

Our George Bray Experience

Seven years ago, I was looking for a Knights game on T.V. but instead of finding the game, there an interview with Murray Howard talking about the George Bray Sports Association. After the interview was over, my wife and I looked at each other, and decided to give Murray a call.

 We had tried karate, T-ball and soccer, all to no avail. So we thought to ourselves, “let’s give hockey a try.” From the moment we walked into the arena, I think it’s fair to say that we were hooked. Our kids understood the game of hockey, but it was some of their other issues that we were trying to help with. Murray and his team of volunteers, came along side us, equipped us, and with patience and compassion, showed us a world where our boys would be welcomed.

They started with the Learn-to-Skate hockey school and played on Sundays on a Junior team. Our one son went from sitting on the ice in the corner, to actively being involved in just a few weeks. Both of our boys were given the opportunity to work at their own pace. They had one of the many excellent volunteer coaches who taught them that they could have fun and build their confidence, no matter what the scoreboard said at the end of the game.

 Fast forward a few years, and our boys have come out of their comfort zones and were becoming leaders on their team. They’re also excelling not just on the ice but at school and at home too, due to the life skills they are learning at George Bray. Due to the things that George Bray has taught our boys one of them now has the confidence to want to play in Red Circle hockey next year. Our other son wants to remain at George Bray for a few more years because he really likes his team and continues to play and build his confidence.

George Bray has also affected my wife and me in a positive way. As we became part of the George Bray family we have had the privilege of getting more involved. My wife has worked the bench gates a few times and periodically is found in the time keeper’s box keeping score and time. I have had the opportunity to be on the ice with my kids and this year I am coaching an Intermediate team as well as taking on a leadership role in the Learn-to-Skate hockey school program.

 Through their perseverance of compassion, respect, teamwork, friendship and equality, George Bray has given us an outlet for not only our children, but for my wife and me as well. We have developed quality friendships with others who face the same day-to-day struggles that we face and it’s given our boys the opportunity to succeed by participating in an activity that they enjoy. So, if you have or know anyone with a child/children with special needs and are looking for an activity that will focus on them, try George Bray Sports Association. Even if they have never been on ice before, you will find that George Bray works hard to accommodate your need. If you’re really unsure then come on out and see for yourself.

You have to be here, to see it, to believe it!!!

Thank you, George Bray!

The Riman Family