



# 2024 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



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# A WORD FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2024 flew by and as we close the chapter on another year, we are excited to share with you the smiles, laughs and fun times that were shared here at The Barn.

Each year 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. Our animal-assisted and nature based programming provides children with experiences they never thought possible. The Barn is a place where children can just be children. They gain confidence, socialization skills and find lasting friendships.

There is something truly magical about The Barn, that simply cannot be explained. Our furry friends warm our hearts through their unconditional love for the children we serve. Our amazing staff share compassion and love every day. It is a place where you just can't help but smile!

We have a strong supportive community and are continually working to expand our reach to serve more children and families each year. We welcome new campers, schools and children to our programs in the hopes of enriching their lives and bringing joy.

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





## ABOUT THE BARN

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 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 inspire them to pursue their best lives.

### 2024 Participant reviews

*"This place is awesome!" ~Akhilesh*

*"I Love It!" ~ Cam*

*"Wish we had more Barn time!"*

# OUR PROGRAMS

The Barn accomplishes its mission through several programs: Camp Geronimo, Individual Programs, Educational Field Trips, Socialization Events, Life Skills/Community Services, and our Professional Clinical Assoc Program (PCAP). Our programs and reputation attract experienced, dedicated volunteers who, along with staff, provide outstanding one-to-one child/volunteer support to assure each child gets the attention needed.

The Barn's Outdoor Learning Center includes sensory gardens, raised beds for growing vegetables, a musical soundscape, and mud kitchens. Farm animals like miniature Sicilian donkeys and Nubian goats are especially suited for these young learners. The bonds between the animals, nature, and children are extraordinarily empowering and life-enriching. Not only do children at The Barn gain access to types of experiential learning often limited to traditional learners, but they also discover what it's like to be in a caretaker role. This builds invaluable skills for future life success. We believe it's an element that sets our program apart.

Each child grows during their time at The Barn. Amazing achievements are seen by families. These include but are not limited to identifying the feelings of adults, children, and animals based on body language/expressions; exhibiting positive social interactions with another child; demonstrating socially appropriate behaviors; making requests using full sentences; following multi-step directions; and engaging in "messy" activities without becoming upset.

**Socialization Events:** four seasonal Socialization Events geared to local families who have children with disabilities. These include an Autumn Festival, Summer Splash, Spring Fling and Winter Fest. The goal of these events is to provide families with opportunities to interact with one another and with The Barn staff and animals.



**Camp Geronimo:** a unique and fun summer day camp experience set in a safe, secure setting. Campers learn new skills and make 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 is on site to ensure each child's medical needs are met.

**Individual Program (IP):** 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. A Barn Activity Plan sets goals for the child and tracks progress over time. Child/volunteer pairs participate in activities that may improve fine and gross motor skills, develop communication skills, and build self-esteem.

**Educational Field Trips:** field trips are offered 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, Patton Middle School, and others.



# 2024 STATISTICS

**477 CHILDREN SERVED**

**3,191 PROGRAM HOURS**

We serve children from the Greater Philadelphia region and they come to us with diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder (ASD); Down syndrome; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; cerebral palsy; physical disabilities; epilepsy; genetic disorders; and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Approximately 68% of the children served have ASD as a primary or secondary diagnosis.

While each child is unique in personality, needs and goals, all children experience The Barn's engaging and fun environment where evidence-based progress is made. Impact is measured through tracking data including 1) program hours; 2) number of children; 3) ability to individualize programming; 4) program satisfaction and 5) number of volunteer interactions. Pre-program assessments/surveys allow for individualized support and fun tailored activities for youth that maximize impact. Post-program surveys allow us to understand overall satisfaction and perceived programmatic outcomes. The Barn works with schools to provide visiting children with a fun and special experience during field trips. We measure and support our ability to provide financial support to those who need it.

## **72 Campers**

*2,400 Program Hours*

## **61 Individual Program Participants**

*534 Program Hours*

## **22 Teen Individual Program Participants**

*192 Program Hours*

## **161 Children & Families at 4 Socialization Events**

*11 Program Hours*

## **140 Field Trip Participants**

*33 Program Hours*

## **21 Family Barn Visits**

*21 Program Hours*



# SURVEY RESPONSES

Annually, staff analyze impact data to improve program delivery. Following each session, caregivers are surveyed about 1) whether the program met expectations; 2) whether they would re-enroll their child in programs; 3) whether they observed any positive carry-over behavior in other settings such as home or school; and other measurable input for assessing success.



**76%** OF ALL **INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM CAREGIVERS** SAW IMPROVEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING SKILLS

SKILL	IMPROVEMENT	NO IMPROVEMENT MAINTAINED SKILL	NOT APPLICABLE
Communication Skills	85.6 %	14.4 %	0%
Safety Skills	75.8 %	24.2 %	0%
Social/Emotional Skills	75.8 %	14.2 %	10 %
Sensory Skills	66 %	33 %	1 %

**72%** OF ALL **TEEN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM CAREGIVERS** SAW IMPROVEMENT IN FOLLOWING SKILLS

SKILL	IMPROVEMENT	NO IMPROVEMENT MAINTAINED SKILL	NOT APPLICABLE
Communication Skills	62.5%	12.5%	25 %
Safety Skills	75 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Social/Emotional Skills	87.5 %	12.5 %	0 %
Sensory Skills	75 %	12.5 %	12.5 %



**99%** OF ALL **CAMP GERONIMO CAREGIVERS** SAID THAT THERE CAMPER HAD A GOOD CAMP EXPERIENCE

CAMP EXEPERIENCE	RESPONSE
VERY BENEFICIAL	79 %
BENEFICIAL	21 %

**84%** OF ALL **CAMP GERONIMO CAREGIVERS** SAID THEY PLAN TO ENROLL THEIR CAMP  
**11 % OF CHILDREN AGED OUT**

# CAMP FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

"Camp was a great opportunity to practice social skills and flexible thinking, try new fun activities, and enjoy the animals! ~ Rebecca

"Camp has helped him become more social with others and has been a great source of sensory experiences that he loves."

"It was amazing. It's awesome how relaxed and adaptable they were to her needs and abilities. It was a positive atmosphere. My child had to attend late one day due to a morning delay. I was able to see some of their activities in progress when I dropped her off and they are so wonderful and patient. Very beneficial." ~Rania

"Everyone was so friendly and helpful!"

"My children have participated in Camp Geronimo for 4 years. This is their favorite camp to attend all summer. I think the one-on-one counselor makes a huge difference. I think the small camp size, the numerous fun activities, the really patient animals, and the fabulous leadership all make for a fabulous experience. Each child gets what they need and are validated and celebrated for who they are. My kids told me they wanted to do two weeks next year!" ~ Melanie

"Thank you, Camp Geronimo for this wonderful opportunity you give my kids each year. We are so grateful!"



# COUNSELOR TESTIMONIALS

"Each child was equitably given the opportunity to learn/grow/participate. I appreciated that structure was provided but not enforced in a way that made the child feel "bossed around." Autonomy being encouraged was so beneficial for campers."

"This summer I was lucky enough to work with campers whom I have spent time with in the past. Not only did I have great experiences with these campers previously but I enjoyed seeing their growth and their openness towards me. One camper in particular has left a strong impact on me because over time I have been able to gain his trust and he in turn has allowed me to help him. This is a big step and I'm very lucky to have been able to see his growth over time. When I first met him he was hesitant towards me and wanted to do everything on his own. While he definitely still has an independent spirit, he has allowed me to be with him and help him when needed which is truly a big difference. I am honored to be able to have a part in this growth, see his smile, and hear his laugh. :)"



# INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS

"Initially, I think Marcellus was developing a rapport with the team; he always seemed excited to go to the farm as if it was a special thing that he was doing. We saw a lot of growth in him through the individual program and we hope to participate again." ~ *Sade*

"The program at the barn was amazing. It allowed my son to be himself to connect with nature. He really enjoyed it, and we saw a lot of progress and one step directions and communication where he started to verbalize many words. He seemed excited each week to go, and it seemed to be his favorite therapy. I don't think he considered it therapy but just being a kid. We are excited to be offered the opportunity and hope that this program can continue to help other children and young adults as it has helped my son."



# TEEN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS

"I think his ability to follow multi step directions has improved. Also, the barn visits are a great incentive for him to listen and make good choices, so I think it has carried over. Also it has carried over to speech and home as we really work on his multi word sentences and putting endings on words, and he is motivated to do that when talking about the barn."

"As a mother I feel so happy that there is a beautiful place like this one for my son James. To see James smiling every time when we have to go to the farm is priceless. James loves the farm and he definitely enjoys it , thank you so much." ~ *Alexis*

"This program has far exceeded our expectations. We look forward every week. Griffins attention has greatly improved in this setting. It is so necessary to get him away from the cell phone and it's never a struggle. We love this program!" ~ *Beanie*

"Volunteers and everyone at the Barn is wonderful with teens and children. Very patient and so good."

"This program has been fantastic for my daughter. It has helped her grow and care more." ~ *Charles*

"Thank you for beginning this wonderful program and introducing my son to life on a farm."

"We are so grateful that we found them programs at the Barn and truly hope that the Barn continues to expand their offerings for teens and other children like Kai." ~ *Miranda*



# OUR VOLUNTEERS



## Thank you to our 350+ volunteers who served over 6,300 hours

With only three full time staff, two part time camp directors and a part time barn helper, The Barn is reliant on volunteers to help with program delivery, facility maintenance, office help and more.

Volunteer Group	Number of Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
Camp Volunteers	43	1,574
Corporate Volunteers	140	560
Individual Program Volunteers	35	1,475
Board & Advisory Board	25	362
Socialization Event, Field Trip & Fundraiser Volunteers	83	498
Professional Clinical Volunteers	33	1,890
<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>6,359</b>

# THE BARN'S PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL AFFILIATION PROGRAM



In addition to volunteers from our community, we partner with various colleges and universities allowing students earning clinical credit toward their professional degrees gain experience working with children in a unique setting.

Term	School	Number of Students	Program of Study	Hours
Summer	Salus	14	OT	392.35
Summer	Jefferson EF	3	OT	62.59
Summer	Jefferson CC	5	OT	149.06
Summer	Widener	2	OT	51.79
Fall	WCU	1	MSW	219.5
Fall	UNH	1	Rec Therapy	564.15
Spring	Arcadia	1	Psychology/ Art Therapy	50
Summer	DCCC	1	Work Study	5.5
Spring	Eastern University	1	Psychology	116
Spring	PCOM	1	Lifespan	13.58
Spring	Jefferson EF	1	OT	37
Spring	WCU	1	Social Work (UG)	177
Spring	Widener	1	Lifespan	51.24
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>33</b>		<b>1,889.76</b>

# OUR CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of all at The Barn at Spring Brook Farm and the children and families we serve, thank you to the **350+ volunteers who put in over 6,300 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!



## CORPORATE & GROUP VOLUNTEERS

- Psyma
- Lease Direct
- First Crew
- BlackRock
- Crystal Technologies
- Crane Payment
- Exton Malayali Association
- Incyte



# 2024 EXPENSE/REVENUE ALLOCATION

Every year, we worked diligently to ensure the majority of our revenue directly supported program expenses (79%). 4% of expenses were attributed to administration and 12% of expenses were attributed to fundraising. Total revenue in 2024 decreased by 8% over 2023's revenue and expenses in 2024 were 12% lower than in 2023.

The Barn's ability to draw funders to support its mission continued to grow through 2024. Funds raised through the Spring Fundraiser and Fall Hoe Down increased this year.

Each year, in addition to self-subsidizing our programs so they remain affordable, scholarships are provided for need-based financial assistance for children whose families might be faced with financial hardship.

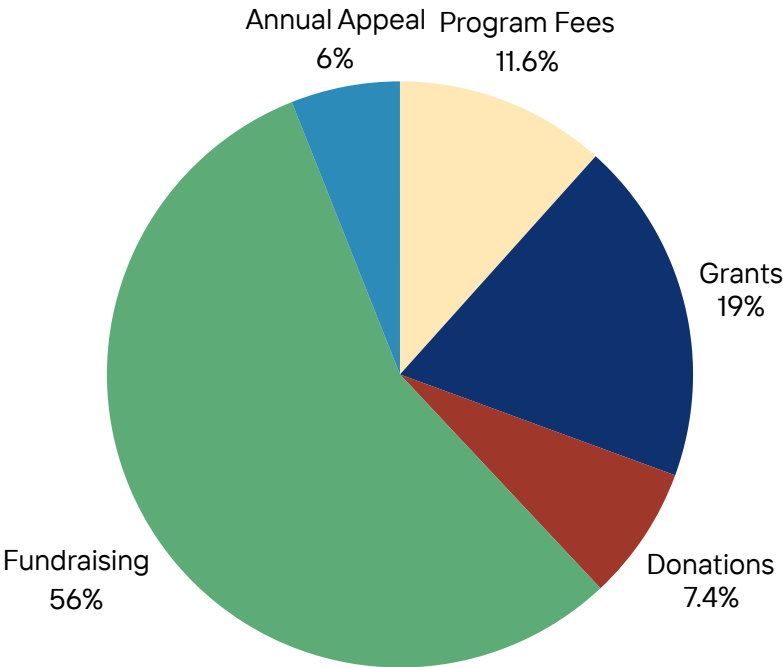
**The Barn typically provides about 30% of the children we serve with financial support so they may participate in our programs. In 2024, almost 20% of the overall camp revenue was subsidized by scholarships.**



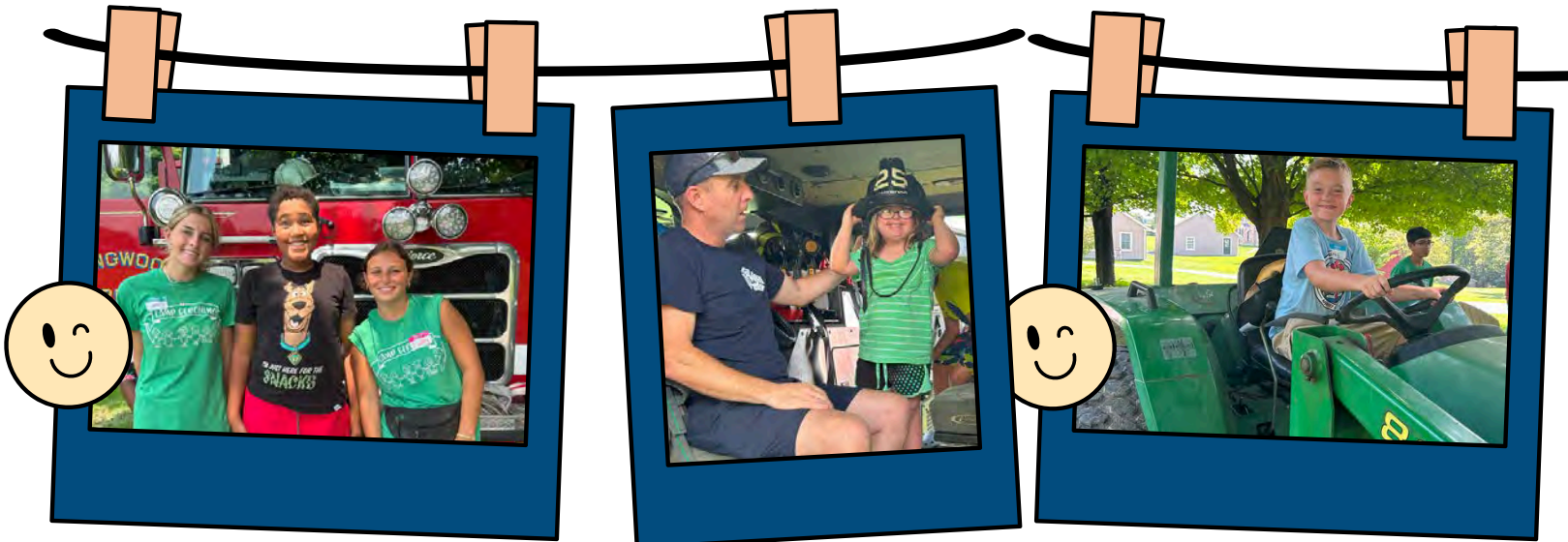
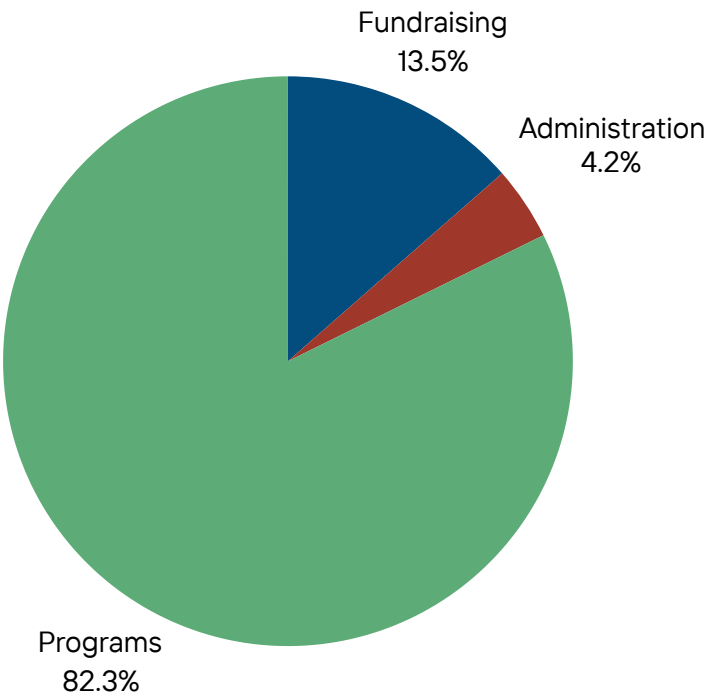
Revenue	2024 Year End
Hoe Down Fundraiser	\$174,782
Spring Fundraiser	\$105,648
Individual Donations	\$35,385
Grants	\$95,692
Annual Appeal	\$33,335
Camp Fees	\$38,065
Program Fees	\$18,613
Field Trips	\$2,400
Family Barn Visits	\$759
Socialization Events	\$4,107
Other Income	\$15,536
TOTAL	\$524,802

# 2024 EXPENSE/REVENUE ALLOCATION

2024 Revenue



2024 Expenses



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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
- James and Ann Lim
- Robert and Jennifer McNeil
- Bob and Laura McLaughlin
- Laura and Scott Woyak

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

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