

THE BARN AT SPRING BROOK FARM

# 2023 IMPACT REPORT



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# BOARD PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Time to turn the calendar page to a new year! We are excited to share with you an overview of 2023 at The Barn at Spring Brook Farm, a nonprofit organization committed to enriching the developmental skills and lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted and nature-based experiences. The Barn is located on 17 acres among the rolling hills of Chester County Pennsylvania and is a unique and special setting where children can explore, discover and experience new things. As the Board President I am proud of the incredible work that we have accomplished this past year and I am excited to share our progress with you.

We continue to strengthen our programs and services to meet the changing needs of our community and provide a safe and supportive environment in which our children and families thrive. At The Barn we serve children of varying abilities. We focus on recognizing their strengths and maximizing their potential. Our programs help children set and achieve goals that complement their learning at school, in outside therapies and in their home life. Our programs include individual visitation with one on one interaction between the children and animals; a summer day camp with fun filled days that include both animal interaction and activities designed to improve socialization and sensory skills; and school field trips that provide opportunities for large groups of special needs children to interact with the animals.

The Barn is a place where children can just be children. Our programming and camp experiences benefit not only our children, but the whole family. We have a strong supportive community and are continually working to expand our reach to serve more children and families each year.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners. Your contributions have helped us to create a world where children with disabilities are celebrated for their abilities and not limited by their challenges.

Thank you for your support and friendship. We value each and every person that has contributed towards making this organization a success. We look forward to another year of empowering children with disabilities to reach their full potential.

With gratitude and appreciation,



Erica Kilpatrick-Galbreath

Board President

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm

# INTRODUCTION

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm was developed from a passion project of founder Mary Beth Drobish, the former owner of the 17.5-acre West Chester, PA farm property on which The Barn resides. She felt called to combine her love of children with her passion for farm animals and sought to develop an environment where the two could co-exist in a healing way. She believed that children who are differently-abled would benefit physically, psychologically, cognitively, and developmentally from interactions with specially-selected, kid-sized farm animals—opportunities for learning not provided in a traditional education setting.

In 2005, The Barn was incorporated as a 501(c) (3) organization, and shortly thereafter, welcomed children with disabilities through its doors and into its lush fields and gardens. Through our mission to enrich the developmental skills and lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted activities and nature-based experiences, we have substantiated Mary Beth's belief in the valuable and measurably beneficial connection between animals, nature, and children.

As of 2021, we have new stewards of the farm on which The Barn is situated. Lynne and Tom Swartz purchased the property and have been wonderful supporters of our mission.



# MISSION & VISION

**Mission Statement:** To enrich the developmental skills and lives of children with disabilities and their families through animal-assisted and nature-based experiences.

**Vision Statement:** The Barn strives to be the leading regional organization and resource committed to providing children with disabilities and their families with nurturing and interactive, animal and nature-based experiences that bring joy and inspires them to pursue their best lives.



## OUR PROGRAMS

The Barn accomplishes its mission through several programs: Camp Geronimo, Individual Programs, Educational Field Trips and Socialization Events. These programs are unique in that they utilize small farm animals and an Outdoor Learning Center to facilitate child-directed activities in a nurturing setting. The small size of our animals and our many gardens, allows children to become caretakers - an empowering experience since many of these children are accustomed to being a care recipient much of the time.

*Camp Geronimo:* The Barn offers children with disabilities a unique summer day camp experience - an opportunity to have fun in a safe, secure setting while learning new skills and making new friends. Camp Geronimo is offered in six one-week sessions and can accommodate up to 96 children (16 per week) each summer. A minimum one-to-one ratio of counselors to campers allows children with a range of abilities to participate safely and successfully. A Registered Nurse on site each day ensures each child's medical needs are met. **In 2023, a total of 71 non-duplicated children filled all 96 spots in Camp Geronimo and fulfilled 150 program hours.**

*Individual Program (IP):* IP is a one-on-one goal-based program offered to children on a weekly basis for 12 weeks (two six-week sessions) each spring and fall. Each participating child is paired with a trained volunteer for a weekly one-hour session. Using a Barn Activity Plan which sets goals for the child and tracks progress over time, child/volunteer pairs participate in activities that may improve fine or gross motor skills, develop communication skills, and/or build self-esteem. **In 2023, a total of 59 non-duplicated children occupied 59 program slots and fulfilled 696 program hours.**

## OUR PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

*Educational Field Trips:* The Barn offers in-person and live-streamed educational field trips to groups of students from schools and organizations catering to the needs of differently abled children. Local participants include the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Downingtown Middle School, St. Edmunds Home for Children, Overbrook School for the Blind, Starkweather Elementary School, and others. Prerecorded digital and live-streamed Field Trips are available as an alternative to the in-person version, removing the barrier of geographic proximity so children everywhere can experience all The Barn has to offer. **In 2023 The Barn hosted 116 children for in-person field trips fulfilling 30 program hours.**

*Socialization Events:* The Barn offers four seasonal Socialization Events geared to local families who have children with disabilities. These include an Autumn Festival, Summer Splash, Spring Fling and Pancake Palooza, a winter breakfast celebration. The goal of these events is to provide families with opportunities to interact with one another and with The Barn staff and animals. **A total of 104 children participated in Socialization Events throughout 2023.**

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Nikki Woods joined The Barn as its part-time Administrative Assistant
- Andrea Abernethy joined The Barn as the new Executive Director.
- Sharon Cichocki, former Board President, finished her 6-year term in December 2023.
- Erica Kilpatrick-Galbreath was elected as the new Board President. (January 2024)
- The raised bed gardens yielded over 200 lbs. of produce that was donated to the West Chester Food Cupboard.
- Forward movement on The Barn's Strategic Plan included defining a program model; creating a list of elements needed for a second property; identifying potential second properties; and recruiting individuals to participate on a planning committee
- The Barn's designation as a Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Organization was renewed
- A social media plan was put in place for the year adding more consistent Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn posts featuring more photos of The Barn animals and children (with photo consent).
- A bi-monthly e-newsletter, The Barn Bulletin was rolled out
- The Barn's Professional Clinical Affiliation Program was expanded, providing a steady stream of committed volunteers
- A Pilot Program for Teen Individual Programming (TIP) began in the Fall of 2023 and will be continuing as a Pilot Program in the Spring of 2024.

# 2023 PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SERVED

The Barn's programs reach children with disabilities far beyond its West Chester, PA location. **In 2023, The Barn served 384 children from 62 schools from 24 school districts located in the Pennsylvania counties of Montgomery, Delaware, Chester and Philadelphia.** We had a 8 participants from Delaware (Wilimington and Newark).

| PROGRAM              | # OF CHILDREN* | # OF PROGRAM HOURS |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Family Barn Visits   | 34             | 34                 |
| Socialization Events | 104            | 9                  |
| Virtual Field Trips  | 0              | 0                  |
| Field Trips          | 116            | 30                 |
| Individual Program   | 59             | 696                |
| Camp Geronimo        | 71             | 150                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>384</b>     | <b>919</b>         |

\*Represents number of unduplicated children with disabilities.

Prior to the start of each Individual Program session, a Barn Activity Plan is developed using input from the participating child's caregiver and The Barn's Program Manager. The Barn Activity Plan sets goals for the child and tracks progress over time. Working one-on-one, volunteer/child pairs participate in activities that may improve fine or gross motor skills, develop communication skills, improve safety skills, and/or build self-esteem. Caregivers of children participating in camp are provided with daily achievement reports.



At the conclusion of each six-week Individual Program term and each week of Camp Geronimo, we surveyed caregivers of participating children to gather more specific data regarding observed program impact and satisfaction.

## INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM CAREGIVER RESPONSES

| SKILL                   | IMPROVEMENT | NO IMPROVEMENT MAINTAINED SKILL | NOT APPLICABLE |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Communication Skills    | 92.5%       | 7.5%                            | 0%             |
| Safety Skills           | 100%        | 0%                              | 0%             |
| Social/Emotional Skills | 92%         | 7.6%                            | 0%             |
| Sensory Skills          | 85%         | 7.5%                            | 7.5%           |

Additionally, 100% of caregivers responded that their child benefitted from Individual Programming all or most of the time.

## INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

- “We loved our session at The Barn! Leo was thriving during his time there. Raichel is so kind and understanding and it is evident how much she enjoys the kids. Everyone was very in tune to Leo’s needs and worked with him so well. His therapist Mia worked so well with him and was very supportive of his needs. He responded so well to her. As she got to know him, she was really able to recognize his interests and incorporate them into his session. Leo is pre-verbal and uses an AAC device. He now verbally names animals and their sounds which is so amazing. We attribute that to his time spent at The Barn. We can not wait for his next session.”
- “My son has had a great time and looks forward to joining for his two week summer camp and again in the fall. Raichel does a fantastic job communicating, empathizing and really tailoring the experience to the child. My son also enjoyed all of the staff he met and of course the animals! He had improved confidence, mood and I noticed he was more relaxed as well!”
- “I cannot emphasize enough how The Barn exemplifies a space of true freedom and inclusion. What stands out most is their neuroaffirmative approach to working with children and their families. This approach isn't just a statement; it's ingrained in their very foundation. At The Barn, every interaction, every program, and every decision is made with the utmost consideration for inclusivity and understanding of neurodiversity. It's a place where differences are not just accepted but celebrated, creating an environment where every child and family feels genuinely supported and valued.”
- “The staff, volunteers, and the program is amazing. Bella has been going since she was 2.5 and has improved so much. She used to be so shy and needed me around with her. Now she runs out the car and is so excited to go.”

## CAMP GERONIMO CAREGIVER RESPONSES

- 81% responded Very Beneficial and 19% responded Beneficial when asked, “How beneficial do you think Camp Geronimo was for your child and why? Very Beneficial, Beneficial, Slightly Beneficial, or Not Beneficial?”
- 100% responded Yes when asked, “Do you plan to enroll your child in Camp Geronimo 2023?”
- 58% responded Excellent, 8.3% responded Amazing, 8.3% responded Great and 16.6% responded Good when asked to “Describe your child’s overall camp experience.”

## CAMP GERONIMO CAREGIVER TESTIMONIALS

- “My son attended week one of camp. He was nervous at first to go as he has never participated in camp here. From start to finish, your staff was kind, welcoming, upbeat, and helped my son to feel comfortable. He had a great experience and already said he wants to return next year. Your staff was amazing and on top of everything. Thank you for making this a wonderful experience for my son!”
- “Every year the camp is amazing and every year they strive to, and are successful, in improving and making it even better. You just don't see that anywhere anymore. You see it here!”
- “My son has ADHD, anxiety and fetal alcohol syndrome. He had a very hard time with his behavior in school this year. He had the time of his life. His behavior at home reflected the special attention and patience he received at camp. He's counting the days till next summer.”
- “My two children who are both on the spectrum have attended two summers in a row, and they both begged me to sign them up again for next year. Both children did not enjoy other camps this summer (including horseback riding, painting, overnight, and more). However, each day of Camp Geronimo, they came home excited, happy, and chattering about all the fun things they did that day. This is an incredible breakthrough for my son, who doesn't talk well. I can't thank Camp Geronimo staff and counselors enough for all they did to ensure the campers had a wonderful experience!”
- “Camp gave my child the opportunity to be a leader. With all the peer pressure from either friends or older children and adults it was great to see and hear about how my son took a leadership roll and made it his own.”
- “Camp Geronimo allowed my son to have a great camp experience. His disability would not permit him to attend most camps. After the first day he told me he “loved” it. He is excited to attend again next year! Thank you Camp Geronimo for a great week of camp!”





The Barn  
at  
Spring Brook Farm

The Teen Individual Program (TIP) is an extension of our current Individual Program for younger children. It was created to meet the expressed demand for our services by participants who have aged out of our other programs as well as by caregivers of teens with disabilities we've encountered through our community outreach efforts. We surveyed caregivers of participating children to gather more specific data regarding observed program impact and satisfaction.

## PILOT TEEN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM CAREGIVER RESPONSES

| SKILL                   | IMPROVEMENT | NO IMPROVEMENT MAINTAINED SKILL | NOT APPLICABLE |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Independence Skills     | 75%         | 25%                             | 0%             |
| Safety Skills           | 100%        | 0%                              | 0%             |
| Social/Emotional Skills | 100%        | 0%                              | 0%             |

Additionally, 100% of caregivers responded that their teen benefitted from Teen Individual Programming all or most of the time. 100% of parents said they want to re-enroll in the future. 100% of parents said the program was organized or extremely organized.



## TEEN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

- “We were very sad when she aged out of the program. We have been coming to the barn on & off since she was 6 years old. When this program opened up I made sure I was online to register as soon as it opened! The past 6 weeks have been so wonderful. She is happy, more interactive, more independent and has a sense of belonging. There are not a lot of activities/opportunities after school for her age and we couldn't be happier that she has this teen program.”
- “The Barn at Springbrook Farm has been my child's second home for the past eight years. She has participated in every program they offer, and the benefits are clear. When she spends time with the animals, it helps regulate her body and mind. She has also learned executive functioning skills at Springbrook, like time management, organizing tasks, planning ahead, and follow through. The programs at Springbrook have been an integral part of my child's growth and development from a small child into the teenager she is today. We are so grateful to the Board of Directors for including our children in their programming.”
- “Such a great program. There isn't much available to these kiddos and this program gives them a fun and rewarding opportunity.”

## VOLUNTEER DATA

With only three fulltime staff, one part-time administrative assistant and two part-time barn helpers, The Barn is exceedingly reliant on volunteers to help with program delivery, facility maintenance, office help and more. In addition to volunteers from our community, many are students earning clinical credit toward their professional degrees through The Barn's *Professional Clinical Affiliation Program*.

| <b>VOLUNTEER TYPE</b>      | <b># OF VOLUNTEERS</b> | <b># OF VOLUNTEER HOURS</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| All Program Volunteers     | 147                    | 6,684                       |
| Camp Geronimo Volunteers   | 32                     | 1,470                       |
| Corporate/Group Volunteers | 161                    | 55                          |
| Board & Advisory Board*    | 23                     | 345                         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>382</b>             | <b>8,554</b>                |

## PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL AFFILIATION PROGRAM STUDENTS

| <b>TERM</b>  | <b>SCHOOL</b>              | <b># OF STUDENTS*</b> | <b>PROGRAM OF STUDY</b>       | <b>HOURS</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Spring       | Appalachian State          | 1                     | Child Development             | 414          |
| Spring       | Immaculata                 | 2                     | Social Work/Psychology        | 228          |
| Spring       | GMU                        | 2                     | Occupational Therapy          | 66           |
| Spring       | Widener University         | 8                     | Occupational Therapy          | 88           |
| Summer       | Salus                      | 13                    | Occupational Therapy          | 429          |
| Summer       | Jefferson East Falls       | 7                     | Occuapotional Therapy         | 233          |
| Summer       | Temple                     | 2                     | Occupational Therapy          | 130          |
| Summer       | Jefferson Center City      | 15                    | Occupational Therapy          | 495          |
| Fall         | Arcadia University         | 1                     | Art Therapy/Psychology        | 77           |
| Fall         | Jefferson Center City      | 2                     | Occupational Therapy          | 34           |
| Fall         | Jefferson East Falls       | 1                     | Occupational Therapy          | 32.5         |
| Summer/Fall  | PCOM                       | 1                     | Lifespan-Clinical Psychology  | 48           |
| Summer/Fall  | Widener University         | 1                     | Lifespan--Clinical Psychology | 36           |
| Summer/Fall  | Montclair State University | 1                     | Lifespan--Clinical Psychology | 34           |
| Summer/Fall  | PCOM                       | 1                     | Lifespan--Clinical Psychology | 20           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                            | <b>58</b>             |                               | <b>2275</b>  |

# 2023 EXPENSE/REVENUE ALLOCATION

## REVENUE BREAKDOWN (UNAUDITED)

Once again, we worked diligently to ensure the majority of our revenue directly supported program expenses (76%). 5% of expenses were attributed to administration and 13% of expenses were attributed to fundraising. **Total revenue in 2023 increased by 4% over 2022's revenue and expenses in 2023 were 7% higher than in 2022.**

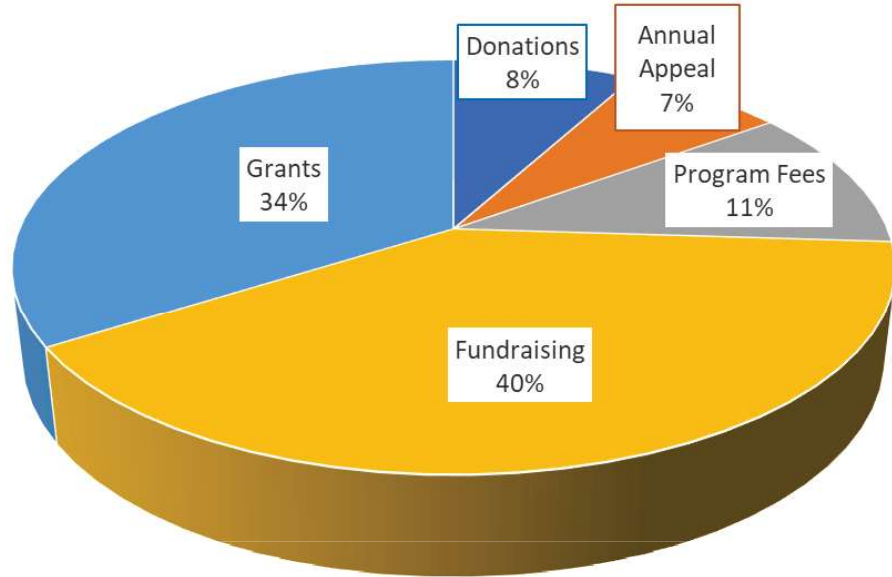
The Barn's ability to draw funders to support its mission continued to grow through 2023. An increase in Program revenue can be attributed to (1) Camp Geronimo operating at full capacity (2) the popularity of Family Barn Visits; and an increase in grant revenue. Funds raised through the Spring Fundraiser and Hoe Down fall fundraiser surpassed those of the past. In the case of the Spring Fundraiser, the opportunity to have quality time with special guest Coach Dick Vermeil is always a big draw .

| REVENUE              | 2023 YEAR END    |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Hoe Down             | \$144,248        |
| Spring Fundraiser    | \$83,554         |
| Individual Donations | \$41,797         |
| Grants               | \$191,859        |
| Annual Appeal        | \$39,993         |
| Camp Fees            | \$38,167         |
| Program Fees         | \$19,515         |
| Field Trips          | \$3,400          |
| Family Barn Visits   | \$806            |
| Other Income         | \$6,872          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>\$570,211</b> |

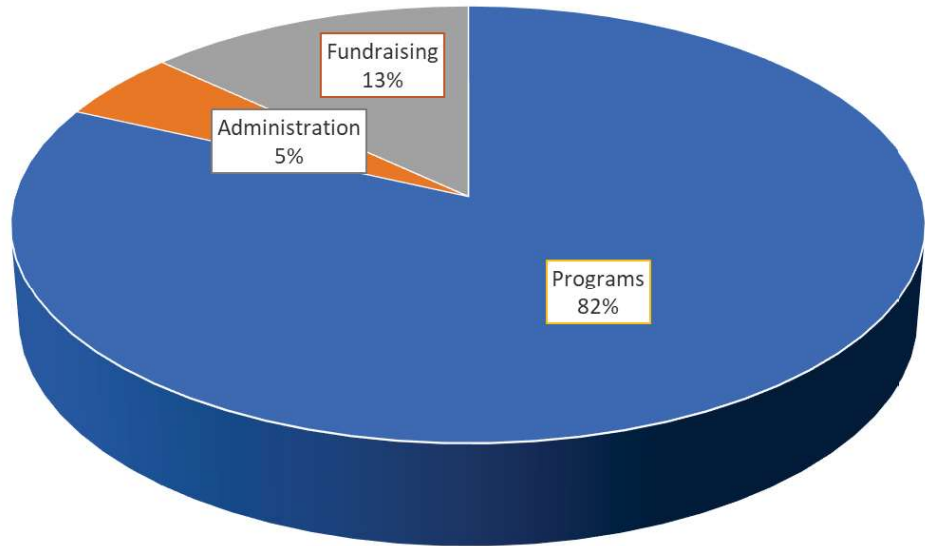
The Barn at Spring Brook Farm provided \$7,837 of Financial Aid to Individual Programs and \$7,835 in Financial Aid for Camp



## 2023 REVENUE



## 2023 EXPENSES



# THANK YOU

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is exceedingly grateful to the following individuals, foundations and businesses for their time, talent and financial support of our mission\*:

## DONORS \$20,000+

- The Boudinot Foundation
- Sharon and Andrew Cichocki
- Robert and Jennifer McNeil
- James and Ann Lim

## DONORS \$10,000 - \$19,999

- Francis and Frances Abbott
- BlackRock Charitable Fund
- Lauren and Marsh Chamberlin
- Chester County Community Foundation
- John and Margaret Post Foundation
- Land O' Lakes Foundation
- The McCausland Foundation
- Bob and Laura McLaughlin
- Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation
- Widener Memorial Foundation
- Laura and Scott Woyak

## DONORS \$5,000 - \$9,999

- Steve and Ilene Berger Family Fund
- Crane Fund for Widows and Children
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- The Wawa Foundation
- Mark and Kathleen Wennell
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- WSFS CARES Foundation
- Robert Young and Carol Cinotti
- Peter and Eliza Zimmerman

\*A fund of the Chester County Community Foundation

\*Our apologies for any unintentional errors or omissions. Please report these to [thebarn@springbrook-farm.org](mailto:thebarn@springbrook-farm.org)

# THANK YOU

## DONORS < \$999

- Nancy Allen
- Brent Ainley
- Deborah and Tom Anderson
- James, Lorie and Erin Baker
- Sean and Valerie Bard
- Stephanie Barnhill
- Alexa Bastone
- Ronald Baumann-Erb
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- Nicole Warnecke
- Helen Wessling
- JoAnn Wilson
- Miranda Wilson
- Edward and Kristine Winnick
- Jane Woods
- Mindy Yarnall
- Zoom Video Communications
- George and Gerri Zumbano

# THANK YOU

On behalf of all at The Barn at Spring Brook Farm and the children and families we serve, thank you to the 300+ volunteers who put in over 8,500 hours to facilitate programs and events, help in the gardens, maintain the barn and care for our animals, serve on a committee, and/or participate in a corporate or group volunteer project. Your generosity and dedication is truly what makes The Barn the amazing place that it is!



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- DLL
- PECO
- First Crew
- BlackRock
- Crystal Technologies
- Crane Payment
- Marquette Associates
- OneDigital
- Venerable
- Incyte







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