



THE BartonCenter FOR DIABETES EDUCATION, INC.

Inspiring Children. Empowering Families.™

the barton *Spirit!* newsletter



FALL 2021

A GLIMPSE OF SUMMER 2021: DAY CAMP, VIRTUAL CAMP, PARENT PROGRAM

By Grace Mooshian, Summer Camp Co-Director

If you told me back in summer 2018, when I first stepped onto Camp Joslin, that three years later I would be co-director of a mostly online summer, I would have immediately asked, “Are you low?” But, despite the struggles of the last year, we saw an opportunity to connect with campers from across the country, give some long-overdue hugs at day camp, teach the next generation of counselors-in-training (CITs), and continue our support system amongst staff, parents, and caregivers.

The daily grind of diabetes builds creative, adaptive, and resilient people, and this summer was all about those big three. Every Sunday when my co-director led the chant, “I am Outstanding,” I felt at home. I was reminded that no matter where we are in the world, whatever the platform, camp is wherever you make it.



Virtual Camp was an all-out 5 weeks of classic camp silliness. Sunday’s opening campfire offered space for introductions, and our twice daily calls opened opportunities to connect about campers’ struggles with diabetes, get moving with dance cardio, learn about science with our offline STEM videos, and get creative with loads of arts and crafts. We got to put entire galaxies into mason jars during space week, find buried treasure and hold court for the culprits during pirate week, dress up our counselors in their most patriotic gear the week of the 4th of July, and go for an all-out battle royale during color wars.

The virtual setting offered new programming opportunities, one of them came in the form of our brand-new Virtual Parent Program. It consisted of 2, two-hour long sessions where parents and guardians could connect with each other, camp staff, and medical providers on all things diabetes, from the very technical to the daily struggles of burn-out and coping with new diagnoses. As I answered questions, listened to my co-staff, and rattled off daily schedules, healthcare protocols, and the check-in process, I was reminded how camp is innately in all of us. It’s a place where we all have a collective dread of waiting on the phone with Dexcom, where everyone has their tab flavor allegiances,

and a place where you don’t have to explain every cartridge fill, every injection, and every low — it’s a place where people get it, and they get you.

But the in-person camp magic was not lost in summer 2021. At the collective effort of staff and volunteers, Worcester Day Camp offered 55 campers, split into 4 cohorts, a week full of activities like boating on the pond, camp-wide games of counselor hunt and color wars, communal blood glucose monitoring at mealtimes, and a “summer vacation” themed day complete with making your own passport, sandcastles, and postcards. Our day camp program offered the opportunity for staff and campers to connect with each other, to catch up on their — literal and figurative — highs and lows, to learn about new advancements in diabetes management, and recharge their camp batteries.

Not only did we get to connect with campers and families, but we were able to train the next class of CITs. Through the work of our CIT directors, I can confidently say camp is in good hands. They worked with two combined virtual classes of CITs this summer, where they were taught about all things camp—protocols, histories, varying staff roles—and where they were also encouraged to look inward. They worked on understanding who they are, what type of leader they can be, personal and professional strengths and weaknesses, and understanding what it takes to continue passing the torch.



As I reflect on this summer, I would like to call upon you all, our camp community, to continue the traditions of camp in your own homes—light a candle on December 24th for Clara’s birthday, remind yourselves daily that “I am Outstanding,” write letters to your bunk-

mates, read *The Giving Tree*, sing your favorite camp songs, and maybe even allow a one-off “trough Thursday” at your next breakfast. I can guarantee you’ll be packing your bags, piling into the car, and back on camp before you know it.

ONLINE CAMP STORE

Many have asked about an expanded online camp store. We are happy to share that our new online store is now available. Check out the site for camp apparel and other merchandise at <https://the-barton-center-camp-store-2.creator-spring.com/>.

We have Camp Joslin and Clara Barton Camp shirts, hoodies, joggers, and many other items to choose from, even including a baby onesie. Each item can be ordered in an assortment of colors. If you’re looking for a gift for your camper or just want something for yourself, be sure to take a look at the site.



ONLINE FUNDRAISING

Have you considered dedicating your birthday to support camp programs for children with type 1 diabetes? Announcing our Special Occasions campaign! Now you can easily use a special occasion like your birthday, anniversary, or some other milestone to support camp with our new online fundraising program with Classy. Celebrate your occasion by asking family and friends to donate and support camp rather than buying a gift. You can personalize your fundraising page and explain why camp is important to you and even include photos.

We have many other new fundraising options as well. To view options, go to <https://www.classy.org/campaign/barton-center-for-diabetes-education-fundraisers/c325121> or visit our website homepage and scroll down under Latest News & Events to click the link.

Barton Programs and Special Events

ZOMBIE WEEKEND

November 5-7, 2021

Coed, Ages 6-16

Halloween may be over but here at Barton, there are a few zombies lingering, anxiously awaiting your arrival. We can't wait for Zombie Tag, a Zombie Scavenger Hunt, Zombie Freeze, and some great craft activities to complete this zany weekend that is educational and fun. What a great weekend to kick off our year-round programs after the recent summer closures.

OLYMPIC STYLE WINTER CAMP

December 27-31, 2021

Coed, Ages 6-16

With the Winter Olympics beginning in 2022, why not get an early start and celebrate the Olympics with us. Opening and closing ceremonies, handcrafted paper torches, Olympic bingo, snowman building (fingers crossed for a bit of snow), tabletop ice hockey, indoor sock skating and, of course, gaga – there is something for everyone! Under the guidance of our health care team and professionals, breakout education sessions and discussions in a stress-free environment will be included but separated into two age groups: (Ages 6-12 and 13-16)

HAWAIIAN LUAU WEEKEND

January 14-16, 2022

Coed, Ages 6-16

Aloha campers! Join us for a weekend of fun and all things tropical! Your island escape will include tiki masks, luau limbo, and much more. Campers will learn self-care skills alongside staff and campers who are all part of their Barton "OHANA" (family). Join us for a "volcanic" weekend of fun and games!

BARTON GOLD RUSH CAMP

February 18-21, 2022

Coed, Ages 6-16

You won't want to miss this Wild West extended weekend program! Whether teaming up with staff for some creative skits, panning for gold, a wheelbarrow race, or enjoying some old-fashioned western barbecue, we have wrangled up lots of fun along with some diabetes tips. We reckon y'all will have a hoot of a time!

SPRINGTIME FAMILY/CAREGIVER CAMP

March 11-13, 2022

Coed, All Ages

Calling all families and caregivers! We know diabetes impacts the entire family. Attend as an entire family or send your child with aunts, uncles, grandparents, neighbors or others who are helping to care for your child in your home or theirs. This weekend will include education geared towards the beginner but also sessions for those more experienced in diabetes management. Hear from other families, staff who have diabetes, and trained professionals who will answer your questions. Optional games and fun for all ages from sports to cookie bake-offs.

COLOR WARS WEEKEND

April 15-17, 2022

Coed, Ages 6-16

Join us for a weekend of fun team competition—a camper favorite during the summer. Each camper will be given their team color before arriving so they can pack appropriate colored attire. Teams will meet Friday night to harness their team spirit and start creating their team cheers and strategy. Color Wars will continue throughout the weekend with many fun activities with a few shades of education splattered in. As the teams conclude activities on Sunday, each team will be presented with a special treat that will capture their overall team performance.

BARTON OPEN HOUSE

May 22, 2022

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Coed, All Ages

Join us at Clara Barton Camp (also the Day Camp location for Worcester program) in North Oxford or Camp Joslin in Charlton for a tour of the facilities and see firsthand what camp is all about. Bring your camper, family, and friends to get a sense of camp life and fun. Please register all participants who will be joining you. Refreshments will be provided.

2ND ANNUAL JPK MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 10, 2021

The JPK Memorial Golf Tournament was established to support the next generation of kids growing up with diabetes and to gather all who loved Joe Kenney to share stories and memories of his exceptional 24 years. All proceeds from this event will benefit Camp Joslin. The event takes place at Wayland Country Club and is expected to be sold out.

PHOENIX COMMUNICATIONS 5TH ANNUAL INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 16, 2021

All proceeds from this tournament will benefit The Barton Center. Phoenix Communications and President CEO Mark Langevin hope to make a difference in the lives of children with T1D by supporting Barton programs. The tournament will take place at Wachusett Country Club.

25TH ANNUAL CLARA BARTON OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 17, 2021

Shotgun Start 8:30 a.m.

Hosted by the Oxford Lions, this annual event is always a lot of fun complete with contests, raffles, prizes, and lunch! This year's event is in honor of Joe and Connie Tagg for their many years of organizing this tournament. The event will be held at Pine Ridge Golf Club in North Oxford, MA. For more information, please go to bartoncenter.org or call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2000.

3RD ANNUAL WALK FOR BARTON & FALL FESTIVAL

October 16, 2021

Check-in 10 a.m. at Cardinal Ridge at Four Winds Farm Walk 11 a.m.

Join us for this fun family event and help support The Barton Center. There is no registration fee as we want our participants to focus on fundraising. Raise money to support The Barton Center or your camper's camp fee for 2022. The two-mile walk will take place at Cardinal Ridge at Four Winds Farm/Clara Barton Camp on Ennis Road in North Oxford.

We have many fun activities planned for the whole family. Take a nice walk through Clara Barton Camp and enjoy some great food at our food booth.

***Please note: no pets allowed.**

Register for the event at <https://give.classy.org/Walk-for-Barton> and set up your fundraising page or visit our website at bartoncenter.org and click on Events for the link. Every person who raises at least \$100 will receive a t-shirt! For more information, please visit our website at bartoncenter.org, call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2000 or email events@bartoncenter.org.

ANNUAL AUCTION

November 13, 2021

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Please join us at the Penta Dining Hall at Camp Joslin in Charlton for our annual auction. The evening will feature both silent and live auctions, appetizers, dinner, and desserts. For tickets or sponsorship opportunities, please call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2000 or email events@bartoncenter.org.

THE APPLE RUN/WALK FOR DIABETES

October 30, 2021

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Walkers

11 a.m. Runners

This five-mile scenic race/walk begins and ends at the Brookfield Apple Orchard, 12 Lincoln Road, North Brookfield, MA, and is hosted by the Lions Club of the Brookfields. All proceeds will benefit Clara Barton Camp and the Diabetes Research Team at UMass. To register or for more information, please email Jim Buzzell at buzzelljim@yahoo.com or call Jim at 508-344-4141. To register online, please go to running4free.com to find the event.



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