



Since 1916

Bonnie Brae

TODAY

Small Victories. Every Day.

Summer 2011

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TRIBUTE TO ELSA OSBORNE

On a beautiful, warm day in June, many of the Bonnie Brae family joined together to pay tribute to Elsa Osborne, who passed away this winter. Elsa Osborne was the daughter-in-law of Bonnie Brae founder Harry V. Osborne. She worked tirelessly to create a loving home for our students, as well as being a pioneer in the early fundraising efforts on campus. Our students planted a lovely pear tree in her memory, with a permanent plaque paying tribute to Elsa's many contributions to Bonnie Brae. Following the dedication, our Activities for Daily Living students hosted a luncheon in the Matinee Theatre, where guests shared fond memories of Elsa Osborne.



Bonnie Brae student Joe presents a plaque to Harry T. Osborne Jr., grandson of Elsa Osborne.

H'OLYMPICS



The H'Olympics is a week-long competitive sporting event, created for kids living in residential communities. This year the event was held at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, PA. Twenty students, along with 10 staff members made the trip in June to compete in Track & Field, Softball and Basketball. Latarisha Fountain, head coach for the Bonnie Brae team, remarked that the boys had a wonderful time, and many of the students came back "as different kids." She was most impressed with our students' outstanding sportsmanship, and their ability to train hard for all of the events. The training included running 6-8 miles per week, weight training and practice games here on campus. Coach Fountain added that the boys had a wonderful time spending time with each other and bonding with the staff. One of our stand-out athletes, Alex wowed the crowd with his performance in the 100 meter dash, and commented that he "felt really great" crossing the finish line with no one near him. Alex added that he gained trust in his athletic skills and gained self-confidence from the H'Olympics experience. His favorite part of the trip was the sightseeing boat ride, and getting better acquainted with Mr. Powers.

OPEN HOUSE -NEW BRUNSWICK TRANSITIONAL HOME



The renovations are now complete at Bonnie Brae's community-based transitional home in New Brunswick. At an open-house in April, Bonnie Brae students toured guests through two new bedrooms, an updated kitchen and a more spacious living area. The renovations were made possible by a generous grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and additional grant support for furnishings from the Hyde and Watson Foundation.

Marco Navarro from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (on left) and Bonnie Brae Board President Richard Juntilla cut the ribbon to the newly renovated New Brunswick House.

FROM THE C.E.O.



Noah's Ark? After several hours of refusing to go on rides that appear to either twist you into a pretzel or drop you one hundred stories Greg suggests Noah's Ark. Now I have already traveled via boat with Greg through Garfield's Worst Nightmare. His nightmare apparently consists of large blown up photos of Pepsi's and Doritos. So how bad can Noah's Ark be?

Bad. My vision of a jolly Noah welcoming me onto a gently swaying air-conditioned boat filled with two cuddly animals of every cute species on the planet is shattered as soon as the heavy door to the ark closes behind me. I find myself in complete darkness. The air is warm and sticky. There are screams coming from somewhere up ahead in the darkness. And Greg? Trusty Greg? The very same Greg who so helpfully cleaned my van's windshield on last year's trip. Greg? Hello Greg? Nowhere to be found. Eventually I make my way out of the ark only to confront a laughing Greg on a park bench. Funny? I think not.

We are all, thirty-one staff and students, in Kennywood Amusement Park just outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Earlier in the park we participated in the awards ceremony for this year's H'Olympics, a series of athletic competitions among programs similar to Bonnie Brae, held on a different college campus each year. Our guys this year won so many gold medals in track and field, softball, and basketball that if they were real gold we would require an armed escort back to New Jersey!

Our overall success in this year's H'Olympics can be directly attributed to three factors. First, our would-be Olympic athletes began training four weeks before the actual competition. Every day about thirty of our guys would run three miles in the public park across the street from our campus. Some guys dropped out. Those who remained had the physical endurance necessary for two full days of athletic competitions. In contrast runners from the other programs often failed to complete their races. Second, our coaches knew each of our guy's strengths and weaknesses, and planned accordingly. Finally our guys were very willing to play supporting roles in those sports in which they were not super stars. So our talented softball players were willing to sit on the bench for our basketball games, and only enter the game as needed. In contrast some members of the opposing teams just refused to play a supportive role in those sports in which they were not dominant players.

Upon our return to campus the H'Olympics trip has been the "talk of the town." In addition to the athletic competitions our guys also had a lot of fun: Three Rivers cruise, Pirates baseball game, and the Kennywood Park grand finale. We also stayed in college dorms at Carnegie Mellon University, were treated to a pizza celebration by some students from the University of Pittsburgh, and generally provided a taste of college life for our guys who have had no such experiences before this trip. We are indebted to Ms. Val Macfie and The John Ben Snow Foundation for helping to underwrite the cost of this trip: a reaffirmation of our strengths-based approach to care and an investment in the futures of some very talented athletes. Thank you! P.S. you have now been duly warned about Noah's Ark!

Bill Bowers

William M. Powers, MHA, MPA

KNIGHTS DELIGHT AT YURCAK FIELD

The Bonnie Brae Knights Drum Corps recently showcased their talents for the fans of New Jersey's Sky Blue FC Women's pro soccer



team on a steamy July Saturday evening. The boys entertained

onlookers from the stands and led a halftime parade of area youth soccer teams on Rutgers New Brunswick's Yurcak Field. Our very own Greg got things started with the first kick of the game and although the ladies of Sky Blue were down 2 goals by half-time, they rallied to finish with a tie and remain undefeated. Was Greg's kick a good luck charm? Who can say?

Mission Statement

A haven where young men reclaim their potential through education and therapy.

GRADUATION!

It was a proud day for staff, students and family, as 10 high school seniors and eight 8th grade middle school students graduated from Bonnie Brae. To achieve this honor, the students and teachers worked together to complete the required school work, while enjoying many other activities, including sports, sustainability projects, and volunteer work. At the graduation ceremony, the students and guests enjoyed watching a slide show of the school year, featuring our 8th grade students. Following the awards ceremony, a wonderful BBQ lunch was served, complete with homemade graduation cakes. Best wishes to all our graduates!



Cody, one of the ten high school seniors to graduate, is all smiles as he receives his diploma from Ms. Crane, Director of Education.

MAGIC SHOPPE HONOREE

The Magic Shoppe, a whimsical gift shop owned by Reeve and Georgie Schley in Oldwick, has always generously contributed to the support of Bonnie Brae and its mission. Recently, they honored their dedicated volunteer Helga Schwartz. Bill Powers and Board President Richard Juntilla were on hand to celebrate her 12 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Shoppe.



Reeve Schley (from left) Helga Schwartz, Richard Juntilla, Georgie Schley, and Bill Powers.

BONNIE BRAE SPRING

POLO CLASSIC 2011

The annual Bonnie Brae Polo Classic was held June 11th at Fieldview Farm in Pittstown, NJ. The Polo match featured the Far Hills Polo Club vs. the Stones Row Farm Polo Club, with Stones Row winning the match. Guests arrived dressed in their summer finest, ready to enjoy a day of polo, antique cars, fox hounds, and delicious picnics with friends and family. Once again this year our Bonnie Brae Ambassadors helped guests to find parking and our Bonnie Brae Drum Corps, the Bonnie Brae Knights, performed during the opening ceremonies.



The Bonnie Brae Drum Corps presents the colors, followed by a performance of their famous drum beats.

Thanks to everyone who made this day a success!



SCOT OR NOT...IT WAS A GREAT DAY!

The Annual Scottish Games were held on June 4th at Bonnie Brae, and what a glorious day it was! The weather was fabulous as hundreds of pipers filled the field on the Bonnie Brae campus. The day also featured athletic competitions, Scottish dancers, live music and authentic Scottish food. Bonnie Brae students helped out by directing parking, running kids games and entertaining guests in the Bonnie Brae Hospitality Tent.



ALUMNI CORNER

Interview with Alumni Padric Hayes:

Below are some excerpts from a recent interview with Bonnie Brae alumni Padric Hayes. Padric was a resident at Bonnie Brae from 1963 to 1966 and is planning an alumni reunion on campus in October.

What are some of your most vivid memories of being at Bonnie Brae? The long ride up the lane trying to hide in the back seat of the car. Playing basketball late at night.

Working in the chicken coop collecting eggs and cleaning up. Learning to do the right thing. Dealing with my shortcomings as a person. Being treated like I was a human being and not a screw up.

How do you think Bonnie Brae shaped you as a person? What were some of the lasting lessons you learned here? The farm taught me many things. Stand up for what you believe. Have respect for others, including yourself. Be honest, it may not be popular but it will always serve you. Take responsibility for your actions. This is something that has shaped me more than I knew at the time. Do the right thing no matter what.

CAFÉ CREW ROCKS THE BRAE!

How does one feed a 95 year old dinosaur with two hundred legs and one hundred empty stomachs? Very carefully! Just ask Kim Coates, Bonnie Brae's food service manager, and her fabulous kitchen crew. In addition to preparing three meals a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Kim and her crew



also plan all the delicious food for the weekly summer Friday BBQ's, Friends and Family dinners, graduation ceremonies, and the list goes on. Now talk to Kim about special diets, food allergies....

From left to right, Telpher Edwards, Michel Ives, Marc Pierre, Ed Sagendorf, Kim Coates and Luis Rivera

TARTAN GOLF CLASSIC TO BE HELD AT THE PLAINFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

The annual Tartan Golf Classic will be held September 19, 2011 at the Plainfield Country Club in Edison, NJ. This nationally ranked golf course provides a top-notch day of golf, followed by a dinner and live auction. For registration materials call Cathy Phillips at (908) 647-4700. To register online, go to www.bonnie-brae.org and click on events.

***Barclays tickets
to benefit Bonnie Brae!***

Discount Barclays tickets are available to our Bonnie Brae friends and family! Go to www.bonnie-brae.org and follow the link Click here to buy Discounted Barclays Tickets. Use Promo Code "WBK6BD"!!



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Brae**

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DATES TO REMEMBER

September 19, 2011

Tartan Golf Classic
Plainfield Country Club, Edison, NJ

February 4, 2012

Tartan Ball

June 2, 2012

Scottish Games

June 9, 2012

Polo Classic



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Just send an email to

Cathy Phillips at cphillips@bonnie-brae.org

or visit our website www.bonnie-brae.org

GROUND-BREAKING NEWS!

Renovations begin August 1st for our McNally Cottages. The Board of Trustees has approved the budget and scheduled improvements, and our boys will soon have updated bathrooms, kitchen areas and living space. Follow our progress on the McNally Improvements Blog, by going to www.bonnie-brae.org, and clicking on "campus improvements." This will be one Extreme Makeover...Bonnie Brae style!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR CANADA

Every summer, we are very busy making preparations to take all of our 97 boys for an 8-hour drive to a remote lakeside camp in Ontario, Canada. For our boys it's a week filled with fishing, swimming, boating, crafts, camaraderie and most importantly, one of the greatest and most memorable experiences of their young lives.

For one week in the summer, our boys will get a chance to experience the simple joys of a summer vacation in a completely new and different environment. This experience is not only a quintessential part of our mission to help our boys reclaim their potential, but for each boy, this trip is about building new memories and a sense of self that is innate to the Bonnie Brae experience.

Your contributions help us to fulfill that mission and we always deeply appreciate your support!

