



# THE BartonCenter FOR DIABETES EDUCATION, INC.

*Inspiring Children. Empowering Families.™*



the barton *Spirit!* newsletter

SPRING 2024

## WHY CAMP?

The last time I was a camper at the Barton Center was 1998. The last time I was a staff member was 2009. Decades later I am thrilled and honored that the Barton Center has continued to feel like one of the safest places in my life.

Many of us reading can contest that living with diabetes in our family is one of the biggest inconveniences in our entire lives. It interrupts soccer games, weddings, work meetings, and sleep. We plan our doses, infusion sets don't work the way we hoped, our efforts can feel like they become invisible, like it's not worth it. Defeating. Then camp comes along and everything shifts. It's worth it.

Nothing else in the world compares to the feeling of knowing the second you step onto the grounds. Your stress, mental exhaustion, feelings of loneliness and isolation are erased. That's how it was for me. Every single summer. That's why so many of us continue to come back year after year. It's not the games of capture the flag, the dances, or polar bear swims, it's the people. The people who are like you, and make the rest of our years feel a little less lonely.

Looking back now, after thirty five years of living with diabetes, I can whole-heartedly say that **sending me to diabetes camp was hands down the best childhood decision my parents made for me. Why?**

I learned the confidence to be around others, speak up for myself if I needed a band-aid, was exposed to different backgrounds, AND have SO MUCH FUN. There are a gazillion reasons why camp is the best, but I'm narrowing it down here.

The **confidence**—first shots at camp are celebrated, we're encouraged to try a new site area at camp, are convinced to even wear a CGM, or try a new food and not hate it. It's those types of things that build self confidence, and self advocacy, all from the people around us that get it, that sometimes motivate us the most. That is what camp does.

The **connections**—counselors are role models. The unspoken understanding of knowing that the kid next to you also has a wrapper of peanut butter crackers next to their bunk because they were also low at 2am. It's the feeling of not being alone, and camp does that. It is magical.

The **community**—for parents, for staff, for the campers. It is built for life. Through online support, all year long, the community is powerful. The memories may be from just a few days or weeks to a few times a year, but those memories create a community that lasts forever.

To the parents of kiddos on the fence about camp, I encourage you to take the leap. For you, it's a break. For your child it could be the best decision of their lives.



To the current campers and staff, keep going. Don't give up on camp. Each and every summer is a new opportunity to expose yourself to new challenges, new skills, new friends.

To the alumni, camp needs us. Needs us to continue to be involved and invested in the mission of the spirit. The spirit won't change, won't fade, if we don't let it.

In Peace, Love and Insulin,  
Anna Sabino (Floreen) W, CDCES

The Barton *Spirit!* Newsletter of

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Matthew Cote, Chair, Board of Trustees  
Sadie Vivencio, Executive Director

# Summer Calendar 2024



# Special Events

## ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE!

[www.bartoncenter.org](http://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.

## CLARA BARTON CAMP & CAMP JOSLIN COED CAMP\*

(Boys & Girls, Ages 6-16 — held at Camp Joslin)

### Two-Week Sessions

Session 1	June 23–July 6
Session 2	July 7–July 20
Session 3	July 21–August 3

### One-Week Sessions

Session 1a	June 23–June 29
Session 1b	June 30–July 6
Session 2a	July 7–July 13
Session 2b	July 14–July 20
Session 3a	July 21–July 27
Session 3b	July 28–August 3

## BARTON DAY CAMPS\* (Coed, Ages 5-15)

Danvers Day Camp—Danvers, MA	June 24–June 28
Worcester—Charlton, MA	July 15–July 19
Long Island—Old Westbury, NY	July 29–August 2

## VERMONT OVERNIGHT CAMP\* (Coed, Ages 6-16)

South Hero, VT	July 7–July 12
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*\*WACKY Sessions—During 2024, all campers can bring a sibling or friend who does not have diabetes with them to camp.*

## CLARA BARTON BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM



The museum is open beginning with the last weekend in May through the last weekend in August on Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In September, the museum is open Saturdays only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. From October through May, the museum is open weekdays by appointment only.

For more information about the museum, please visit our website at [www.clarabartonbirthplace.org](http://www.clarabartonbirthplace.org).



## 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CLARA BARTON OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 14, 2024

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 buffet lunch! The event will be held at Pine Ridge Golf Club in North Oxford, MA. For more information or PDF registration and sponsor forms, please go to [www.bartoncenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events](http://www.bartoncenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events), email [events@bartoncenter.org](mailto:events@bartoncenter.org), or call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2000.

## 5K & WALK FOR BARTON

### Fall Festival & Craft Fair

October 5, 2024 Check-in 9:30 a.m. Run begins at 10:30 a.m.

Join this fun family event and help support The Barton Center. Runners begin at 10:30 a.m., walkers at 10:45 a.m. Walkers will take a 2-mile walk through Clara Barton Camp and beyond. Enjoy some great food, music, family-friendly activities yard games, face painting, petting zoo, and visit our craft fair vendors. Closing ceremonies will take place at noon, and the celebration continues until 2 p.m. For more information, please go to [www.bartoncenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events](http://www.bartoncenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events), email [events@bartoncenter.org](mailto:events@bartoncenter.org), or call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2000.

## ANNUAL AUCTION

October 26, 2024

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Join us at the Penta Dining Hall at Camp Joslin in Charlton for our annual auction. The evening features silent & live auctions, appetizers, dinner and desserts. For more information, please go to [www.bartoncenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events](http://www.bartoncenter.org/news-events/upcoming-events), email [events@bartoncenter.org](mailto:events@bartoncenter.org), or call 508-987-2056, Ext. 2000.

## WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

December 1, 2024

Get into the holiday spirit with our afternoon wreath decorating workshop! Join us for a festive and creative session where you'll learn how to craft stunning wreaths to adorn your home during the holiday season.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

December 8, 2024

Join us for a magical morning of joy and cheer at our Breakfast with Santa event! This event will include a delicious pancake breakfast (gluten free options available), pictures with Santa, letters to Santa, crafts, face painting, photo opportunities, and more. Bring the whole family!

## Cabin Update

Our builders have been hard at work this year to get our new and renovated cabins completed in time for Summer 2024. We are happy to announce that our three new cabins and one renovated cabin are finished and ready for campers and staff to move in! Landscaping is underway as well so we are eager to present a fresh look to camp by June 23rd!

We are looking forward to seeing some familiar faces and new faces too!

