



Sara Klaasen – Liberty HSP Director

Hi there! My name is Sara Klaasen and I have opened Liberty Homeschool Sports Program here in the Barry County area. My motivation for creating the club was the lack of sports teams for homeschoolers. With the recent decline in the public schooling system, more parents are turning to home education for their children to ensure they are not conditioned under government controlled teaching. My husband and I live in Middleville and currently one of our children is homeschooled. Three go to Barry County Christian as homeschooling didn't fit their needs for more social interactions every day and one is currently in pre-school until kindergarten in which he'll be taught at home as well. I have been playing volleyball for nearly 25 years and my oldest has watched me play for half of those years. She had wanted to play since she was 3 years old and as we chose to move to homeschooling in 6th grade, her dream of playing was almost diminished as club volleyball did not fit our schedule. We discovered a homeschool club in the Grand Rapids area that she started playing for in her 7th grade year. The experience was less than comfortable, the leadership was falling apart and the organization was very confusing. Two seasons later I was asked to come to a meeting to try and save the club as the previous board of directors was planning to close the doors. I along with 3 others stepped up and moved forward with the club to ensure homeschool girls had a place to continue playing volleyball. Starting from practically scratch and in the middle of the covid pandemic, our year ended positively, although we forged through some very uncharted waters. It was during that year that I really learned what a club needs to survive and thrive. The second year started positively and ended tragically with a lot of misunderstood actions and no acknowledgment for unguided decisions. I ultimately chose to leave the organization and start my own in the Barry County area to bridge the gap between Lansing, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo homeschooling sports programs. We are just about smack dab in the middle of the 3 and the drive to any of them is just a bit too far for a lot of parents. I have worked tirelessly since October 2021 to provide what I felt God was calling me to do, which was to open up sports opportunities to this area. My plans and goals are BIG, but ultimately I know that God is leading the way and I'm faithfully following along. I would love to see Liberty grow to include many sports, but



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I am starting with volleyball as that is what I know and love and can confidently lead with little help if needed. The planning isn't just planning, it's heartfelt and thought out and prayed over often as each detail has been laid out. I love getting to know families and players and want to be as transparent as possible as I begin this new program. I will share the good, bad and ugly so that everyone knows what is going on. I'm human, I make mistakes so I vow to do my best to be humble in shortcomings and praiseful to those around me in success. Ultimately, this club would not exist or have the opportunity to thrive and emanate Christ's goodness without all of you. Without all of you, Liberty is just a vision, the players, parents, coaches, support staff, siblings, grandparents, other family members are what will truly make Liberty happen and make all the hard work worth it!

I look forward to the launch year and 2022 season, cheers!

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