



The Best News

Queen City Area Best Friends Program

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Best Friends Program**
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Mentoring encourages first grader

When JayDee Lindeen first heard about kids who needed a friend and mentor, she thought "I had enough time and this was something I could do. Then I heard how I could go during the work day and I thought – perfect!"

The Best Friends Program is overseeing 75 matches – 26 of them meeting at schools to provide friendship, positive interaction, and tutoring to students in grades one through 12.

Since early January, JayDee – operations manager at Dakota Community Bank – gets an hour each week off from work to eat lunch at school with Joey, an active first grader at Heart River Elementary School. They talk and play games outside, read books and magazines, work on homework, and sometimes check out the computer lab. JayDee said she's noticed an improvement in Joey's relationships with his just three months.

"Wow. An hour a week truly does make a difference," she said.

Joey's mother agrees. She enrolled Joey on the recommendation of his teacher, who thought a Best Friends mentor would encourage Joey in his schoolwork and his attitude toward school.

"It's helped out a lot," she said. "With her being his friend, it encourages him toward school and boosts him for the week."

Joey's mother said that his grades have improved and she is noticing a slow but steady improvement in his attitude. He even gets his homework done right after school, she said, whereas he used to put it off or hide it.



Easter Carnival: Meet the bunny, help Best Friends



Meet the Easter Bunny April 12 at Prairie Hills Mall and have fun at the Easter Carnival sponsored by the mall merchants and Best Friends Program. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., carnival games, the jumper castle and prizes will be open for children and families. Tickets cost .25 each, and larger prizes will be awarded at several games. Proceeds benefit Best Friends. To help with the carnival, call Best Friends at 483-8615.

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Inside: Meet the Easter Bunny at Best Friends' Easter Carnival!

Upcoming Events

- March 31 & April 1: Shrine Circus, Dickinson Recreation Center, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Limited number of free adult tickets by calling Best Friends office: 483-8615.
- April 5-6: Home Show, Dickinson Recreation Center, \$1 admission.
- April 5: Chamber of Commerce Talent Show, 7 p.m. Dickinson High School Auditorium, \$6.
- April 10: "Dads Make a Difference," Info: Partners in Parenting , 456-0007.
- April 12: **Best Friends Easter Carnival** & arrival of the Easter Bunny at Prairie Hills Mall, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Carnival proceeds benefit Best Friends.
- April 25: Kids Day on the Farm, DSU indoor arena all day. Petting zoo, hay rides, other activities for kids.
- April 26: **Best Friends Activity Day**, 3:30 p.m., watch for more information!
- May 3-4: Three-On-Three basketball tournament, DHS & DSU, \$2.
- May 17: Citywide kids fishing derby, Patterson Lake, 8-noon.
- May 17: **Best Friends Fishing Derby**, 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m., Patterson Lake, with U.S. Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management. Fishing gear & bait provided, or bring your own!

Contributors' Corner

**Albertson's * Badlands Shriners *
G.A. Sadowski & Son * Hardee's *
Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency
Prevention * One Hour Photo *
United Way * Westwind Consulting
Center * *Discount Providers:
Dairy Barn, Badlands Brew Coffee Bar,
Dairy Queen, Hardee's, Taco John's,
Paragon Bowl, Video Max,
Classic Lanes, Wendy's
Family Fun Day : Hebron Vo-Ag
Class, True Value Hardware
* **

Best Friends' waiting list grows

It takes only an hour each week to make a difference in the life of a child! Best Friends' waiting list has grown to 10 boys and 2 girls; another 20 students are waiting for in-school mentors! Can you help? **Call 483-8615 or 1-877-877-8685 to volunteer or for information!** Training and on-going support provided to mentors. YOU make a difference!