

BEST FRIENDS MENTORING PROGRAM



The Best News

www.westernwellness.org

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Volume 7, Issue 3

Fall 2007

Mentor like big brother, provides consistency

When she enrolled her son in the Best Friends Mentoring Program, Logein Chernich's mom was looking for a male role model and "male bonding."

Logein, 9, joined the program two years ago. In December 2007, Nathan Brown joined the program as a mentor. He learned about the program when his class at Dickinson State University sponsored an ice skating event for the Best Friends Program.

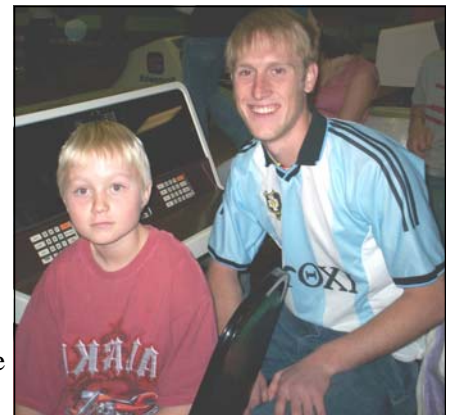
The two were matched in January 2007. They have met once each week for lunch at Logein's school, where they play during lunch recess or work on math and computer

activities. They recently got together at the Best Friends bowling party.

"I appreciate Nathan. He's so dependable," said Logein's mom. "He's there every week, he's come to school programs. He takes time out of his busy schedule. I think he's in it for the right reason."

Logein lives with his mom and grandparents. His dad isn't active in his life and lives out of state.

"He's such a happy boy when Nathan is around and



Nathan Brown, right, has mentored Logein Chernich for nearly a year. They recently bowled together.

he has a better day at school," Logein's mom said. "He's like that big brother that Logein doesn't have."

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Celebrate! Best Friends earns expansion grant

The US Education Department has awarded a \$188,000 grant to expand the Best Friends Mentoring Program. The grant calls for providing mentors to 35 additional students, grades 4-8, per year over the next three years. In order to accomplish this goal, the grant will pay for a part-time volunteer coordinator to recruit and train more volunteers, and train staff members.

This exciting news also comes with a challenge: the

program needs to raise \$12,000 in matching funds from our local community. We are currently conducting our Friendship Drive, a fund drive to raise the needed funds.

Our lead donors for this effort include Fisher Industries, Jim Hartford Memorial, Nancy & Dennis Johnson, American Bank Center and MDU. We need everyone's help to ensure youth who lack a traditional support system can be served by a caring and trained



adult mentor.

You will find information enclosed with this newsletter. Please donate online at www.westernwellness.org or send your donation to P.O. Box 542, Dickinson.



Junior Friend Profile: Looking for male friends

A bubbly first grader, Derek is looking for a male role model who enjoys sports, making model airplanes, board and card games, bowling and many other activities. Derek could also use help with his social skills and in forming friendships with peers. Derek has been in foster care for several

years and will soon be adopted.

Best Friends is also looking for mentors for the following children:

- A 13-year-old boy who just moved to Dickinson and likes skateboarding and paint balling. He needs a self-esteem boost.
- A fifth grade boy looking for someone to

help him with his Cub Scouting achievements and day camping.

- A sixth grade boy who needs friends and likes reading and computers.

Could you give an hour each week of your time, or do you know someone who can make a difference? Call Best Friends at 483-8615 to volunteer to help a child in need.

‘Mentoring is mostly about small victories and subtle changes.’

-Marc Freedman

Mentor Profile:

Daniel Kessel looks to make a difference in world

After graduating from high school, Daniel Kessel took time off to go on a mission trip to Africa, where he formerly lived, and work for his family’s construction company in Dickinson.

He wanted to be involved with the community, so volunteered for activities at Family Fun Day, the Best Friends Program’s summer fundraiser and biggest com-

munity awareness event. Daniel wanted to help make a difference for an individual so he volunteered to be a mentor to a boy in the Dickinson community who shares his interests.

Daniel enjoys sports, outdoor activities and volunteering with his church as a youth group leader and Sunday school teacher. He also enjoys

listening to music, spending time with friends and playing the piano.

Friends describe Daniel as responsible, kind-hearted and energetic. He plans to attend Dickinson State University in January.



Daniel Kessel

Thank You!
Thank You!

Contributors’ Corner

Glow Ball Golf Scramble

- Coca-Cola
- Marathon Oil
- Dr. Amy Oksa
- Fisher Industries
- American West Real Estate—
- Bryan Nelson, Realtor
- Hair Ovations
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Wal-Mart
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Scheels All-Sports
- 19th Hole
- Dickinson Parks & Recreation
- Heart River Golf Course

Other Donations

- Albertson’s
- Copy Xpress
- White Drug

Grants

- ND Community Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- US Education Department
- United Way

Please save & recycle:

- Cell phones (all types)
- Used printer cartridges
- Aluminum cans

Have you considered a bequest to the Best Friends Program?

Mentor Appreciation Day set for January 19

The Best Friends Mentoring Program's Senior and Junior Friends and families are invited to an afternoon of free swimming at the West River Community Center on Jan. 19, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.. 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.

Door prizes for Junior



Friends and Senior Friends will be awarded. 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 \$3 at the admission desk.

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

Remember to thank your mentor for their gift of time to you.



Outstanding Mentors:

Two mentors give extra time, effort for Jr. Friends

It took **Carl Gauthier** a couple of years to volunteer at the Best Friends Mentoring Program, and he figures it was worth the wait because he's having so much fun.



Carl Gauthier

weight lifting and basketball, among other activities. A member of the DSU football team, Carl enjoys at least an hour each week with his friend. He has also appeared in Best Friends television commercials, spoke to DSU students and gave radio interviews.

Last year, as a high school junior, **Ali Pavlicek** was one of the first in her class to sign up to be a mentor. Already busy with

a full schedule, Ali still meets her junior friend at school for lunch every week for the past year.

She brings her beads and other crafts for the two to make together. Ali plans ahead and sets time aside for her Junior Friend. She also recruited other mentors.



Ali Pavlicek

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

-Helen Keller

Match count: 95 children matched with mentors

Through November of 2007, the Best Friends Mentoring Program counted 95 children matched one-to-one with 95 trained caring mentors in the program.

Eighteen of this year's new mentors are Dickinson High School students and 29 are students at Dickin-

son State University. Another 22 DSU students volunteered for special events.

The list of youth waiting for a mentor includes:

- 12 boys and girls in the community mentoring program, and
- 14 boys in the school 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

November 2006: 90

November 2005: 72



'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:
Mentor Day
&
Swimming Activity!**


*Address service
requested*



Upcoming Activities & Events:

December 17: Dickinson High School winter band & choral concert, 7 p.m., DSU Stickney Auditorium.

December 31: Family New Year Party, 8 p.m., Dickinson Recreation Center (information.: 456-2074).

 **January 19, 1:30– 4 p.m. Mentor Appreciation Day** swimming and activities at West River Community Center. Thank Your Mentor and show your appreciation by attending this fun event! Food and prize drawings for Senior Friends and Junior Friends. Check in at the Community Room. See inside this newsletter for details!

January 25-27: Mardi Gras at Trinity High School.

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

 *Denotes a Best Friends sponsored event.*

