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## Match Profile: 'He's smiling a ton, having fun'

Almost a year ago, Carson Steiner met a new friend, Steven, and he says the experience has "been a reward for me and more than I expected."

Steven's mother enrolled the seventh grader in the Best Friends Program because she wanted a positive male role model for him.

Carson and Steven meet for 3-5 hours each week and have enjoyed riding motorcycles, sporting events, putting models together, eating out, horse riding, and just hanging out and talking. They're looking forward to the summer and the opening of the new community center.

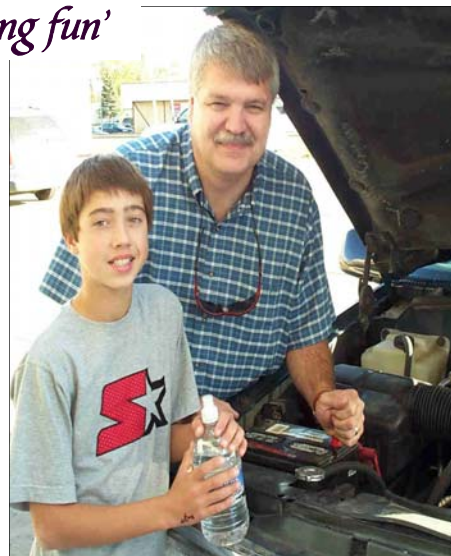
"He's having fun like a

young boy should and smiling a ton," Carson said.

At first Carson said he called Steven to arrange their outings. Now, "he can give me a call and he does. That's a really nice thing, that he can feel comfortable and he can trust."

When Carson's son graduated from high school, Carson missed spending guy time with a boy.

"I felt I had something to offer a young boy in the community, and I wanted to become in-



*Steven, left, and his Senior Friend, Carson Steiner, enjoy many outdoor activities together each week.*

involved," he said.

Steven's mother said it's great that Carson has always been there for Steven and he's committed.

## New scholarship to be awarded to Senior Friends

Senior Friends who are continuing their education after high school graduation may apply for a \$500 scholarship to be awarded in May 2004.

Best Friends mentors who have volunteered with the program for at least nine months and who will be attending college or

vocational school in the fall are eligible to apply. Applicants may be high school seniors or college/university students.

The incentive of a scholarship may help Best Friends recruit more mentors.

The deadline for application is May 1, 2004.





### Junior Friend Profile: *He needs a friend to take him to ball games*

He enjoys computer games, go-carts, swimming and camping, and 11-year-old Charles would like a male companion to share his interests evenings or weekends.

The Dickinson fourth grader has an infectious grin,

and is very sociable. He enjoys being in groups and gets along well with others.

Charles lives with his mother. His father hasn't been in contact with him for most of his life and his mother feels Charles needs a male figure, a friend, for friendship and guidance.

At school, his teachers say Charles is very

friendly and outgoing, the type of kid who's fun to be around and who also craves attention.

Charles has been on the Best Friends Program's waiting list nearly two years.

A good student, Charles enjoys reading animal stories, playing catch and riding bicycles. He also likes attending sporting events.

### Senior Friend Profile: *Nate enjoys sports, video games*

**"One mentor,  
one person can  
change a life  
forever."**

**-President**

**George W. Bush**

Nathan Harling, one of the newest mentors in the Best Friends Program, is looking for a fifth or sixth grade boy he can spend a few hours with on the weekends.

Nate, 26 years old, enjoys sporting events and likes to play hockey, volleyball, tennis and rac-

quetball. Nate has lived in Dickinson for about six months, working for the North Dakota Game & Fish Department as a private lands biologist. He has worked for the department for three years in North Dakota.

Nate also enjoys many hobbies: photography,

hiking, camping, fishing and hunting. He also takes pleasure in music and writing.

Looking to become involved in the community and to have fun with a boy, Nate signed up to be a Senior Friend in January and recently completed mentor training.

# Thank You!

#### Qwest grant to help recruit mentors

The QWEST Family & Work Development Fund Board, comprised of members of the CWA and IBEW unions and QWEST, recently awarded the Best Friends Program a \$5,000 grant for Academic Advantage Teen Mentoring Project to help recruit teenagers as mentors to younger students! *Thank you!*

### Contributors Corner

#### Donations

\*Arby's\* Albertson's \*  
\*G&G Recycling\*

#### Easter Carnival

\*Coca-Cola \*  
\*DHS National Honor Society\*  
\*Dickinson Girl Scouts\*  
\*DSU Art Club\* DNA Lifeprint  
Kits by George Smith\*  
\*Pepsi Cola\*  
\*Prairie Hills Mall\*  
\*DHS & THS students \*  
\*Wells Fargo Bank \*

#### 2003 Friendship Drive

\*Nancy Johnson \*  
Special Thanks  
DSU Athletic Dept.  
DSU Theater Dept.  
El Zagal Shriners  
Jeri L. Dobrowski  
Paragon Bowl  
Grants  
The Bush Foundation  
Otto Bremer Foundation  
Qwest Foundation  
U.S. Education Department  
United Way

## *Easter Carnival to raise funds for Best Friends Program*

Easter Bunny photos, the Jumper castle, face painting, an Easter art project and Easter parade, and carnival games for the kids are all part of the second annual Easter Carnival, set for April 3 at

the Prairie Hills Mall in Dickinson.

The fun begins at 11 a.m. and ends with the Easter parade of decorated headbands at 3 p.m. Tickets cost 25 cents each and can be purchased at

the mall's main entrance. Funds will be used to support the costs of activities such as bowling, swimming, play tickets, snacks and other costs.



## *Celebrate Earth Day :*

### *Enjoy the Badlands with a hike, prairie dog visit*

Junior Friends and Senior Friends are invited to enjoy an afternoon outdoors on April 18.

To celebrate Earth Day and welcome Spring, the Badlands Conservation Alliance (BCA) is hosting several activities in the beautiful North Dakota badlands west of Dickinson.

Friends will visit a Prairie Dog town, hike on a trail, learn about Spring in

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and make s'more snacks.

Friends should meet in the parking lot at the Best Friends office, 135 W. Villard St., at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18. From there, the first 20 Junior Friends and Senior Friends will leave with the program staff and BCA members. We will return at 5:30 p.m.; children must be picked up on time! No children out-

side of the Best Friends Program may attend this outing.

Everyone must dress appropriately and for the weather: wear layers of clothing, socks, tennis shoes or hiking boots, long pants.

A light snack and water will be provided.

For information, call 483-8615 or 1-877-877-8685.

### **Did you know...**

**Youth with mentors are less likely to start using alcohol & other drugs.**

**-Public/Private**

**Ventures Research**

## *Match count: Best Friends continues to grow with school mentoring*

"I just want someone nice."

Little Kristina was on the Best Friends waiting list for nearly three years. She watched her older brother having fun with his Best Friend and wondered when the program would find someone for her.

Recently, Best Friends found a match -- a high school senior -- for Kristina.

Kristina is lucky; however, Best Friends' waiting list continues to grow and includes:

- 4 girls in the community program.

- 11 boys in the community program.
- 11 male & female mentors for the community mentoring program.

Can you spare an hour once a week giving friendship to a child?

Call **483-8615** for information!

### *Match Barometer*

*March 2004: 77*

*March 2002: 19*



**QUEEN CITY AREA  
BEST FRIENDS  
PROGRAM**

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.westernwellness.org](http://www.westernwellness.org)



*Making a difference in children and families, one at a time.*

**Inside:  
Easter Carnival!  
Badlands Hike!**



Western Wellness Foundation, Inc./Best Friends Program is a United Way agency.



***Upcoming events—Mark your calendars!***

- **April 1, 6:30 p.m.** – New Mentor Orientation.
- **April 3, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** — **Best Friends Easter Carnival** at Prairie Hills Mall. Welcome the Easter Bunny, play carnival games & win prizes, Jumper Castle, balloon animals. Tickets: 25 cents ea.
- **April 3-4:** Homeshow 2004 - Dickinson Recreation Center.
- **April 3, 7 p.m.** .— ‘Got Talent’ Talent Show, \$6, Dickinson High School.
- **April 4, 2:30 p.m.**—Badlands Brass Concert, Dickinson State University’s Stickney Auditorium.
- **April 6, 7:30 p.m.**— DSU Band Concert, Stickney Auditorium.
- **April 5, 7 p.m.**—All-City Band Concert, DHS.
- **April 9-12** — No school, Easter break, Dickinson schools.
- **April 18** — **Best Friends Badlands hike** with Badlands Conservation Alliance. Details inside this newsletter.
- **April 22, 7 p.m.**—Bismarck-Mandan Symphony, DSU Stickney Auditorium, \$13/adult & \$6/student.
- **April 23, 5-8 p.m.**— Early Childhood Professionals Assn. Fair, Dickinson Recreation Center. Games, music, prizes, food.
- **April 24, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.**— Boy Scout show, Prairie Hills Mall.
- **April 25, 2:30 p.m.**— Percussion Ensemble Concert, DSU Stickney Auditorium.
- **April 27, noon**— Family Fun Day planning meeting.
- **May 1**—Craft Show, Prairie Hills Mall.
- **May 4, 7:30 p.m.**— Jazz Band Concert, DSU Stickney Auditorium.