

BEST FRIENDS MENTORING PROGRAM



The Best News

www.westernwellness.org

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Billy looks forward to fun times with mentor

He was looking for a male role model, someone who could show him the way. And Butch Wax was looking to fill a void in his life with a meaningful activity.

Through the Best Friends Mentoring Program, Billy Pyfer and Butch found each other.

"I wanted to have a little buddy and to help someone out," Butch said. "None of my kids are around, my grandson is far away, so it's fun to have someone around to do things with."

Billy and Butch were matched in March. Billy's mom says things are going well.

"They have a two-way relationship," she said. "He's got the male companionship in his life and he can go to him and talk to him, and Butch can do the things that I can't do with him."

Billy and Butch enjoy activities at the West River Community Center, talking on the phone, swimming, movies, bowling and mini golf. Butch attends Billy's school programs and his bowling league. They always go out for ice cream after they're done.

Butch figures they spend 4-6 hours together each month. Billy "would love to



Billy Pyfer shares many interests and activities, including swimming and the West River Community Center, with his senior friend, Butch Wax.

spend every day with Butch," his mom says.

"It's a good time," Butch says. If someone's interested, I'd say to go ahead."

New program coordinator joins Best Friends

A former teacher and experienced youth worker is the new Program Coordinator for the Best Friends Mentoring Program's school and community mentoring programs.

Kim Dockter, a certified teacher from Dickinson, has been on the job for several months. Kim has been spending time getting to know Senior Friends and Junior Friends, and recruit-

ing and training new mentors. She also works with volunteers in the recycling program.

Kim says that she is enjoying her work at the Best Friends Program.



Kim Dockter

"Seeing the smile on a child's face when they are matched with a senior friend is very rewarding. It's great to see the difference a dedicated mentor can make in a child's life," she says.

Before coming to the Best Friends Mentoring Program, Kim worked with the Partnership Program and the BUGS (Building Up Great Skills) Program at Badlands Human Service Center in Dickinson.

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



Junior Friend Profile: Ritchie needs male friend

Ritchie is a social, like-able third grader who is looking for a male role model who can take him to Cub Scouts and do outdoor activities and hobbies. Ritchie lives with both of his parents and two older sisters; however, his father travels extensively for his job, his mom and sisters work and Ritchie feels

left out and lonely. He does well in school but doesn't enjoy academics.

As the only boy at home, Ritchie craves friendship and interaction with a male. He's hoping for a Best Friend who's a young adult and who shares some of his interests: fishing, racing cars, riding motorcycles, working on models, collecting Hot Wheels or

reading adventure stories. Ritchie would like to learn to play the guitar. He also loves animals and has a dog and two cats that he helps care for.

Could you give Ritchie an hour each week of your time, or do you know someone who could? Call Best Friends at 483-8615 for information on volunteering to help a child.

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

-Marc Freedman

Scholarship Winner:

Eric Martin enjoys giving back to his community

Eric Martin is the recipient of the 2006 Best Friends Mentoring Program's \$500 Senior Friend Scholarship.

For three years, Eric has met weekly with a boy in elementary school, helping him to achieve academic and social goals. Eric has volunteered at Best Friends' carnivals and special events for four years so he could do more to help kids and his community.

"It gives back to the community," Eric, 19, said. "There's something about helping people that you can't get anywhere else."

Eric eats lunch with his friend at school, then they play football or do other activities together. He said he often plays with all of his friend's classmates.

"They want to know

who the big kid on the playground is. In the end, you're a positive role model for everybody there in the class," he said.

Eric is a sophomore at Dickinson State University. He plans to work in robotics and design.



Eric Martin

Thank You!
Thank You!

Contributors' Corner

Friendship Drive

The annual Friendship Drive is underway. Mail your contribution to Western Wellness Foundation P.O. Box 542

Dickinson, ND 58602-0542
Lead gifts have been received from:

Fisher Industries \$1,000
Nancy & Dennis Johnson \$500
Mike & Sherryl Lefor \$400
Osawatomie \$400
Consolidated Telcom \$330
MDU \$250

Holiday Promotion:

Papa Murphy's & Coca-Cola have teamed up to help make a difference for the Best Friends Mentoring Program! During December, make a donation to Best Friends at Papa Murphy's and receive a FREE 2-liter Coke product.

Please save & recycle:

Cell phones (all types)
Ink jets & laser cartridges
Aluminum cans

Have you considered a bequest to the Best Friends Program?

Mentor Appreciation Party planned for Jan. 13

Best Friends Senior and Junior Friends and families are invited to an afternoon of free swimming at the West River Community Center on Jan. 13. This annual celebration of National Mentoring Month recognizes the more than 100 volunteers who spend at least an hour each week, one-to-one, with a child in the community.

The party will also include the announcement of winners of the annual BEST Essay Contest. Junior Friends have



until Jan. 5 to nominate their Senior Friends. Prizes include a savings bond, pizza and cosmic bowling certificates. Board games and playing

cards will also be available and snacks will be served.

Those who are WRCC members should bring their membership cards. All participants must sign in at the Community Room to receive swimming passes. Friends and extended family members must pay at the admission desk.

For details, watch your mailboxes or call the Best Friends office at 483-8615.



Outstanding Mentors:

Robin & Jessica named 'Mentors of 2006'

When **Robin Nieto** moved to Dickinson six years ago, she got involved



Robin

with Best Friends because she had enjoyed being a mentor in Idaho.

She was matched with a boy whose father wanted him to experience a positive female influence. Robin works for the U.S.

Forest Service and enjoyed many outdoor activities with her junior friend through his teenage years. They still stay in contact. She is now matched with another boy.

Last year, **Jessica Baker** signed up to share some of her free time mentoring a fourth grade girl. She juggles a full load of classes at Dickinson State University, volunteer work for the Red Cross, a living skills coun-

selor job at ABLE and mentoring. She just finished a year of AmeriCorps service. Jessica spends time twice a week with her Junior Friend, eating lunch at school and doing fun activities in the community, such as ice skating, movies, swimming and sporting events.



Jessica

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

-Helen Keller

Match count: 94 children matched with caring mentors

During the fourth quarter of 2006, the Best Friends Mentoring Program counted 94 children matched one-to-one or in small groups with 94 trained caring mentors in the program.

Forty of this year's new mentors are seniors at Dickinson High School and

18 are students at Dickinson State University.

The list of youth waiting for a mentor includes:

- 6 boys & 2 girls in the school mentoring program, and
- 3 boys in the community mentoring program.

Do you have an hour a

week to spend with a child in need of a friend?

Give the gift of your time to a child and volunteer to be a mentor.

Call the Best Friends Mentoring Program at **483-8615** or **toll free at 1-877-877-8685** for information on how to make a difference in a child's life.

Match Barometer

December 2006: 94

December 2005: 83

December 2004: 53



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

**BEST FRIENDS
MENTORING PROGRAM**

P.O. Box 542
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Email: friends@ndsupernet.com

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

**Inside:
Swimming party
&
Scholarship Winner!**

*Address correction
requested*



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



Upcoming Activities & Events:

Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-12:30 p.m. Family New Year's Eve Party.
Dickinson Recreation Center. Music, skating, door prizes
& food. Call Parks & Recreation at 456-2074 for information.

**Now through Jan. 1, 5-9:30 p.m. nightly. Christmas in Prairie Outpost
Park, free viewing of lighted displays.**



Jan. 13, 1-3 p.m., Mentor Appreciation Swimming Party,
West River Community Center. Invited: Senior Friends, Junior
Friends & immediate family members.

Jan. 26-28. Mardi Gras. Trinity High School.



**February (date & time to be announced), Blue Hawks Basket-
ball Game. Dickinson State University.**



**March 23-25, Children's Play (title to be announced). Dickin-
son State University.**

Watch your mailbox for details on upcoming events and Mentor Training!

Denotes a Best Friends sponsored event.



**Best Friends
Mentoring Program**