

BEST FRIENDS MENTORING PROGRAM

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The Best News

www.westernwellness.org

Volume 7, Issue 2

April-June 2007

Family Fun Day provides games & fun June 30



Kids played ring toss and other games at last year's Family Fun Day at Jaycee Park. Attend this year on June 30.

A Family Fun Day with kids' carnival games, petting zoo, horse rides, jumper castle, train rides and food concessions begins at noon, June 30 at Jaycee Park in Dickinson.

Younger kids will enjoy fishing at the trout pond and the dunk tank will feature Mustang Baseball coaches.

Family Fun Day features a variety of games such as a free throw, hoop shoot, duck pond, bean bag toss, wheel of fortune, golf putt and plinko; game prizes; balloon animals; face painting; and kids train rides. Jack's Petting Zoo

will be back and the concession stand will serve hot dogs, brats, chips, pop and Itty Bitz – tiny dots of ice cream.

Family Fun Day supports the Best Friends Mentoring Program and its event partners: Mustang Baseball, Dickinson Gymnastics, RSVP, God's Child Project and the Dickinson and Hebron high schools Close Up. Other activities include free puppet shows, magic shows and music.

Family Fun Day proceeds help to support Best Friends, a mentoring service that provides positive, caring adult role models to at-risk youth.

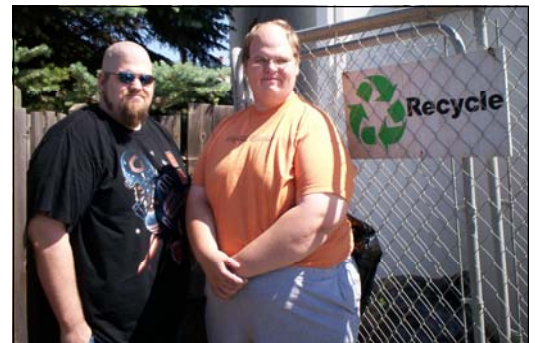
For information call Best Friends at 483-8615.

Trash to Treasure: Recycling benefits Best Friends

Since 2003, the Best Friends Mentoring Program has recycled more than 11 tons of aluminum cans, keeping that amount of metal out of the Dickinson landfill. The program also recycles used printer cartridges and cell phones and has kept hundreds out of the landfill. In 2006, recycling meant \$4,600 for Best Friends.

The program relies on donations from businesses and individuals. It also relies on volunteer labor to

pick up and package the recyclables. To help, drop off your cans in bins at Runnings, West River Community Center or next to Westwind Consulting Center on West Villard Street. Call Best Friends at 483-8615 to get started.



Robert Marx, right, has logged more than 50 hours with the Best Friends recycling program. Working four hours each week, Robert recruited two others: Kevin Berg, pictured at left, and Jeremy Bogle. Supplies for the recycling program were provided through an ECO Grant from MDU Resources.



Junior Friend Profile: Robbie wants a 'big friend'

Robbie is an outgoing first grader looking for a male role model who can take him to a variety of fun activities. Robbie enjoys outdoor interests, including fishing and sports, and also likes board games, computers and movies, and sharing story time.

Robbie's sister also has a Best Friend

through this program, so Robbie is eager to meet someone special. Robbie often asks the Best Friends staff, "Have you found me a big friend yet?"

Robbie does well in school but doesn't enjoy it. He is a little shy and slightly behind other boys his age in social skills. He needs a friend who has many hobbies and inter-

ests.

It's important for a potential mentor to know that Robbie is easy to please and adults enjoy his company.

Could you give Robbie 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:

Jessica Baker enjoys helping the community

Jessica Baker is the recipient of the 2007 Best Friends Mentoring Program's \$500 Senior Friend Scholarship.

Nearly three years ago, Jessica 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 counselor job at ABLE and mentoring. She

also working in the AmeriCorps tutoring and mentoring program. 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.

"It is hardwarming to build a relationship with someone that is younger

and to truly relate and bond with each other," Jessica said. "She even taught me to roller blade and ice skate!"



Jessica Baker

She is leaving Dickinson to pursue graduate studies in physical therapy at the University of Montana.

Thank You!
Thank You!

Contributors' Corner

Easter Carnival

Prairie Hills Mall
Center Court & Dairy Barn
Wells Fargo Bank
Baker Boy
Convention & Visitor's Bureau
White Drug
Praxair
Applebee's

Grants

United Way of Dickinson
MDU ECO Grant
US Office of Juvenile Justice
& Delinquency Prevention

Other Donations

Chamber Jeans Day
Herberger's Community Days

Pepsi & Albertson's Promotion:

During April, Pepsi & Albertson's ran a promotion for Best Friends. Best Friends received a \$500 donation from Pepsi. Thank you!

Please save & recycle:

Cell phones (all types)
Used printer cartridges
Aluminum cans

Have you considered a bequest to the Best Friends Program?

Fall activities to raise funds for Best Friends

The Best Friends Mentoring Program will host two fundraising events this fall. On Sept. 15, 55 golfers on 11 teams will tee off in the second annual Glow Ball Golf Scramble. This event begins at 4 p.m. at the Heart River Golf Course, Dickinson, with regular golf followed by a meal. Glow ball begins at sundown. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and for several con-



tests held on the course.

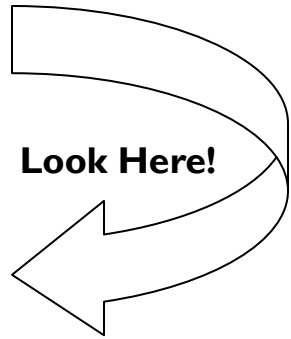
On Oct. 16, fans can enjoy basketball razzle-dazzle and zany antics as the Harlem Ambassadors take on a local team of basketball all-stars.

The performance takes place at 7 p.m. in the Dickinson High School gym

and includes entertainment designed for the entire family. The team stars

Ladè Majic, a female player, who initiates the comedy routines, goofs with the other team, annoys the referee, and interacts with the fans. The team will visit Dickinson schools during the day, bringing a drug-free and stay-in-school message.

Information: 483-8615.



Outstanding Mentors:

Two mentors selected as 'Kids with Heart' winners

Two Best Friends mentors were selected by Prairie Hills Mall to receive "Kids with Heart" award, which was announced in February.

Courtney Rapp and Alison Pavlicek were recognized Friday, Feb. 9 and each received a \$100 gift certificate. Allison was the grand prize winner and she was allowed to choose a charity to receive a \$500 donation from Developers Diversified Realty, the owners of Prairie Hills Mall. She selected the Best Friends

Mentoring Program.

Youth nominated for the award must have made a difference in their community and be younger than 18 years old.

Best Friends nominated 12 mentors for the annual award.



Far left, 'Kids with Heart' winners Courtney Rapp, far left, and Ali Pavlicek, second from left, and far right, Best Friends staff Kris Fehr, right, and Kim Dockter, second from right. Others pictured are members of the 'Kids with Heart' selection committee.

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

-Helen Keller

Match count: 125 children matched with mentors

Through the first half of 2007, the Best Friends Mentoring Program counted 125 children matched one-to-one with 125 trained caring mentors in the program.

Forty of this year's new mentors were students at Dickinson High School, one was a Dickinson Trin-

ity student and 48 were students at Dickinson State University.

The list of youth waiting for a mentor includes:

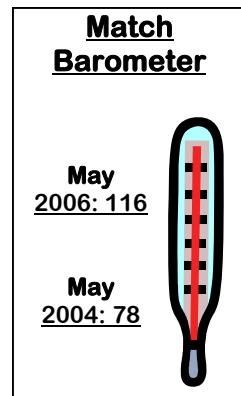
- 9 boys and 1 girl in the community mentoring program, and
- 10 boys in the school mentoring program.

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.



'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:
Activities
&
Scholarship Winner!**

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



Upcoming Activities & Events:

 **June 30, noon– 4 p.m. Family Fun Day at Jaycee Park.** Games, prizes, food (see inside for details). Proceeds support the Best Friends Mentoring Program.

 **Sept. 15, 7 p.m., Glow Ball Golf Scramble, Heart River Golf Course.** Proceeds support the Best Friends Program. Call 483-8615 to register your team and for more information!

Sept. 20, 4-7 p.m. Water Festival at Dickinson Recreation Center.

 **Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Harlem Ambassadors basketball performance, Dickinson High School gym.** Proceeds benefit Best Friends Mentoring Program and Dickinson Park District.

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

 *Denotes a Best Friends sponsored event.*



**Best Friends
Mentoring Program**