

BRIERCREST ANNUAL REPORT 23-24



*A Family Story
Made Possible by You*

C

MEET THE CARAS

From Left to Right:
Andrew Cara, Nicholas Cara,
Elisa Cara, Sterling Boehm,
Shailey Boehm, Pietro Cara,
Nichole Cara, Seth Cara,
Jonathan Cara

In the summer of 2017, the Cara family stood on the brink of another exciting four-year mission in Italy, unaware that life was about to chart a new course. Challenges arose concerning their older children's post-secondary education, prompting them to rethink their plans. By Christmas, Pietro and Nichole knew God was leading them in a different direction. Their children were entering a crucial stage where education and personal formation for ministry became a priority. Realizing that their children's educational needs were best met in Canada, they returned to Saskatchewan in a tsunami of emotion. Briercrest emerged as a safe place to land, offering the Christ-centered, close-knit community they needed, as well as providing the education they wanted for their children.



The Cara Family at the Capua
Colosseum in 2014



*Hear their story of faith,
growth, and service...*

PIETRO & NICHOLE CARA

When we returned to Canada, we prayed for men and women of righteousness who would be committed to encouraging, challenging, and shaping our children as disciples of Jesus equipped for good works. This prayer has been answered in beautiful ways through beautiful people, some of whom the Lord has now led on to new chapters. Their impact and influence continue to bear fruit in our children's lives, and our prayer is that our lives, too, will bear much fruit as we seek to love God and others through faithful service.

While we didn't initially recognize a strong alignment with our ministry in Italy, as Briercrest's "education that disciples" framework has begun to take shape, a growing alignment has become evident. Our ministry in Italy was largely focused on opening our lives and homes to disciple small group leaders so that they, in turn, would open their lives and homes to disciple others. The role of the Residence Director [Nichole] is no different. We get to support and train student leaders who, in turn, serve and support the student body through their ministry as Residence Assistants or coordinators of various student ministries.



ANDREW CARA

I'm an RA (Resident Assistant) in the high school boys' dorm, involved in student leadership and a coach for the high school boys' volleyball and basketball teams.

Sports was, in a way, how I dipped my toes into the water of getting involved in ministry. The bond that sports create is unmatched. It was an eye-opener for me to realize the impact I could have, even when I'm not much further in life than some of the boys. I realized this year that the high school boys are my ministry. I've been blessed with so many opportunities to pour into them. The practicality of sports opens doors for me to speak into their lives and be a living example of Christ to these young men. The entire thing is life-giving.



There is so much that goes on under the surface here that, at times, you're just completely blown away.





SETH CARA

My heart is filled with gratitude that I am in a high school where we share the same beliefs and where many other students desire to grow in their faith, as I do.

As a former Missionary Kid and coming from a family where biblical teaching was central, the learning process can, at times, feel slow or not really geared to me. I continue to grow my foundations in understanding the word of God in and out of school. A highlight of my days in high school is, by far, the chapel times and Christian Ethics classes, as they are where my heart desires to be. During my first year at BCA, all the talk about faith sparked a flame of curiosity in me and drove me to grow in my faith.





Seth and his brother **Nicholas** are active members of the Refined Undignified dance teams. Their sister, **Elisa**, is a former RU member.



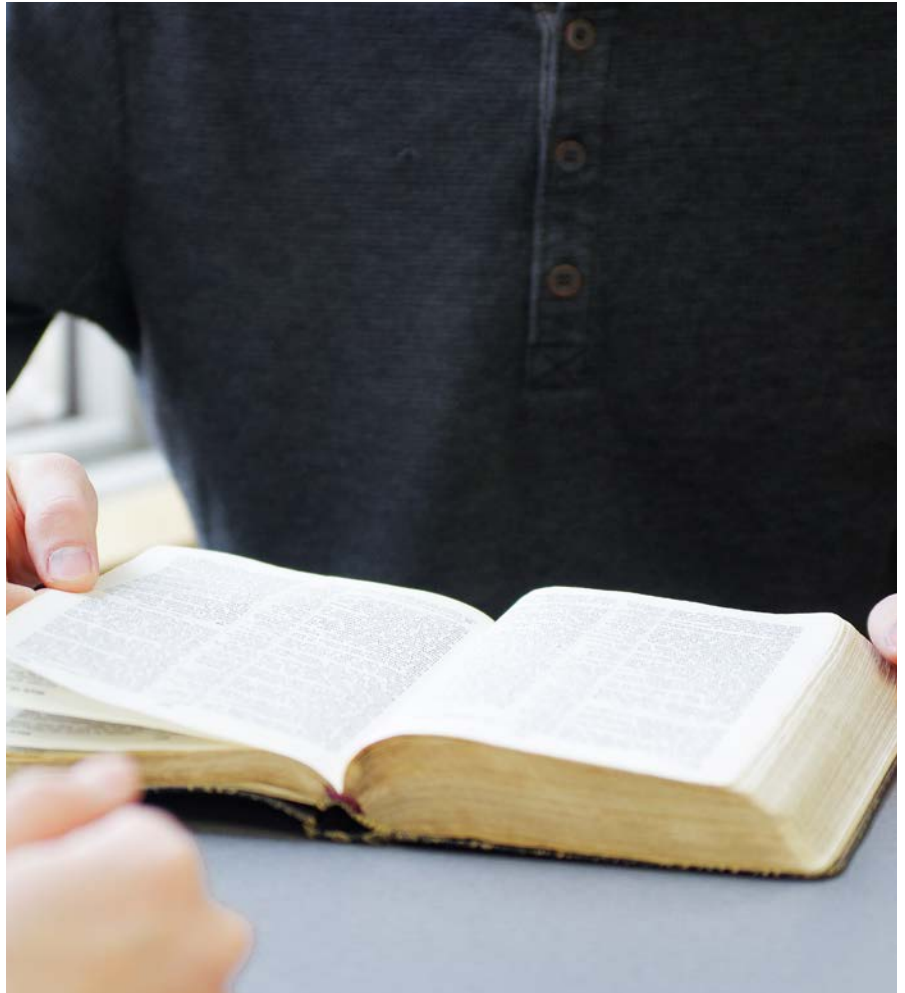


SHAILEY & STERLING BOEHM

Shailey: Ever since taking a psychology class in grade 11, I knew that I wanted to become a counsellor. I was specifically looking for an education that would integrate faith with psychology and counselling. Briercrest was appealing because it is a Christian college with amazing professors and an accredited degree in psychology. Following graduation with a BA in Psychology, I entered the Master of Counselling program, which continues to give me a faith-based education. Aside from learning the skills to equip me to be a good counsellor, my education in psychology and counselling has also taught me how to be a good friend. I have learned so many relational skills at Briercrest that have helped me to understand the people around me better and help them feel loved and supported.

Sterling: As a music student, I was heavily involved in the Briercrest Onstage productions, including Christmas Musicals and Summer Stage productions. Studying at Briercrest gave me the opportunity to study under and learn from people who are strong in their faith and great spiritual role models. I felt very supported by the professors at Briercrest, and they became not only my teachers but also my friends. My role as a music teacher strengthened my problem-solving skills and the ability to be creative in my approach to music teaching because every student learns differently, and you need to be able to adapt to each unique circumstance.

Shailey is working on her Master of Counselling through Briercrest Seminary, and Sterling completed his master's in Vocal Performance at the University of Regina.



Briercrest has a high academic standard that pushes students to succeed academically and offers a high-quality education. The professors truly care about their students' success and are accessible to them.



ELISA CARA

My time at Briercrest has forced me to grapple with what it means to live out my faith in all areas of my life. Classes like Ethics in TESOL and Professional Issues in TESOL really encouraged me to question what it looks like to stay true to my values within my profession. I am so grateful that I can talk with my professors about what it means to integrate my faith into my future career.

The TESOL internships gave me the opportunity to take all the theoretical knowledge I attained in class and put it into practice in the real world. My internship experience allowed me to explore who I am as a teacher and my values very tangibly.

Before my internships, I had a lot of self-doubt and often questioned whether I would be a good teacher. The teaching experience I gained during internships slowly built up my confi-



dence and showed me that I was more capable than I thought. The cross-cultural aspect also shaped my worldview profoundly and helped prepare me for what it might mean to work cross-culturally in the future.



The opportunities that I had to go and serve on **internships would not have been possible without the donors** who support the TESOL program. These internships are amazing opportunities not only for students like me to gain experience but also for them to **serve others with their talents and gifts**. It is only because of the donors who support the program that TESOL students can go out and have a global impact by serving the nations with the knowledge and skills they gain in the classroom.



JONATHAN CARA



I appreciated all the **support and effort** from the teaching staff.

My time at Briercrest Christian Academy has taught me resilience and responsibility. By balancing sports, work, and schoolwork, I learned time management and the importance of commitment and dedication. I also learned to face challenges head-on, whether on the court, in the field, in the classroom, or in managing tasks at home.

One defining moment was joining the football team during my third year. I wasn't particularly enthusiastic about academics, but on the field I felt a sense of belonging from the

coaches and seniors that reshaped my perspective. This experience helped me realize the importance of working hard towards my goals, no matter the setting.

I also enjoyed the hands-on projects that the practical and applied arts classes provided. It opened doors to discovering new interests and skills I didn't know I had.



NICHOLAS CARA

Nicholas is an elementary student who has been performing with BCA and the College's drama performances. Here's what he said about the experience: "Being part of BCA drama performances has been a fun opportunity to grow as a singer and an actor with more people my age who are closer to my skill level. College Summer Stage is an amazing learning environment to perform with college students who are so talented, friendly and inspirational. They always encourage me and make me feel confident and capable even though I am a youth with much less experience than any of them. During every production, the cast settles into a running joke that becomes a fun memory of our time on stage and behind the scenes."





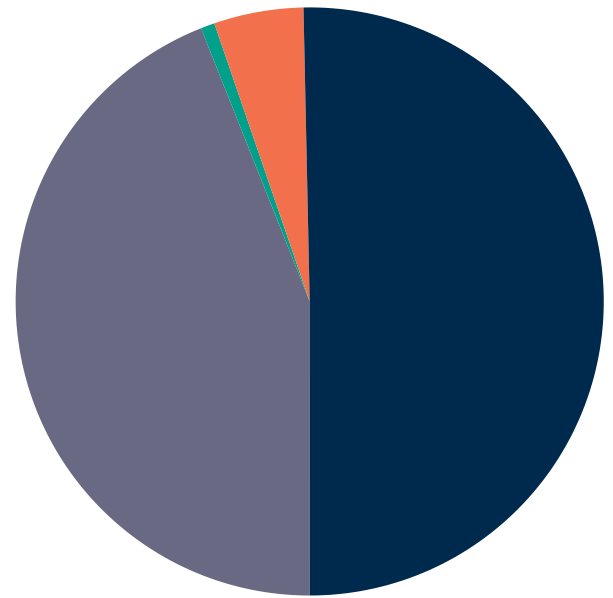
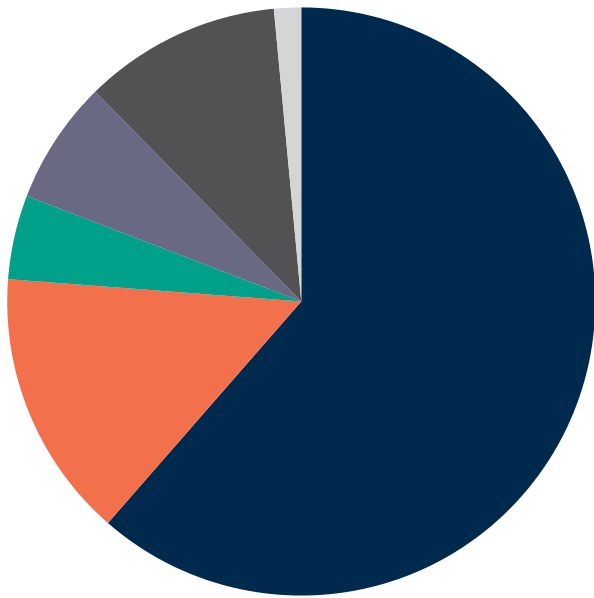
THANK YOU!



Watching our children discover their academic and extracurricular passions and have so many opportunities to develop as leaders has brought us so much joy. It has been remarkable to see them deeply cared for and mentored by staff, teachers, and professors up to the president of the institution.

Briercrest is a truly unique institution in that it offers a small-town, close-knit Bible school experience and a wide array of exceptional liberal arts degrees. Our students choose Briercrest not for its fancy facilities but for the vibrant community that fills our dorms and housing with life, love, and laughter.

2023-24 FINANCIAL UPDATE



REVENUES \$13,805,695

Tuition & Fees \$8,479,304	Other Revenue \$1,499,696
Donations \$2,041,835	Government Grants & Assistance \$205,800
Business Sales \$639,065	
Non-Dorm Housing Rentals \$939,995	

EXPENSES \$14,515,515

Salaries & Benefits \$7,306,581
Operating Expenses \$6,383,253
Business Purchases \$714,566
Scholarships & Bursaries \$111,115



**39 BCA GRADS
IN 2024**



**105 COLLEGE GRADS
IN 2024**



**44 SEMINARY GRADS
IN 2024**

A Family Story Made Possible by You



*On behalf of the Cara family and
many others like them, thank
you for your generosity.*



BRIERCREST
Christian Academy • College • Seminary

510 College Drive
Caronport, SK

1.888.581.2050
donorinquiry@briercrest.ca