



The Best News

Queen City Area Best Friends Program

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Match spotlight: 'Someone to look up to you'



Before D.J., 8, met his Senior Friend, the Beach second grader didn't want to go to school and he often didn't get there on time.

But since being matched in October with Will Easter, an 18-year-old Beach High School student, D.J. "even gets to school early enough to eat breakfast there, and he's getting better grades," his mom says.

D.J. and Will spend about two hours together once a week. They play Nintendo, play outside, watch movies, talk on the phone or talk about school, Will says. Sometimes they eat Dairy Queen treats together.

"We have fun," the busy senior says. "We have good communication. He tells his friends he has a big brother and that makes me feel good."

D.J. lives with his mother and a younger sister; his father lives far away and has little to do with the children, D.J.'s mom says.

"I thought he could benefit by having a friend who's a guy," she said. "He's very active. With Best Friends, he's learning new things" like ice skating. Will also helps D.J. with manners: remembering to say 'please' and 'thank you,' which he now says "a lot."

Will is a three-sport athlete at BHS, playing football, basketball and golf, plus keeping active in Future Business Leaders of America and Luther League. Yet he volunteered for the Best Friends Program because "I thought it would be fun to work with a younger kid. I like kids and I thought I could teach them some things."

"It's interesting and it's something for him to look forward to," Will says. "Helping a young kid out – being a role model and having someone look up to you – it's a good feeling."

National Mentoring Month:

Best Friends honors Senior Friends

Mentors make a difference! The Queen City Area Best Friends Program will host a Senior Friend Appreciation party from 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Dickinson Comfort Inn. We invite Junior Friends, Senior Friends, program supporters and families to enjoy the waterslide, pool, board games and refreshments. Senior Friends will be recognized for your service and commitment to our youth!

Western Wellness Foundation Inc.
Queen City Area Best Friends Program
P.O. Box 542
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National Mentoring Month: Mentors make a difference!

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 19: **Best Friends Program Senior Friend Appreciation:** 2-4:30 p.m.
Dickinson Comfort Inn.
Swimming party, board games & refreshments.
- Jan. 25: **Family Fun Day 2002**
planning meeting:
12:30 p.m., 135 W. Villard St.,
in the conference room.
- Feb. 16 & 21: Senior Friend
Education Opportunity:
Building Relationships.
*Free book! Treats! Watch your
mail for details.*

Contributors' Corner

Recent Best Friends Program contributors

*Community First Bank * Badlands Printing
Fisher Industries * Ladbury Funeral Service
Dickinson Parks & Recreation Dept. * Taco John's
North Dakota Community Foundation*

New stamp features mentoring

Continuing its tradition of raising awareness of social issues through postage stamps, the U.S. Postal Service this week issued its new "Mentoring A Child" stamp. Initially, 100 million will be issued.

The new stamp design -- with 'Mentoring A Child' at the top and 'Values*Goals*Skills' at the bottom -- communicates the benefits that mentoring brings to young people.

Enjoy being a friend? We need you! The Best Friends Program is accepting applications from girls and boys ages 6-16, who need adult friendship and guidance. We also urgently need two female Senior Friends in Beach and a male senior friend in Belfield. Can you share your time and interests with a child? **Call 483-8615 or 877-877-8685 to volunteer an hour each week or to enroll a child!**

Match Count: 17 * Waiting List: 10