

BARNSTONE NEWS



**Back to
the Barn!**

COVER:
Back to the Barn!



Our Mission:

Barnstone Art for Kids uses the power of art and community connection to foster resilience in children facing adversity.



October 2021

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Barnstone Art For Kids

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Sean Halloran

*Executive Director
Barnstone Art For Kids*

October 2021

Dear Barnstone Friends and Family,

There is a moment when an artist stands in front of a blank canvas. The moment is filled with possibility and hope, but also a healthy dash of anxiety. We are at that place today. I am writing at the threshold of a new program year (we start tomorrow), and the sense of excitement is palpable. We have four groups of Power of Art and Emerging Voices kids enrolled, and a packed slate of On the Go and community activities scheduled. Each of our classes are full, and we have our family of trusted Mentors ready to help. It is a satisfying, if a bit anxiety producing, place to be today. What I am interested in sharing here, though, are all of the moments that led us to this place today.

Eighteen months ago, we experienced unprecedented change in our world, and have been adapting to those changes ever since, delving into the undiscovered, the “never-tried that before”. When we were faced with having to close the barn and end our programs, we created a virtual space that could host our sessions on Zoom. When we realized that kids needed art supplies at home, we created wonderful supply kits and got them there. When parents expressed fears about their children’s mental health and well-being, we stepped in to deliver “Parenting in the Pandemic” virtually. These examples not only helped us maintain course, but also showed the strength of the Barnstone curriculum and our spirit of creativity and community. While we did take some losses to our fundraising, and were forced to suspend some of our activities, we stand with a sense of accomplishment and optimism about the future. As we consider the “canvas” of our new program year, we will do what all the great artists have done in the past. We will pick up our brush, and get to work. Take a look inside to see more of what we have been up to! Thanks for reading. Thanks for your support. Come by for a visit... we are back in the barn!

Yours in service,
Sean

Back to the Barn

Returning to In-Person Programming



When will we
be back at
the barn?

This question has been asked on an almost daily basis since the beginning of pandemic. While the question is usually asked by one of our young artists, the staff and Board at Barnstone have also been a little curious.

Over the course of many months, we have watched the news and paid attention to our regional partners. We evaluated our re-opening plans against other organizations in the community. As healthcare wisdom came, then the vaccine roll out, we saw the light at the end of the tunnel!

This past June, Barnstone hosted a small group of young artists for a one-time, special project. These kids had recently completed a whole year of Barnstone...virtually. We wanted a chance to meet our friends in person, finally, and show them the special place that we work in. This special session gave way to in-person Summer Programming, and we held two sections of artists for a six-week course. It has been incredibly gratifying to have navigated the quarantine while still providing our programs for kids, but there is a special energy that comes from making art together in person.

We are so grateful to all of you for helping our kids flourish in the face of the pandemic, and we can't wait for YOU to visit us, back in the barn.





Mentor Spotlight

Eva Drumbore

Power of Art Student Volunteer Mentor

Our Mentors come from all walks of life; artists, teachers, business professionals, college students, retirees and more have all shared their lives with our kids. It is rare, however, when a high school aged young woman comes to us asking to help out with the kids. It happens, but not too often. Enter our friend Eva. Like all of

us, Eva's life was changed when the pandemic hit. She saw this as an opportunity to do more, and got in touch with us here in the barn. We had a chance to talk to her about her decision and her life! Thanks to Eva for sharing her time and thoughts!

How did you first get involved at Barnstone?

My family has been involved in Barnstone for a number of years and I think it is a great organization. I asked to get involved with the virtual sessions since I was home during the pandemic. The pandemic was a perfect time for me to volunteer virtually.

What does making art mean for you?

Making art helps me relax and not worry or get stressed. I think art making is therapeutic and can help take your mind off of other stressors. I've been making art since I was really little, maybe 2 years old!

You are one of our youngest Mentors.

How does this experience fit into your journey right now?

I think it is important to volunteer and help other people in the community. My family has encouraged me to be involved in charitable events and organizations. I'm involved in a lot of service. I also like to work with kids. I am interested in becoming a teacher, and this fits!

Eva's call to service gives us a lot of hope, and ALL the feels! As she enters high school, she told us she is looking to fill up her plate again! She has made the Varsity Field Hockey team, and is joining a number of extracurricular clubs and activities to boot! Her altruism, her spirit, and her creativity will no doubt lead her to amazing places! Thank you, Eva! We will be cheering for you here at the barn!

CommunityRaiser 2021 Roundup

While the uncertainty of the pandemic had caused us to halt our 2020 Live! fundraising event, we were determined to celebrate our kids, our community, and our work in 2021. The outcome of our planning laid the groundwork for Barnstone Art for Kids' CommunityRaiser 2021! The event was actually three elements, run concurrently during the month of June.



Our Pinwheels in the Park event kicked things off with dozens of kids, friends, and even Barnstone Board members came to Reeves Park to make beautiful pinwheels. From this event, we collected several child-made pinwheels, and hid them at businesses around town. These hidden pinwheels were a part of a Pinwheel Treasure Hunt, that highlighted our supporters in the business community. Barnstone encouraged "seekers" to find the hidden treasures, and win prizes when they posted their pics to social media.



A second element of the CommunityRaiser came when another friend of Barnstone walked through our doors and offered her help. Emily Mullet, from the Artists of Phoenixville Instagram page, helped us conduct a "Call to Art- Sticker Edition"! This component drew on the talented artists around our region, placing their artwork (and Barnstone) on the center stage of social media. In the end, beautiful vinyl stickers were produced and sold with images coming from the selected artists who participated. Of course, we also carried out an Online Art Auction as well. This final element of our CommunityRaiser was very exciting as we put a ton of original artwork "on the block" for auction. Our CommunityRaiser was a safe and effective way to say thanks, raise awareness, and to help raise funds that allow us to continue our work with children!



How Can I Help?

\$1000

*Develops
one On the Go
remote location*

\$500

*Provides
Summer Session
for 20+ children*

\$250

*Pairs a mentor
with a child in the
Power of Art*

\$100

*Administers
training for new
one to one
mentors*

\$50

*Provides one bag
of art supplies in
a child during of
our programs*

\$20

*Supports
Barnstone
Art for Kids*

Other Ways to Give

Volunteer as a Mentor

Contact Lisa@barnstoneartforkids.org

Donate Supplies

paper towel rolls, egg & milk cartons, plastic containers and bottles, boxes, etc!

Amazon Wish List

Visit our Amazon wish page for specific supplies needed to support Barnstone Art For Kids programming. Your donations will support kids as they continue to heal, cope and grow during the pandemic.
www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3N9C00L650IP?ref=wl_share

For Leadership Circle Donation inquiries at the \$2500-5000 level contact: Sean@barnstoneartforkids.org

Barnstone Art for Kids provides programs to children in need of healing at no cost to the family. Barnstone Art for Kids is funded through the generosity of individual donors with Foundation support. A copy the official registration and financial information for Barnstone Art for Kids may be obtained by calling the PA Department of State at 1-800-732-0900. EIN 38-3872177.



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