

Partners with Business: Aaron & Ross at BioMat 4 Autism

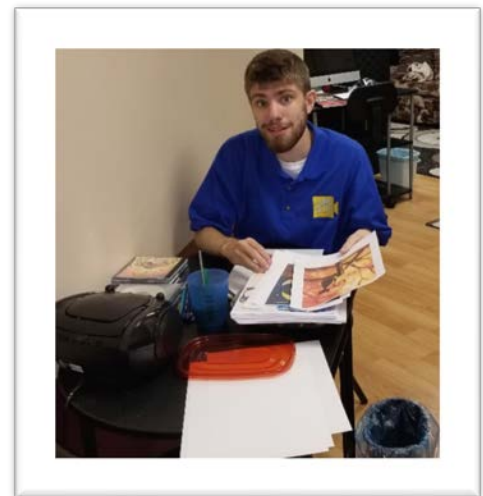


Aaron and Ross are twin brothers who graduated from Mt. Horeb high school in May 2017. They both love watching and making videos and learning about electronics. While in school they attended Camp Createability, a video and entertainment program run by Debbie Armstrong owner of BioMat 4 Autism in McFarland, Wisconsin. Debbie developed a connection with the twins and saw how their skills could benefit her video production, digital imaging, and social media business. Debbie

reached out to Aaron and Ross's parents to ask if the twins were working and proposed the idea of working for her.

Debbie hired Aaron and Ross for 10 hours each per week to do video editing, digital imaging, and handmade drawings and paintings for prints and greeting cards. A partners with Business support arrangement was negotiated with Debbie.

Debbie, along with other BioMat 4 Autism interns and employees, provide a mix of natural (unpaid) and formal (co-worker paid) supports for the twins at work, rather than paying for an outside agency provide on-the-job supports. A vocational agency, Work Opportunities in Rural Communities (WORC), checks in with Debbie monthly to provide oversight and check in support to ensure Aaron and Ross continue to be successful at work. This Partners with Business arrangement is far more cost effective and fits better with the small workplace environment than the traditional model of agency-provided job coaching supports.



Traditional Job Coaching Support Costs	Partners with Business Plus Support Costs
Over \$8,000 per individual per year	\$5,600 per individual per year

Partners with Business is cost-effective and ideal for small business owners who want to hire people with disabilities.
