



The Best News

Queen City Area Best Friends Program

November/December 2001

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**Queen City Area
Best Friends Program**
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Match spotlight: 'A sense of accomplishment'



They planted and grew a large garden together, and this fall they harvested a large pumpkin that took five hours to carve. They also play pool and bowl, swim and watch movies, play card games and tend the garden, hike the Mah Dah Hey trail, and hunt pheasants.

This Best Friends Program match keeps Senior Friend Robin Nieto and Shawn, her Junior Friend, grinning.

"He smiles from ear to ear when I pick him up," Robin says. "He'll tell me stories and he recently gave me a very nice Halloween haunted house drawing."

Matched in April, the two share mutual interests like the outdoors, plants, and individual sports. Robin said they usually meet every Thursday for between two and four hours, doing chores like mowing the lawn and "something fun," then eating dinner out.

"He has a lot of fun with Robin," says Shawn's dad, James. "He has a sense of accomplishment."

James, a single father of three, signed up each of his children for the Best Friends Program. He says "it does a lot of good" and he tells other parents about it.

Shawn, 11, says he enjoys his weekly meetings with Robin, a rangeland management specialist with the U.S. Forest Service in Dickinson. She said she signed up to mentor a child because "I thought I could make a difference in a kid's life. And, I thought it would be fun."

Otto Bremer Foundation:

Grant will fund long-range planning

The St. Paul, Minn.-based Otto Bremer Foundation recently approved Western Wellness Foundation Inc.'s \$25,000 request for two years of support to strengthen our ability to serve at-risk children and their families in Region VIII. The grant will provide funds for long-range planning, to include future needs, a marketing plan to attract more volunteers and a fund raising plan to diversify and stabilize the program's income sources.



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Queen City Area Best Friends Program
P.O. Box 542
Dickinson, N.D. 58602-0542

New toll-free number: 1-877-877-8685!

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 7: Parade of Lights,
downtown Dickinson,
public event.
- Dec. 15: **Best Friends Ice-
Skating Party**, 2-4 p.m.,
Dickinson Recreation
Center.
- January: **National Mentoring
Month & Senior Friend
Appreciation:**
Swimming party, board
games & refreshments.
Watch for details!

Contributors' Corner

Recent Best Friends Program contributors
*Otto Bremer Foundation * United Way*

Program recycles printer cartridges

Don't throw your used ink jet and laser printer cartridges! Best Friends is now collecting **all brands** to recycle as a new fundraiser. Drop them off at the Best Friends office, 135 W. Villard St., or call the office at 483-8615 if you have a large volume. We encourage businesses to join us by saving and donating their used printer cartridges, too. **Call 483-8615 to get started!** Remember to recycle your aluminum cans at the bins at the Wal-Mart parking lot, Dickinson Recreation Center, or parking lot next to Westwind Consulting Center on Villard Street. Proceeds benefit the Best Friends Program.

Enjoy being a friend? We need you! The Best Friends Program is accepting applications

from girls, ages 6-16, who need an adult friend. We also are looking for several men who would like to share their time and interests with a boy and we urgently need two Senior Friends in Beach, N.D. Can you help? **Call 483-8615 or 877-877-8685 to volunteer an hour each week or to enroll a child!**

Match Count: 18 * Waiting List: 16