

The Best News

Queen City Area Best Friends Program

September/October 2002

Vol. 2 Issue 5

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Mentoring: 'The best thing we did '

Breanna, a withdrawn 10-year-old, was having school problems and didn't want to socialize with other children. A school counselor mentioned the Best Friends Program, and her mother filled out the application.

"She doesn't have the relationship with her dad and I had just had a surgery," said her mother, Tina, a senior at Dickinson State University.

In early 2002, Breanna was matched with Tracie, a stay-at-home mom living on a farm who "always wanted to do something like that. I really like kids and I like to help people."

The two share similar interests and have enjoyed cooking and baking, collecting eggs from the chickens on Tracie's farm, picnicking, horse riding, family Bible camp and Sunday School. They get together for several hours each week.

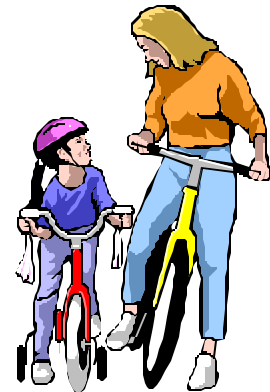
"It's satisfying to know you're helping a kid and it's a lot of fun," Tracie said. "Her grades improved in just the first couple of months; and I didn't realize that would happen."

Breanna, now 11 years old, recently started fifth grade. She cares more about her appearance and she's more active, her mom reports. And, Breanna looks forward to hearing from Tracie.

"She loves going out there and they include her in everything with their family," Breanna's mom said. "As long as we live here, those two will be together. It's the best thing we could have done for her. ... I'd highly recommend the program to anyone."

New case manager joins Best Friends Program

A new face joined the Queen City Area Best Friends Program to kick off the program's expansion to include mentoring in schools during the school day. Tracy Schagunn, who has a bachelor's degree in behavioral sciences and experience with at-risk youth and prevention programs, began working parttime at the end of August. She will also be matching new Senior Friends and Junior



Friends, collecting data for the program evaluation, and helping to organize social events. Best Friends' case manager for the past two years, Regina Murray will be training new Senior Friends and assisting in the transition to a new case manager.

Help teens quit smoking & kick the tobacco habit

Western Wellness Foundation is seeking Student Mentors to help teenagers quit smoking or chewing tobacco. These mentors will complete special training and be paid a monthly stipend to attend classes with a small group of teens. For information, call 483-8615.

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Queen City Area Best Friends Program
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Inside: New Case Manager joins Best Friends

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 14: **Best Friends Family Summer Blast Picnic**, 5-8 pm, Eagles Park. ID card photos; free food, games & prizes!
- Oct. 5: DSU Homecoming Parade
- Oct. 10-12: Ag Expo, Rec Center. Trade show & livestock show at DSU indoor arena. Free admission.
- Oct. 26-27: Medora Craft Show, Medora Community Center, info: 1-800-medora-1.

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takes only an hour each week to make a difference in the life of a child!

ys and 3 girls! Can you help? **Call 483-8615 to volunteer!**