



Toni Pergolin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bancroft



In 1993, Wawa helped establish a convenience store inside The Bancroft School.



A neutral "tracker" (right) helps an artist express his creativity in an arts program backed by Wawa.



About 75 Bancroft students, including this one, have moved into paying jobs at Wawa.

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Bancroft

Toni Pergolin, President and Chief Executive Officer

Haddonfield, Camden County

Students at The Bancroft School are building skills and confidence thanks to a longstanding partnership between Bancroft and the convenience-store chain Wawa.

In 1993, Wawa helped install a convenience store in the school, allowing students with developmental challenges to learn how to prep food, stock shelves and operate cash registers.

Christened "Sweet Success" by students, the store has been a big hit on campus and grown into a state-of-the-art training facility.

And it's not just training people for training's sake. Over the last 17 years, more than 75 students have taken jobs with Wawa, enabling them to make a smooth transition from school to work in the community.

Since then, Wawa has continued to deepen its relationship with Bancroft. The company raises thousands of dollars for the school every year, funding cultural and social programs that would otherwise be impossible to hold.

As a result, students enjoy regular opportunities to dance, play drums, strum guitars and even sing in sign language. Bancroft also offers weekly classes in cooking, scrapbooking, computers, aerobics and other areas.

Bancroft's ART, or Artistic Realization Technologies, program, is another

benefactor of Wawa. The program had been canceled in 2005 due to a lack of funding. But Wawa came to the rescue and is now the exclusive sponsor. Held at The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility, the program enables people with physical limitations to create original works of art.

Founded more than 120 years ago, Bancroft serves more than 1,300 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries. In addition to its Haddonfield headquarters, the organization operates sites in Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, Middlesex, Ocean and Salem counties, as well as in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Programs include education, rehabilitation, vocational, residential, evaluation and treatment services. The goal is for each individual to participate fully in community activities, social relationships, and religious, recreational and cultural opportunities.

"Supporters like Wawa can truly make a positive impact on an individual's life and through their support of Bancroft," according to the nonprofit. "And so we need to spread the word of our important mission and what together we can do to help children and adults with neurological challenges lead happy and fulfilling lives in their communities."