

## BEST FRIENDS MENTORING PROGRAM

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# The Best News

www.westernwellness.org

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## Mentor provides positive influence & fun

Randy Jilek was seeking an additional positive friendship for his son, Austin, when he enrolled him in the Best Friends Program.

"I wanted to expand his friendship base," Randy said. "They can be buddies and bridge the gap between his friends and parents."

At the same time, Josh Zellers wanted to be a mentor and make a difference for someone while having fun. Josh is a pilot from Sioux Falls, S.D. who comes to Dickinson each week day.

The two were matched in February, with Josh visiting Austin once a week at his school. During the summer, though, Josh and Austin went go-carting and fishing, and flew kites together.

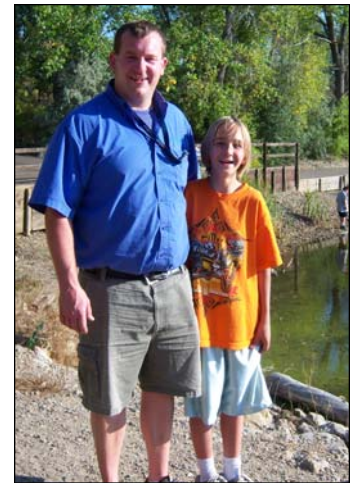
"My favorite memory was flying," said Josh. "It was so much fun!"

During the summer, Josh met Austin's family. He said getting together in the summer brought a new dimension to their relationship. Austin calls him "Dude" and they have built trust and talk about cars, girls, and dirt bikes, he said. They even occasionally email each other.

"We talk about things that are personal to him and I listen. It's important to him," Josh said.

Josh also works a part-time job so he's busy in Dickinson.

"This is my one break that I look forward to each week. I really enjoy this



Austin, right, and his Senior Friend, Josh Zellers, recently enjoyed the Best Friends fishing activity.

age group."

Randy says his son enjoys his special friend, someone he doesn't have to share with anyone. "I highly recommend this program," he said.

## Realtors donate auction proceeds

The Badlands Board of Realtors recently donated the proceeds from its annual charity basket auction to the Best Friends Mentoring Program. Each agency provided lavish baskets filled with foods, beautiful items and gift certificates.

Realtor Amber Kuntz organized the auction and is also a mentor to a young girl. Amber said the realtors enjoyed supporting the program.



Kim Dockter, Best Friends Program Coordinator, left, accepts a \$4,600 donation from the Badlands Board of Realtors.

YOUR BUSINESS NAME HERE...CALL 483-8615 FOR DETAILS!



## Junior Friend Profile: Help me learn to bike ride

Jimmy is a second grader living with his grandmother. He likes all sports and would like a big brother or male friend to help him to learn to skate, swim and ride his bicycle. There's no one to help him with those sports and his family is seeking a male mentor and role model with the time to

teach this little boy new skills.

Besides sports, Jimmy enjoys drawing and painting, computers, reading about dinosaurs and almost any type of game.

Jimmy is also a cub scout and really enjoys the outdoor activities provided in his scouting program. If you have an hour a week to spare to help a child in

need, please call the Best Friends Mentoring program to get involved!

**Still looking:** In our last newsletter we told you about Dillon, fifth grader looking for someone who enjoys his love of outdoor activities, especially hunting and fishing, and sports. Dillon is shy and we haven't found the right mentor for him yet. Is it you?

**'It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference.'**

~Tom Brokaw

## Mentor Profile: Chad gives back to others

Chad Schoch volunteered for the Best Friends Mentoring Program following his debut in the dunk tank at Family Fun Day. He thought about it for a while and his sister finally convinced him to become a mentor, he said.

"I feel like things have been going my way and I feel fortunate," Chad said. "It's my time to give back." The operations manager at

Clear Channel Radio, Chad is known for his 6 a.m. weekend morning show on KZRZ-FM. He holds a degree in broadcast communication from Minot State University and came to Dickinson in 2007.

Chad enjoys many activities such as ice skating, bowling, reading, several sports and many other activities.



**Chad Schoch**

Chad has two nephews and he enjoys spending time with them and looks forward to time with his new Junior Friend.

## **Thank You!**

### Golf Scramble

- Dr. Amy Oksa
- Blue Hawk Audio & Video
- Bryan Nelson-American West Real Estate
- Bosch Lumber
- Coca-Cola
- Fisher Industries
- Hair Ovations & Custom Design
- Marathon Oil
- Parkway Ford
- Quality Quick Print
- Red Trail Energy

### Golf Scramble, continued

- Steffes Corp.
- Steier Oil Field Services
- Golf Scramble In-Kind
- Dakota Community Bank
- Dickinson Parks & Recreation
- 19th Hole
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Scheels All-Sports
- Westwind Consulting Center

### Grants

- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- US Education Department
- Wal-Mart

### **Please save & recycle:**

- Cell phones (all types)
- Used printer cartridges
- Aluminum cans
- Ipods
- Mp3 Players
- PDAs

**Thank You!**

Have you considered a bequest to the Best Friends Program?

## Children of Incarcerated Parents

# Caregiver's Choice program now available

Children of incarcerated parents face challenging obstacles, including stigma, shame and loyalty conflicts. These children report that they often feel labeled, judged and stigmatized; some just keep their feelings hidden. Children with an incarcerated parent are a diverse group of children with a shared experience. They can benefit from mentoring in a variety

of ways, such as extra encouragement, homework help and important support.

That's where mentoring programs can be a big help.

Caregiver's Choice connects caregivers and parents with quality mentoring programs across the country. The program makes it possible for many more kids to have mentors. Best Friends gives special consideration to these children

as we seek a mentor. When the child is matched, Best Friends applies to Caregiver's Choice for a stipend to pay for program expenses.

For information, please call the Best Friends Program at 701-483-8615 or contact Caregiver's Choice at 1-877-333-2464 (free call) or visit [www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice](http://www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice).



## Outstanding Mentors:

### *Senior Friends enjoy making a difference for kids*

As a junior at Trinity High School in Dickinson, **Kaden Ficek** was excited to learn he could



**Kaden Ficek**

be a mentor to an elementary school child. He was then matched with his Junior Friend and continues this year as a high school senior. Kaden also recruited several THS students to be mentors with

the Best Friends Program.

Kaden enjoys many sports and is a co-captain of the THS football team.

**Laurie Karie** has been helping people all of her life, so when she and her family moved to Dickinson it was natural for her to become involved with the Best Friends Program as a mentor. In 2004, Laurie was matched with an elementary student. She soon wanted to do more than

meet for lunch and the two started to meet to go shopping and "girl time" activities.

They now meet outside of school time.

Laurie, who teaches at Dickinson State University, helped to recruit several of her students to become mentors.



**Laurie Karie**

*'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better.*

*It's not.'*

*~Dr. Suess*



The Best Friends Program recognizes the anniversary milestones of long time mentors and youth in the program and thanks them for making a difference, one child at a time!

### Match Spotlight: Match Milestones

**Four Year Anniversary:**

**Courtney & Madison**

Matched: 10/29/2004

**Laurie & Shantel**

Matched: 11/19/2004

**Three Year Anniversary:**

**Brittney & Courtney**

Matched: 9/12/2005

### **Match Barometer**

**August 2008: 90**

**August 2007: 62**

**August 2006: 43**



**'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](http://www.westernwellness.org)

**Inside:  
Match Milestones  
&  
Outstanding Mentors!**

*Address service  
requested*



Sign up to receive this newsletter electronically: Call 483-8615 or email friends@ndsupernet.com.

**Upcoming Activities & Events:**

**Fundraisers:**

*Donate* \$5 to the Best Friends Program and receive a \$10 coupon for Herberger's, to be used at Community Days on November 15. Call the Best Friends office at 483-8615 to donate and receive your coupon!

*Donate* to the annual Friendship Drive. Watch your mailbox for details or call the office at 483-8615.

*Help* with Santa photos. Santa arrives Nov. 22 at Prairie Hills Mall. Best Friends receives a donation from each photo with Santa. Call the Best Friends Office at 483-8615 if you can help. The Santa schedule is posted in the office and at [www.westernwellness.org](http://www.westernwellness.org).

**Fun:**

*Bowling Party* for Best Friends' Junior Friends, Senior Friends and families on November 22. Students from the TR Scholars Program at Dickinson State University will be on hand to bowl with everyone and join in the fun! Watch your mailbox for details!

