

BEST FRIENDS MENTORING PROGRAM



The Best News

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July-September 2005

Friendship improves Brandon's attitude, brings joy

A lively first grader, Brandon needed a male role model, someone "to do guy things with," his mom said. Brandon was angry, wouldn't talk to his mom, and was having problems with friends and at school.

At the same time, Larry Clifton missed the interaction he enjoyed with his nephews who live far away. "I wanted to get to know someone, to be involved on a one-to-one basis," Larry said. "I want to encourage a young person."

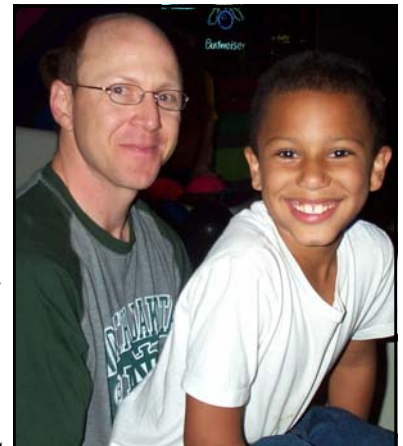
Best Friends matched Brandon and Larry in May. Since then, the two have enjoyed a variety of activities, including fishing, hik-

ing, bike riding and swimming at the West River Community Center. They also enjoy trick biking at the skate park and eating lunch together at Brandon's school.

"This is really easy to work into my schedule because I work weekends," Larry said. "And because we share the same interests, it's a joy."

Larry said they talk about the things they do together, too. "He realizes that I am here and I'm going to be here."

Brandon's mom said he's more outgoing, is less angry and "I've got my little boy back. The chip on his shoul-



Senior Friend Larry Clifton and Brandon posed for this photo while bowling. They share many active interests.

der is gone" and the two communicate much better, she said.

New program coordinator joins Best Friends



Jill Gregoire, formerly an AmeriCorps member, is the new Best Friends Mentoring Program Coordinator.

An experienced mentor will soon take over as the Program Coordinator for the Best Friends Mentoring Program's school and community mentoring programs.

Jill Gregoire, a certified teacher and native of Bainville, Mont., will begin her duties Oct. 1. Jill moved to Dickinson nearly two years ago with her husband, Brian, and son, Hunter. She

has worked the past year as the AmeriCorps Program Assistant with Western Wellness Foundation and worked closely with the Best Friends Program.

"It's great to be able to help students be successful and I'm looking forward to it," Jill said.

Jill has tutored at-risk youth and volunteered in an after school program before moving to Dickinson.

Newsletter funded by Westwind Consulting Center & Michael Parke, CPA, CFP



Junior Friend Profile: Justin spends time alone

When Justin's parents divorced five years ago, he and his mother moved to Dickinson. Today he's an active and very social fifth grader who fears his father hates him for moving away.

Justin, 11, lives with his mother and an older sister. He enjoys movies, video games and anything that takes

place outdoors, such as camping and sports. His three favorite activities are baseball, bowling and swimming and he enjoys soccer, playing cards and cars. He'd like a mentor with a dog because he can't have a pet in his apartment.

Justin spends quite a bit of time alone, unsupervised because mother works late evening shifts. She feels he

needs more adult attention than she can provide. She thinks Justin would benefit from a male mentor who has extra time on evenings or weekends and can give him the attention he needs.

Could you give Justin an hour each week of your time, or do you know someone who could? Call Best Friends at 483-8615 for information.

'Mentoring is mostly about small victories and subtle changes.'

-Marc Freedman

Scholarship Winner:

Bobbi Gannaway loves kids, plans to teach elementary school

Bobbi Gannaway is the recipient of the 2005 Best Friends Mentoring Program's \$500 Senior Friend Scholarship.

During the 2004-2005 school year, Bobbi averaged more than six hours each week helping children in Dickinson achieve academic and social goals. She met individually with two different children and tutored

children in math and reading at an after school program at Heart River Elementary School.

Bobbi also joined the AmeriCorps Youth Support Project and volunteered at many Best Friends' events.

"I love working with kids," Bobbi said. "It's great to see them succeed."

As a mentor, she played games and sports, and ate lunch at the school with her Junior Friend.



Bobbi

Bobbi plans to teach elementary school after graduating in May from Dickinson State University.

Contributors' Corner

Thank You!
Thank You!

Recycling Program

Thanks to MDU, Rick Backes, Dustin Dassinger, Dickinson Ready Mix, Western Fence and the Dickinson Park District for the new recycling bin! Bagged aluminum cans may be dropped off in the bin, which is situated at the west end of the West River Community Center's parking lot.

Albertson's
Andrus Outdoors
Arby's
Dan's Supermarket
Donut Hole
G&G Recycling
ND Game & Fish
Paragon Bowl
United Way

Please save & recycle:
Cell phones
Ink jets & laser cartridges
Aluminum cans

Have you considered a bequest to the Best Friends Program?

Family Fair brings free family fun on Sept. 16

An evening of family-oriented activities, prizes and a meal highlight the first Family Fair, planned for 5-8 p.m. on Sept. 16 at the Dickinson Recreation Center.

Kids can climb in a fire truck or ambulance and meet the law officers that keep our community safe. Formerly called the Child Fair and held in the spring, the Family Fair's emphasis



is on the importance of family togetherness. A low-cost meal will be available and families that

play the "Family Journey" game will receive a special gift.

More than 20 agencies and business will offer games and activities, along with free information on safety, nutrition and parenting.

A raffle for concert tickets and other gifts will help pay the costs of this free event. For information call 483-8615 or 456-0007.

Outstanding Mentors:

Angie & Skip named 'Mentors of the Quarter'

Two years ago, Angie Jorde was a high school senior who wanted to help



Angie

someone else. She heard about mentoring through National Honor Society at Dickinson High School and was matched with a second

grade girl. Now a sophomore at Dickinson State University, Angie continues to eat lunch at her friend's school and help with homework.

In February, Roger "Skip" Rapp signed up to share some of his free time mentoring a young boy. He juggles a full time work schedule for the city of Dickinson, DSU classes, mentoring and AmeriCorps

service. He spends time each week with his Junior Friend, eating lunch at school and playing football at recess. He and his friend also enjoy attending high school sporting events, fishing and being outdoors.



Skip

service. He spends time each week with his Junior Friend, eating lunch at school and playing football at recess. He and his friend also enjoy attending high school sporting events, fishing and being outdoors.

'The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves'

-Helen Keller

Match count: High school mentoring group to begin

During the third quarter of 2005, the Best Friends Mentoring Program counted 128 children matched one-to-one or in small groups with 99 trained caring mentors in the program.

To help serve the need for high school students to develop leadership and citizenship skills, Best

Friends has formed a mentoring group. Patterned after the Boy Scouts' Ventures. The group will involve at-risk youth ages 14-20 in planning activities under the guidance of young adult leaders and advisers. We need 5 adults and 5 youth leaders to begin this initiative.

We need both one-to-one

mentors and mentors willing to help high school kids achieve their full potential through the Ventures group.

Can you give the gift of your time to a child ?

Call the Best Friends Mentoring Program at **483-8615** or **toll free at 1-877-877-8685** for information.

Match Barometer

September 2005: 128

September 2003: 53



'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:
Family Fair is Coming,
Outstanding Mentors!**

*Address correction
requested*



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



Upcoming Activities & Events:

- **Sept. 7, 4-7 p.m.**—After school teen concert at the Dickinson Recreation Center. Three bands scheduled to perform. \$4 admission; \$1 goes to the Best Friends Mentoring Program.
- **Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m.**—Free concert featuring bluegrass band Cotton Wood, Heritage Pavillion in Prairie Outpost Park. Concessions & 50/50 raffle. Information: 483-4542.
- **Sept. 10, 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.** — Bandshell Bash 2005 at Phil Patterson Memorial Bandshell. Eight bands, concessions, face painting & used book sale. Free admission with sale proceeds to Bandshell Restoration fund. Information: 483-4542.
- **Sept. 16, 5-8 p.m.**—**Family Fair** at the Dickinson Recreation Center. Free kids games & activities, prizes for youth and families, free safety information, low cost family meal, door prizes, raffle. Sponsored by Western Wellness Foundation and West Dakota Parent & Family Resource Center. Call the office at 483-8615 or toll free at 877-877-8685 for more information.
- **Sept. 22, 4:30-7 p.m.**—"Make a Splash" family water festival at the Dickinson Recreation Center.
- **Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**— West River Ag Expo & Livestock Show at Dickinson Recreation Center.
- **Oct. 7-9**—Craft Show, Prairie Hills Mall.
- **Oct. 8, 10 a.m.** — DSU Homecoming Parade, downtown Dickinson. Football game kickoff at 1:30 p.m. at Whitney Stadium.
- **Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**—Sister-to-Sister Summit, career information & experiences for girls in grades 5-8. Information: email kathy.lowe@dsu.nodak.edu.

