

Meet the Becker Boys

Sammy and Ben Becker receive respite activities through Liberty ARC's Family Support Services (FSS) program. For several years now, both young men have enjoyed spending time out in the community with one-on-one FSS staff. These siblings are both on the autism spectrum and yet, have two distinct and lovable personalities!

Sammy, an outgoing 15-year-old, loves people and actively seeks out social interaction. He engages with anyone he comes in contact with asking questions like birth dates, where they live and do you have kids. He truly enjoys connecting and making relationships. Sammy also remembers pretty much everything you tell him!

Ben is a bit more laid back. At 13-years-old he spends much of his times outside and feels at-home in nature. He also likes people but establishes relationships differently than his brother. Ben is not as conversational and communicates easier with those he knows. As his mom describes, "Ben is a big teddy bear and is very gentle."

Mom, Lisa Becker says she's very appreciative of the time FSS dedicates to Sammy and Ben.

"My husband (Tim) and I are very pleased with the Liberty ARC staff. We are grateful that Liberty has activities that the boys enjoy and that's just wonderful. We know they are having fun and being cared for," said Lisa. "We are now planning for Sammy and Ben's future at Liberty ARC. It's very important to our family that we form these relationships and have direct one-on-one conversations with staff to ensure their safety and well-being in years-to-come."

A part of the quality experience at Liberty ARC the introduction of new and innovative options for those we support, like Sammy and Ben. We feel, with development of our Community Sensory Playground that we continue the tradition of offering quality supports. The playground will not only give children, like the Becker brothers, a safe and creative space but will also be accessible and inclusive to all individuals Liberty ARC supports as well as the community.

"This playground will be an open place where the boys can be themselves. It's a quiet, safe space where they're not being judged and can enjoy being kids and have fun," said Lisa. "A lot of playgrounds don't have equipment that is sensory friendly or appropriate for those with disabilities. Here they will be able to enjoy playing with musical pieces, which is an important way to communicate."

For families, like the Beckers, knowing they have a variety of support opportunities is extremely important. The Beckers are busy, in addition to Sammy and Ben, they have two other boys Zac and James who are very active. Lisa says the sensory playground will give Sammy and Ben an outlet and something to do when they might want an alternate to the family's busy schedule.

"We're lucky they are healthy and happy, that's all we want for them," said Lisa. "Liberty has been a great support. We love Liberty."