



# Barren Heights Newsletter

Spring 2007  
Volume 1 Issue 2

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*"I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys... so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this."*

*Isaiah 41:18*

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## Spring Fever at Barren Heights

WOW!!! That is the only way to describe the 2007 Spring Work Weekends at Barren Heights. Where to begin? The forecast was suspect, but God provided a clearing over the retreat that lasted during the entire working hours.

- Many hands touched the pond beautification project. We now have a park-like pond area with gazebo, hammock, fire pit.....it is gorgeous, relaxing and will serve as a wonderful place to walk, rest or to wet a line.
- Barren Heights is a little greener now too. You should see all the trees and bushes that were donated by Curry Landscaping and planted by the youth group from Covenant United Methodist Church.
- The entrance area was revamped with excellence. This project was spearheaded by the Single 30's Bible Fellowship from Southeast Christian Church.
- Special thanks to the Shulthise / Brown family. Tony tirelessly ran the Bobcat, and the girls raked and chased snakes. It was incredible to witness the pond changes from start to finish.
- We laughed loud, we worked hard, and we ate well. Thanks for the chili, Teresa and the snacks, Melaney.
- On the second Saturday, we were blessed by awesome entertainment. What a joy to listen to Jeff Rose, Chaney Rose and Lane Guyer. The Roses (who came to the retreat last September) recruited their small group Bible Study to adopt Barren Heights as a service project. Their positive attitude and heart to serve were impressive.
- The bunkhouses are complete, habitable, and look marvelous with window treatments. Thanks go out to Marty K, Tony K, John R, Ernie B, Mike R and Lynda R.
- The flower beds were cleaned and mulched. Super job on the playground Emily!!!



## What Else is New?

- We have a new freezer that was donated and delivered by the Small family.
- We have a new stockpile of firewood from our neighbors, the Kennedys.
- The new Barren Heights slide show was presented to some of our volunteers with wonderful feedback. This will be used for future presentations. Jessi R and Abbi R spent many hours working with their mom to put together this multi-media production.
- And lastly, we have new concrete sidewalks running from the pavilion to the bunkhouses. Beginning this year, host families will be staying in the bunkhouses. Many of our former visitors have requested to come back as a host family. Therefore we wanted to make the bunkhouses accessible. The returning families provide so much encouragement and affirmation. They really reinforce that Barren Heights is some place special.



## 2007 Family Enrichment Retreats

FILL THIS PLACE! Summer is just around the corner and the facilities are ready. Please spread the word. We still have 11 openings for Guest Families and we are also in need of families and individuals to participate as Hosts. Please check the retreat calendar and contact us or apply online!

### 2007 RETREATS

May 18-20  
 June 8-10  
 June 15-17  
 June 22-24  
 July 13-15  
 July 20-22  
 July 27-29  
 August 10-12  
 September 7-9  
 September 14-16  
 October 5-7

### Remaining Openings

2 Host  
 1 Host  
 Retreat Full  
 Retreat Full  
 2 Host  
 2 Guest / 1 Host  
 2 Guest  
 2 Guest / 2 Host  
 2 Guest  
 1 Guest / 2 Host  
 2 Guest / 1 Host



## Mark your calendars – Tuesday, October 16 Barren Heights Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

We were amazed at the outpouring of support, generosity, and service during last year's event and hope to improve this year. The October benefit dinner at The Olmsted in Louisville is Barren Heights' only fundraising event in 2007. There are many ways to serve. However our immediate need is soliciting silent auction items. If you are interested in helping with this year's event, please contact Toni Rose (502)327-9495 or Kathy Lesmeister (502)426-2629.

## Making Headlines...

Barren Heights Retreat was recently featured as the headline on the front page of the Louisville-based *Voice Tribune*. Additionally, the Scottsville, *Citizens Times* published a picture with a detailed caption during our "work days" in March. Both generated numerous calls and referrals!!



## Webmaster Michael Feger Serving Barren Heights

Have you Googled Barren Heights recently? If you have, you probably found the link to [www.barrenheights.com](http://www.barrenheights.com) and noticed that we have a real live and interactive site. Potential guests can now apply online, view a virtual tour, obtain directions, and see hundreds of pictures. The site has been a tremendous blessing this year and it has streamlined our administration. We have received the majority of our applications via the online application and families are traveling from as far away as Pittsburgh, PA, Fort Wayne, IN, and Memphis, TN. The little known fact about the website is that it was designed and built by a wonderful young man named Michael Feger who is paralyzed from the neck down. He has volunteered countless hours to make sure that Barren Heights can serve families that have similar challenges. Michael also serves other non-profit organizations and manages his own site [www.thescizone.com](http://www.thescizone.com). Michael, we love you and thank you!

## Thanks Allegra Print & Imaging

We were recently awarded a \$1500 printing grant from the Allegra Footprint Fund. We will be able to use this grant for brochures, benefit dinner invitations, and various other needs.



## Remembering Friends

The Barren Heights family is saddened by the recent loss of two special young men. We miss you guys!

### Timothy Loza (above)

Timmy visited with his family last August. His smile was contagious. His sweet disposition was present whether he was the center of attention or watching his five siblings from the sidelines.

### Michael Brent

Michal was known for his can-do attitude despite his 10-year paralysis. He inspired so many people and was the namesake for the spinal cord injury organization - Friends for Michael.

## Wish List

- 2 Small Refrigerators for Bunkhouses
- Volunteer Positions
  - Administrative Support (website and application process)
  - Newsletter Publisher
  - Finance and Banking Manager
  - Facility Use Marketing Manager
  - Retreat Maintenance Manager
  - Retreat Shopper
  - Events Planner / Benefit Dinner Process Manager
- Asphalt or Concrete Sidewalks and Walking Trails
- Riding Lawnmower-Garden Tractor
- Trees and Other Landscaping/Grounds Beautification (Sod/Grass)
- Shuffleboard
- Items for Silent Auction
  - Gift Certificates to Restaurants and other Services
  - Autographed Sports Equipment
  - Vacation Rentals
  - Gift Baskets

### Barren Heights Christian Retreat Scottsville, KY

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**Barren Heights Retreat** is a non-denominational 501c3 public charity. This Christian charity is operated **solely by volunteers**. The campus, located in Allen County, Kentucky near Barren River Lake was completed in 2005 for the primary purpose of hosting mini-vacation style retreats for families who have one or more children with a physical or developmental disability. The **family enrichment retreats** run Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, and they are free.