



The Best News

Queen City Area Best Friends Program

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Best Friends Program**
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Match spotlight: 'There's consistency'



As a teenager with moderate mental retardation and health disabilities, Kanitra, 13, doesn't interact outside of school with kids her own age.

"I wanted to give her somebody to hang out with," her mother said.

Barb Ulicki was looking for "a relationship with a child and to help somehow. I love kids. I had a Junior Friend a while back; she moved."

Matched for six months, Kanitra and Barb spend about four hours each week together. Barb picks up Kanitra from school on Mondays, then they eat dinner and play Barbie's or dolls, watch videos, color, paint, or do ceramics.

"I can see she's formed an attachment," Barb said. "I've learned what her needs are. I'm just enjoying her company and enjoying her. I am hoping to be some stability in her life ... and when she's with me, I let her make decisions, even if it takes her a while."

Kanitra lives with her mother, a Dickinson State University student, and a younger sister and brother. They are also matched with Senior Friends.

"When Barb brings her home, she's happy. She always looks forward to Barb. Barb's independent and I'm hoping Kanitra will see that and become more independent," Kanitra's mom said. "With Kanitra, Best Friends is nice because there's consistency there."

Community flea markets help Best Friends

The Queen City Area Best Friends Program is co-sponsoring a series of community flea markets with Clear Channel Radio. Held April 27 and May 25 at the Dickinson Armory, proceeds from booth space rental, a concession stand and bake sale will directly benefit the Best Friends Program. A 10x10 foot booth space rents for \$20. To reserve space, call **483-8615** or **227-1876**, or stop by the Best Friends Program office, 135 W. Villard St., to pick up a registration form.

At each Flea Market, Best Friends will hold a bake sale. We encourage Junior and Senior Friends, their families and program supporters, to spend time together baking cookies, buns, breads, rolls, etc. to donate, or to volunteer an hour at the bake sale. Drop off baked goods at the office, 135 W. Villard St., the day before the sale.

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Dickinson, N.D. 58602-0542

Inside: Fun Spring Activities for Friends & Families!



Upcoming Events

- April 1-2: **Shrine Circus:**
Dickinson Recreation Center.
- April 19: **Family Fun Day**
planning: 12:15 p.m., 135
W. Villard St.
- April 27: **Flea Market & Bake**
Sale: 8-3, Dickinson Armory,
64 Museum Drive.
- May 17: **Arbor Day:** 1 p.m.,
Dickinson Airport, plant trees.
- May 18: **Best Friends Fishing**
Derby: 3-5 p.m., Turtle Park,
all gear provided.
- May 25: **Flea Market & Bake**
Sale: 8-3, Dickinson Armory.

Contributors' Corner

Recent Best Friends Program contributors

*Albertson's * Arby's * G & G Recycling
United Way*

DSU intern helps Best Friends

A Dickinson State University student, Aggie Vondall, is completing a psychology internship by working this semester with Best Friends and Westwind Consulting Center. She is assisting Junior Friends and parents in completing surveys that provide information about behavior changes, if any, since entering the Best Friends Program.

Remember to save your empty aluminum cans & ink jet/laser cartridges for Best Friends!

Enjoy being a friend? We need you! The Best Friends Program urgently needs two female Senior

Friends in Beach, a female Senior Friend in New England and a male Senior Friend in Belfield, plus both men and women in Dickinson. 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: 34 * Waiting List: 6 ***