share an exciting update!

With the overwhelming contributions from our supporters we raised just shy of \$10,000 towards our sensory upgrades. We also received a generous grant from Foundations Community

## Capital Campaign Update: Sensory Upgrades

partnership for \$10,000 for innovative ideas that improve the quality of life for children, young adults and families in Bucks County. These funds have allowed us to install much needed sensory equipment in our Adult Training Facilities in Quakertown and Warminster. The equipment includes specialized sensory rockers, mirrors, bubblers, sensory boards, projectors and more!

Thank you for your continued support.





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*Large enough to serve,  
small enough to care!*

This mailing was proudly prepared by individuals supported through our vocational programs as part of their paid employment.

**FOLLOW US ON**     **FOR UPDATES!**

*Save The Date:  
2026 Events*

- March 9-Baseball Raffle
- March 13-Spring Bingo Benner Hall
- April-Apparel Fundraiser
- May 7-Membership Meeting
- June 5-BARC Block Party
- June 22-Golf Outing

**Turn compassion into action,**

*Join Our Team!*  
[www.barcprograms.org](http://www.barcprograms.org)

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