



THE BartonCenter

FOR DIABETES EDUCATION, INC.

Inspiring Children. Empowering Families.™

the barton *Spirit!* newsletter



FALL 2023

THE BARTON CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of The Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc., the Board of Directors is pleased to announce Sadie Vivenzio as the new Executive Director of Barton, replacing Lynn Butler-Dinunno who is retiring in January after twenty-three years of dedicated service.



Sadie Vivenzio, Lynn Butler-Dinunno, and Board Treasurer Mark Fuller

Sadie joined Barton twelve years ago as our Finance Director after a few years in Public Accounting and five years with UMass Memorial Medical Center. Although Sadie grew up and has always lived in the Oxford area, Barton was a hidden gem she never realized existed.

The nature of Sadie's position as Finance Director meant she spent a lot of time "behind closed doors," but that didn't stop her from fully understanding the true gift of Barton. As Sadie explains, "The best part of my job has always been hearing the laughter and excitement emanating from camp through our office windows and seeing the many smiling faces of our campers on Closing Saturdays when they would excitedly bring their parents to our Camp Store to buy as much 'merch' as they were allowed. There were always a few campers trying to beg their parents to let them stay 'just another week.'"

Throughout her years at Barton, Sadie has worked closely with Lynn, and as Sadie herself says, has "big shoes to fill." Lynn has lived, worked, and bled Barton, and we will be eternally grateful for her many contributions to camp and the community. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of Barton over the years doing anything and everything needed at the time from answering phone calls in the middle of the night for facility issues, spearheading capital improvements, greeting and speaking with families and campers on Opening Day, to pitching in to help clean when needed, and so much more. After spending her life in the cold of the Northeast, Lynn will now be spending her well-deserved retirement on the beaches of South Carolina during the cold months and splitting her time back in Massachusetts for the rest of the year. Although she will not often be in the area of camp, Lynn has offered to be "only a phone call away." To which Sadie has quipped, "You might want to change your number!"

Barton is a magical place not only for the many campers we serve, but also for our staff and many volunteers. It is a rewarding experience in so many ways, and Sadie is honored and excited to grow with Barton and continue fulfilling our mission of providing "support programs which inspire and empower" for children with diabetes.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Summer camps, along with many other businesses, have continued to struggle with staffing since COVID. It has become harder and harder to recruit staff who want to work for camp wages and take on the incredible responsibilities, especially of a medical specialty camp.

This past summer was no different. Even though we only opened one camp, staffing remained a challenge. We were fortunate! So many former staff, many of whom could not commit to the entire summer, and an alumnus who had not been here for many years joined us. We felt the love!

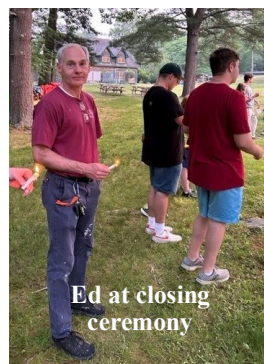
Several familiar names joined the summer admin team, healthcare and/or camp counselors and other specialty areas. In fact, too many to mention, but you may recognize many in the photo shown. They



brought their commitment, dedication, and leadership, making an incredible difference and serving as role models for newer staff.

For the first time in several years, we had four international staff members join us. One of the four is the daughter of a CBC alumna. Another is the niece of the same CBC alumna, and the daughter and niece of the alumna also brought two friends along with them to work at camp for the entire summer. They traveled from Australia and fit right in as if they had worked here for years. We hope they will be returning next year.

Lastly, words cannot convey the excitement staff felt when they met Ed, an alumnus who attended camp in the early '70s. Ed arrived in May and had many stories of his days as a camper at Camp Joslin. Ed's mom recalls that the first year she picked Ed and his twin brother up from camp that their soap and toothpaste hadn't been opened—swimming was bathing to them! This summer Ed helped prepare the site for the arrival of campers among many other tasks he eagerly tackled. He shared many stories with staff who were eager to learn more, and on opening days you would find him helping families move their child into cabins, even in the rain. Ed traveled a distance to be with us this summer as he and his wife Kathy live and work between California and Maui. Kathy, thanks for sharing Ed with us this summer, and Ed, we miss you!



Ed at closing ceremony

To our entire village – THANK YOU! You continue to make a difference!

CLARA BARTON CAMP & CAMP JOSLIN SUMMER 2023

For the second consecutive summer, both Camp Joslin and Clara Barton Camp were housed at our North Oxford facility. While all cabins were separate for each camp program, we continued to see more joint activities. No matter what the activity was, there was no shortage of smiles and laughter.

Staffing continues to be challenging but one camp was fully staffed thanks to many who helped make this possible. Camp Joslin was and still is a construction site as the septic system is installed, one cabin is being renovated, and three new cabins are being built. All four buildings will have bathrooms and showers. Fingers crossed they are ready for the summer of 2024.

As with many ponds and recreational facilities, our pond struggled to remain open. This was out of our control, and officials told us many ponds and lakes were closed this year due to the rain. There were still many opportunities for water fun. Campers enjoyed the pool, a lawn water slide, and sponge tag which involves water-soaked sponges and the agility to avoid being tagged with the sponge. A wiffle ball game was hosted at our Billy Goulet Memorial Softball Field. Our friends at UMASS Diabetes Center of Excellence joined the staff, teams were mixed and lots of fun was had by all. Campers cheered on the teams, enjoyed meeting our UMASS friends, and were very excited to see the Worcester Railers mascot, Trax the Railyard Dog.



Our Counselor-In-Training program was amazing. There was genuine concern that the years of camp lost to COVID would impact this program. This year's CITs were one of the best groups, and we are confident they will add to our pool of talented staff next summer.

Traditions at both camps incorporated into all openings and closings were heartwarming. Color Wars, Counselor Hunt, Gaga and many familiar favorites were blended in throughout the summer along with some new activities. One new activity was Carnival Day which was fun filled with many outdoor activities including a dunk tank, a bouncy house with a water slide, and several outdoor party games. The campers had a blast soaking

their favorite camp counselors and staff in the dunk tank! We were joined by special guests providing professional face painting, glitter tattoos, and balloon twisting, courtesy of Just Clowning Around. A movie theatre-style popcorn machine provided everyone with a welcome afternoon treat! The day was a hit with campers and staff alike.

Our new vendors for horseback and CrossFit brought a much different experience for both off-site activities. At Boston Equestrian, campers spent more time riding the horses, learning the grooming habits, and enjoying other activities on the property. Kate and Jamal were wonderful hosts to the campers, even sending each camper home with a photo magnet of themselves on their horse. Danielle at CrossFit Charlton tailored a program specifically for kids which campers really enjoyed. We expect both programs to fill quickly next year based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Summer updates would not be complete without the mention of our Healthcare Team. From Co-Health Service Directors, Medical Directors, and our Health Services Manager, things were organized, and education sessions were blended in throughout each day.

Plans are already underway for the summer of 2024, and dates will be announced soon! More fun, new activities, and an enthusiastic and dedicated staff will be waiting to welcome you. Please join us for another fun filled summer.



ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Adventure Campers explored western Massachusetts in Wendell State Park, the Catskill Forest Preserve, and along the Deerfield River. During the week, adventure campers spent their time backcountry hiking and camping each night. Some of the highlight activities that campers participated in were rock climbing and white water rafting. Campers enjoyed learning skills and tools to use in an off-the-grid environment.



BARTON DAY CAMPS

The Barton Center Day Camps of 2023 saw campers and staff, both new to camp and returning, blend together for each program to create a zesty atmosphere and a great time all around. Our first Day Camp program of the summer, Worcester Day Camp, brought the dynamic of Day Camp and Resident Camp together at one location – Clara Barton Camp! This summer the focus was on helping the Worcester Day Camp campers really dive into what the resident camp space has to offer. Throughout the week, the campers got to experience some of the staple camp activities we do at Clara Barton Camp. Campers headed up to the pavilion to play basketball, went through all the different areas of camp for a nature hunt, got creative during arts and crafts, and, of course, we had to play some Gaga too! The campers even had an opportunity to learn and practice dances that campers and staff have been doing over the years at our Tuesday Dance nights! Overall, Worcester Day Camp was a great time and acted as a glimpse into the life of overnight programs as well.

Our other day camp stop this summer was Long Island Day Camp. Again, there was a wonderful mix of campers, new and old, meeting us in Old Westbury. The energy at Long



Island Day Camp was so high it hit the moon! Campers were excited to get active and stay active throughout the day and enjoy the week of sunshine we had. During the week campers participated in some typical camp games such as capture the flag, Dr. Dodgeball, soccer, and frisbee. Campers beat the heat by heading over to the pool every afternoon. Long Island campers experienced a full Color Wars Day with the red team facing off against the blue team! This was a huge day for campers and staff alike. A big first this summer for

the campers was the opportunity to visit a petting zoo that was visiting the site! Campers had a chance to see chickens, bunnies, goats, ducks, and even a small horse! As a whole, Long Island Day camp was an energy packed adventure from start to finish, and we can't wait to do it all again next year!



VERMONT OVERNIGHT CAMP

The warm, bright sun, green grass and trees, and the peaceful sounds of nature– all were present to greet everyone on the first day of Vermont Overnight Camp! Campers arrived on Sunday, excited to see if any friends from previous years were returning, and eager to make new friends throughout the week. After everyone settled in and got to know their cabinmates and enjoy a few introductory camp games, we all moved to the firepit for our opening campfire to set off the week.

The weather for the week was perfect and allowed us to get into all the fun outdoor activities that camp has to offer. A constant favorite was daily swim in the pool, barely edging out the camp classic Gaga. Keeping true to camp tradition, Tuesday night was the night of our camp dance! Campers had an awesome time requesting and dancing to their favorite songs, moving and grooving with their friends, and getting a chance to show off their musical knowledge and favorite moves. Everyone participated in camp games and activities such as ultimate frisbee, arts and crafts, and various types of dodgeball. We even had a talent show night where campers were able to hop up on the stage and show off their hidden talent to all the camp! We had so many great performances ranging from comedy to skits, to dancing, and magic. Throughout the week everyone had a blast with the activities.



As the last day of camp came to a close, we got ready for our closing campfire. During campfire, many campers offered to share their thoughts about the camp week and about camp in general.

This is where many of the campers of all ages really connected. Stories were shared about how they may have been nervous coming to camp or have been coming for many years but were acknowledging that they were getting closer and closer to the transition into being a Counselor-in-Training. Everyone at the campfire was supportive and engaging with all shared thoughts. The campers themselves really set a fantastic tone that night and made sure to have one last awesome night at camp before heading home in the morning. Until next year!



Calendar 2023-24

Special Events Update

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE!
www.bartoncenter.org.

PLEASE NOTE: Per our COVID-19 protocols, all campers are highly recommended to be vaccinated. Staff are required to be vaccinated and boosted prior to the start of camp.

WINTER CAMP

December 26-30, 2023

Coed, Ages 6-16

Winter is no time to be hanging out inside. Not when there are so many unique and cool things to experience at this five-day program. We'll create works of art building snow sculptures and learn how to survive in the cold like arctic explorers. Need to warm up? We will head inside to try some tabletop ice hockey, indoor sock skating, and ice magic. Get a chance to try snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. No snow? No worries, we'll make some of our own!

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: Judgement-free zone where campers can talk about their challenges with diabetes.

Ages 13-16: Teen talks will include topics such as college, drugs, sex, and alcohol for those with diabetes. Judgement-free zone where campers can talk about these difficult subjects as well as their own challenges with diabetes.

COLOR WARS WEEKEND

February 16-19, 2024

Coed, Ages 6-16

This camper favorite has returned for a special winter edition! The Generals of the different teams have decided to tie this year's Color Wars into the Winter Olympics, so this weekend will feature an Olympic twist. Campers will be given their assigned team prior to the program so that they may pack accordingly. On Friday, teams will join together to strategize and create banners and cheers for their teams. Throughout the weekend, teams will battle for Olympic points through various activities, and will also be taking some breaks from the competition to come together to share and learn through our education sessions. On Sunday, all teams will be presented with a special treat to commemorate their performance and solidify them in history during the first Winter Color Wars Weekend!

SPRINGTIME FAMILY/CAREGIVER CAMP

March 8-10, 2024

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 beginners 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.

BARTON GOLD RUSH CAMP

April 12-14, 2024

Coed, Ages 6-16

You won't want to miss this Wild West program! Whether teaming up with staff for some Yee Haw shenanigans, 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!

BARTON OPEN HOUSE

May 4, 2024 — 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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. You will have the opportunity to meet with year-round staff, summer counselors, and members of our medical teams. You will see where your child will be sleeping, eating, and tour the facilities. Bring your camper, family, and friends to get a sense of camp life and fun. Refreshments will be provided. Please register to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information or to RSVP for events, please call 508-987-2056 or visit our website at www.bartoncenter.org.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

December 2, 2023

9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Seatings

Join us for this fun community event at the Penta Dining Hall at Camp Joslin, 150 Richardson Corner Road, Charlton, MA. The event will include a delicious pancake breakfast (gluten free option available), pictures with Santa, letters to Santa, crafts, face painting, a trackless train ride, and plenty of photo opportunities. Tickets are \$20, children ages 12 and under \$15, and children ages 3 and under are free with the purchase of an adult ticket. There will be a seating at 9 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. **Space is limited.** Please contact Lisa to reserve your spot. Call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2011 or email events@bartoncenter.org today! You may also purchase tickets at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

December 2, 2023

3 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon out and make a beautiful wreath to bring home. Join us at Penta Dining Hall at Camp Joslin, 150 Richardson Corner Road, Charlton, MA, where staff from Bemis Farms in Spencer will lead the workshop. The cost is \$50 per person and includes the class, all supplies, appetizers, and beverages. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Lisa to reserve your spot for this fun, festive event! Call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2011 or email events@bartoncenter.org.

RECENT EVENTS

5th Annual 5K & Walk for Barton Fall Festival & Craft Fair

We held our 5th Annual 5K & Walk on October 14th this year. New this year—we added a 5K option for runners. Everyone enjoyed visiting our craft fair vendors, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, crafts, and more. The event was a big hit, and we're excited for next year!

Many thanks to all our sponsors:

Boston Athletic Association

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The George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation

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Also, thank you to Polar Beverages for donating water for the event!



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The Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc.

P.O. Box 356, North Oxford, MA 01537

Phone: 508-987-2056 Fax: 508-987-2002

www.bartoncenter.org

Matthew Cote, Chair, Board of Trustees
Sadie A. Vivenzio, Executive Director