



The Best News

Queen City Area Best Friends Program

January 2003

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Share what you know: be a mentor

January is National Mentoring Month, a time set aside to recognize the many dedicated adult volunteers who are spending their time making a difference in children's lives.

The Best Friends Program is overseeing 42 matches – an increase of 25 over last year! These friends spend an hour each week together in



various fun, constructive, one-to-one activities, like Travis and Dana, pictured to the left.

This month Best Friends matched an additional 20 children with mentors who will come to their schools during the school day to eat lunch, help with homework, read, throw a football, work on crafts, or other interests they share. Mentors from Wells Fargo Bank, Dakota Community Bank, Dickinson State University,

Attorney General's office, and Dickinson High School have been matched with children at Dickinson High School, Hagen Junior High School, Berg Elementary School and Heart River Elementary School.

"I feel good about going there," said Daryl Tabor, president of Wells Fargo Bank in Dickinson. He is matched with a second grade boy and has encouraged his employees to sign up as school mentors. "Just being a listening ear, to be around to help explore things – I feel I'm making a contribution. And he's already excited about me coming next week and planning what we're going to do."

National mentoring models prove that mentored youth show better academic performance. Their attitudes and behavior improve. They skip half as many days of school as non-mentored, at-risk youth. They feel more competent about doing schoolwork. They skip fewer individual classes. And they show modest gains in grade point averages.

"A lot of people are afraid to do this and I had some apprehension," Tabor said. "But what I saw: the smiles, the look in their eyes. I believe I am making a difference and I'd encourage more people to take the shot and try it. It's very important. You have nothing to lose."

Pass It On. Be a Mentor. Today!

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 3 girls! Can you help? Call 483-8615 or 1-877-877-8685 to volunteer or for information.

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Inside: Hardee's Fundraiser, National Mentoring Month, Swim Party

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 21: **Best Friends Program and Hardee's Share Night** fundraiser 5-8 p.m. at Hardee's. Bingo and prizes. A portion of sales will be donated to Best Friends.
- Jan. 18-19: DSU children's' play, "Aladdin." Shows at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at DSU Stickney Auditorium. Reserve free tickets through the Best Friends office by Friday, Jan. 18.
- Jan. 25: **Mentor Appreciation & Swimming Party**, 1-3:30 p.m. at Comfort Inn, Dickinson. Snacks and gifts for mentors.
- March 22: **Best Friends Program/ Dickinson Date Night** fundraiser at the Elks. Buy a dinner date, bid on weekend getaways and more at the Silent Auction. Must be 21 to attend.

Contributors' Corner

** Dickinson Parks & Recreation **
*Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau **
**Fisher Industries * Al Klamon **
*G & G Recycling * Hollywood Nites **
** U.S. Department of Education **
**Westwind Consulting Center **
***Friendship Drive:** *Eyewear Concepts,*
Tim & Cheryl Lantz Family,
Northern Improvement, Jack & Velma Olin,
Dr. Alan & Kris Fehr Family,
Ladbury Funeral Service,
Dickinson Dental Center
* *

Ink jet & laser jet recycling earns funds for BF

During 2002, the Best Friends Program collected used ink jet and laser jet cartridges for recycling. We earned \$600! Thank you to everyone who contributed. Continue to save the used cartridges and drop them off at the Best Friends' office, 135 W. Villard St.

Enjoy being a friend? 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 3 girls! Can you help? Call **483-8615** or **1-877-877-8685** to volunteer!