



**Empowering Individuals
FAR Beyond Special Needs**

For over 70 years, FAR has served as a **non-profit organization** that provides a safe space for those with special needs to enrich their lives and develop lifelong friendships. Through the dedication of our highly trained staff and the support of partners and collaborating organizations throughout Metro Detroit, we offer individualized music, art, dance/movement and recreational therapy for children and adults with a variety of special needs diagnoses. FAR currently serves over 1,500 members of our community.



By serving the community in a way that helps clients experience the joy of realizing their full potential

By advocating for public understanding of the abilities and potential of people with special needs

By providing financial assistance and scholarships to families of those with special needs

By helping clients lead richer lives through a full array of therapeutic programs in music, art, dance, and recreation

By encouraging families of people with mental, emotional and physical impairments



YOU CAN HELP US
SPREAD THE JOY...

FAR THERAPEUTIC ARTS AND RECREATION

Celebrating **70** YEARS



Thanks to you,
people with special
needs have a place to
belong, to thrive, and
to discover their joy.



A JOYFUL NOISE



“Once you get out of school, you don’t have the same social connections and opportunities ... here he’s got a group of guys that accept him ... and there’s so many opportunities here ... they just cover the whole thing.”

~ Joe’s Mother

“He doesn’t say a lot but he was able to say how he felt so good that the audience was so responsive, that he felt supported and valued. That was a big deal.”

~ Sebastian’s Grandma

“It’s given him a lot of purpose – and music – that he otherwise maybe would’ve never learned how to do.”

~ Evan’s Mother

“I have not seen a kid here that doesn’t like what they’re doing. They make it fun ... even an older kid ... they’ll start with where you are and they just know how to develop it, slowly, or whatever speed you need to go at.”

~ Joe’s Mother

Long before you enter the FAR music therapy room, you feel a thrum vibrating through the hall. It’s the Phat Beats band -- seven musicians calling out to the world through the primal language of drums. Their music brings social connection, a sense of common purpose, of sharing something of value, of finding an outlet for self-expression. It is the sound of joy.

The Phat Beats, guys whose ages range from 16 to 29, have found that at FAR they can continue to enjoy an inclusive arts therapy programs that grows with them, around their special needs. Evan discovered the sheer joy of being in a drum circle and participating as a musician. Joe found a group of like-minded friends and regained the sense of belonging that was lost when his schoolmates moved on. Sebastian doesn’t say much, but he hears the applause of the audience and knows what it’s like to be valued as a human being.

It is such a simple gift. The sense of belonging. Of being heard. Of being seen.

“It’s an extremely inclusive space. Anybody of any age, any ability is welcome here. If a client comes to us, and is interested, we can find a place for them at FAR.”

~ Breanna Bowen, Music Therapist

That’s what FAR does best. No matter the diagnosis or unique challenges, FAR therapists bring together a full range of art, music, and recreational disciplines to provide a co-treatment plan that is individualized to each need and possibility. Ultimately, our therapists know it’s not just the music we make, the art we create, or the new skills we learn. It’s about the joy.



YOUR DONATION EMPOWERS THEIR JOY — MAKE A GIFT TODAY



Call

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