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July-September 2004

Family Fun Day : An event for kids & families

An afternoon filled with family-oriented games and activities, a flea market and food concessions begins at noon, July 3, at Jaycee Park in Dickinson.

Family Fun Day is the Best Friends Mentoring Program's largest annual fund raising and public awareness event. Children can win prizes by playing carnival games such as bean bag tosses, free throw, plinko, pick-a-duck, quarter drop, or the lollipop tree.

Back for a second year will be the popular kids trout pond fishing and a dunk tank featuring girls basketball players from Dickinson and Trinity high schools.

Besides the games, children may enjoy train rides around the park, the jumper castle and a free petting zoo. Vendors at the annual outdoor flea market will be selling baked goods, crafts, toys and various novelties. Vendor booths are still available; call Best Friends at 483-8615 to reserve a spot.

To make Family Fun Day a success, we need a few more volunteers to help with set up, running a game, or cleaning up. Even an hour or two is appreciated!

Proceeds from Family Fun Day directly sup-



Kids activities like the barrel train (above), horse rides, kids carnival games, dunk tank, jumper castle, giant slide & food concessions are part of the annual Family Fun Day.

port Best Friends' mentoring services for children in SW North Dakota.



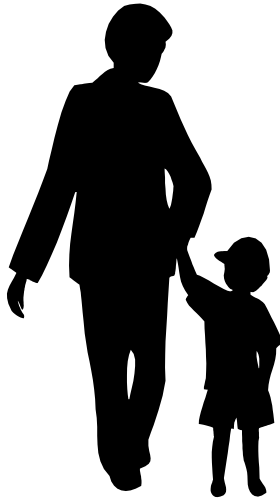
Fine Fisher Folk:

David, Michael & Jeremy, (left) caught their limit at the Best Friends Fishing Day, held June 12 at the Dickinson Dike.

A great group of kids and their families and friends honed their fishing skills as they cast for trout, blue gill and sun fish.

Special thanks to Andrus Outdoors and Senior Friends Nate Harling, Brian Ehrmantraut and Robin Nieto.

Junior Friend Profile: Shy & smart, he likes to bowl, fish



He's friendly and a 'B' student in the fifth grade, and enjoys bowling, golfing and fishing, along with several other activities.

Shaun, 10, is an only child and a little shy, but gets along well in a group. He likes one-on-one time with

men and older boys, though, and he can use it: he doesn't remember ever seeing his father, who lives out of state, and never hears from him.

Shaun's mother recently remarried and he's adjusting to a new home and step-siblings who are much older.

His mother is looking

for a younger adult male to share Shaun's interests and spend time with him individually.

While the family spends holidays together, Shaun is available on weekends and early evenings.

An outgoing youngster, Shaun has been on the Best Friends Program's waiting list nearly two years.

Senior Friend Profile: Kami Knick earns first scholarship

"To the world, you may just be somebody. But to somebody, you may be the world."

The first recipient of the Best Friends Mentoring Program's scholarship is Senior Friend Kamila Knick, a Dickinson State University student from Culbertson, Mont.

During the past school year, Kami and a sixth grade girl met weekly for two hours at the girl's elementary school. They ate lunch together at school and then spent time after school doing homework, playing games, or participating in sports.

"We've gotten really

close," Kami, 21, said. "We both like to swim and I also help her with her school work when she falls behind."

Kami, a pre-professional biology major, said she volunteered to be a mentor because she likes to be involved in the community and wanted to make a difference in a child's life.

"I like to help her find the best in everything," she said.

Western Wellness Foundation established the \$500 scholarship to en-

courage potential mentors to volunteer. To be eligible, the applicant must have

volunteered as a Senior Friend for at least 9 months, be attending post-secondary education or training in the next school year, and complete an application.



Kami

Thank You!
Thank You!

Contributors' Corner

Donations

- * Andrus Outdoors* Arby's*
- * G&G Recycling *
- * Ladbury Funeral Service *

Special Thanks to:

N.D. Game & Fish
Bureau of Land Management

Grants

The Bush Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
QWest Foundation
U.S. Education Department
United Way of Dickinson

Senior Friends may check out sports equipment

With summer days ahead, Senior Friends can check out balls, bats, racquets and fishing poles, and volleyball, bocce ball and badminton sets at the Best Friends office to use with their Junior Friends.

There are kick balls, volleyballs, footballs, basketballs and soccer balls; baseballs with bats and child and adult mitts; a rotating batting tee trainer; and youth and adult tennis racquets with

balls.

Equipment was donated by Andrus Outdoors and Aid Association for Lutherans.



Outstanding Mentors :

Connie Williams, Jesse Elis named 'Mentor of the Quarter'

When **Connie Williams**, an employee at Wells Fargo Bank in Dickinson, became a mentor two years ago, she just wanted to



Connie

help someone. Now, she says, her Junior Friend has "stolen her heart."

Connie and her friend have enjoyed many activities together: photography, scrap book-

ing, movies, baking cookies, reading activities and school work—among many others.

When her Friend was ill and hospitalized, Connie visited her, sent cards and made telephone calls to stay in touch. Her Friend's mother says her daughter "really brightens up" when she talks to or sees Connie.

For the past two years, **Jesse Elis** has eaten lunch once a week at school

with his Junior Friend. After lunch, they play on the playground, go to the school library, play



Jesse

games or check out homework or computers at school. Jesse, now 19, became a mentor as a high school senior. Now a Dickinson State University student, he's been matched with the same Friend for two years.

Coach a kid in the game of life ...

Be a mentor!

Match count: Best Friends Program's waiting list grows

At the end of May 2004, Best Friends counted 78 children matched one-to-one with a trained caring mentor in the Best Friends Program.

Nearly half of those matches occurred in the school mentoring program, where mentors acted as friends to some

students and homework tutors to others.

Many of these mentors were high school juniors and seniors, and students at the local university.

The waiting list continues to grow and includes:

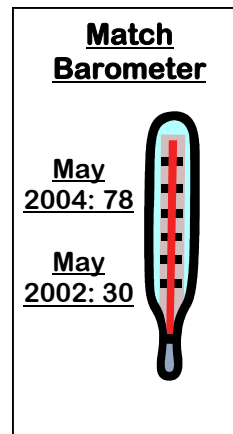
- 20 boys & girls in the community program.

- 5 boys & girls in the school mentoring program.

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

Give the gift of time to a youth in southwest North Dakota.

Call **483-8615** for information!



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

BEST FRIENDS MENTORING PROGRAM

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We're on the Web!
www.westernwellness.org

Inside: Best Friends Family Fun Day, Outstanding Mentors



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



Upcoming events

- **July 3, noon-4 p.m.** – **Best Friends Family Fun Day** in Jaycee Park: Food concessions, kids carnival games, dunk tank, train rides, flea market, jumper castle & giant slide, entertainment (see flyer inserted in this newsletter for details).
- **July 10, 8 a.m.**—Free Badlands hike on the Mah Dah Hey trail with U.S. Forest Service. Meet at Belfield Tesoro station
- **July 13, 7 p.m.**-Free outdoor concert, Dickinson bandshell.
- **July 16-18**— Ukrainian Cultural Festival in Dickinson with displays, food, dancing, etc. Call 483-1486 for schedule.
- **July 20, 7 p.m.**—Free outdoor concert, Dickinson bandshell.
- **August 7, 7 p.m.**—Southwest Speedway Kids Night, SW Speedway, 10 miles south of Dickinson on Highway 22. Admission: Adults \$6, Senior Citizens \$5, Kids \$2.
- **August 21**— Northern Plains Heritage Festival, all day, Prairie Outpost Park, Dickinson. Pet show, run/walk, ethnic food, demonstrations, entertainment.
- **September 23, 4 p.m. –7 p.m.**— Free Water Festival Family Night, Dickinson Recreation Center.



**Best Friends
Mentoring Program**