

## BEST FRIENDS MENTORING PROGRAM

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## Best Friends Mentoring Program

# The Best News

[www.westernwellness.org](http://www.westernwellness.org)

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## Mentor Provides Adult Role Model

Three years ago Melrene enrolled her son, Lane, in the Best Friends Mentoring Program, because she wanted Lane to have a male figure in his life.

According to Jim, his and Lane's relationship has come a long way. Jim isn't just Lane's mentor anymore, they've become friends.

"Over the past few years we've actually been able to build a bond," Jim said.

Jim and Lane have been able to find similar interests.

"Lane really likes spending time with Jim and thinks a lot of him," Melrene said.

Jim and Lane have been matched since October 2007 and enjoy attending the Dickinson's Got Talent contest, playing darts, volunteering together, and flying kites.

Jim and Lane also enjoy helping with Santa pictures at Prairie Hills Mall. Jim dresses as one of Santa's extra helpers (since Santa is really busy around the holidays) and Lane hands



**Jim and Lane as Santa's Helpers**

out candy canes to all the children who visit Santa.

Lane also enjoys helping Jim with a clown business he owns.

## Amachi Grant Offers New Position to BFMP



**Jennifer Schnaidt** is the new part-time recruitment and training coordinator.

Schnaidt volunteered as a mentor with Best Friends when she was a student at Dickinson High School. In her new position, Schnaidt

The Best Friends Mentoring Program announces that Jennifer Schnaidt is the new part-time recruitment and training co-

ordinator. will be recruiting males to mentor boys who need a positive role model. She will also manage the program's mentor training schedule.

Schnaidt currently attends Dickinson State where she is majoring in marketing. She is also an assistant girl's hockey and track coach at DHS.

The purpose of the project is to create state-based coalitions of mentoring agencies that can share best practices and address the complex needs of families, volunteer mentors, and communities.

Schnaidt's position was created through participation in a national mentoring coalition funded by the Department of Justice and is administered by Public/Private Ventures of Philadelphia, a non-profit agency that developed the Amachi Mentoring Model, designed specifically to match caring adults with children affected in some way by incarceration. RSVP+ North Dakota is in charge of the project and offered the position to the Best Friends Mentoring Program.

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



## Junior Friend Profile: Positive Role Model Needed

Derek is a fourth grader looking for a Senior Friend to be a positive role model in his life and to hang out with him outside of school.

Derek's favorite activities are riding go-carts, playing card games, and playing video games.

Derek also enjoys riding his bike, drawing and

reading.

Derek is looking for a Senior Friend who has similar interests, but could also teach him more about ice skating, model cars and model rockets.

Derek lives with his mother and has no older male role model in his life.

Could you be that special person who brings a male

perspective to Derek's life?

Call Best Friends Mentoring Program today to find out how you can make a difference in a child's life: 483-8615 or toll free 1-877-877-8685.



## Mentor Spotlight: Students Continue Mentoring for Years

**"Every kid needs a mentor. Everybody needs a mentor."**

**-Donovan Bailey  
Olympic Athlete**



**Brooks Thorson**

because he felt a need to help in any way that he could.

"Being a mentor allows me to go back to being a little kid again, whether it's at recess, helping with homework, or in the computer lab. Also, I can use my experience of growing up and going through school to help my little buddy go through the same things in a positive way," Brooks said.

Brooks and his Junior Friend enjoy having lunch

**Brooks Thorson** became a mentor with the Best Friends Mentoring Program

together at the school, playing at recess, working on homework and going to the computer lab. They have also enjoyed bowling and ice skating.

Brooks began volunteering with Best Friends in February 2008 when he was a junior at Trinity High School.



**Whitney Wilhelmi**

with young children and knows that she is able to make a difference in a child's life by listening to them when they need some-

**Whitney Wilhelmi** became involved in the Best Friends Mentoring Program because she enjoys working with young children and knows that she is able

one to talk to or helping them with school.

"I just want to be there to listen and give advice to help make a difference. I had people in my life that impacted me and I want to help do the same," Whitney said.

Whitney and her Junior Friend like having lunch together every week and talking about school and activities they are involved in. After lunch at school, they like to play hide-and-go-seek, basketball, tag, and other games during recess.

Whitney began volunteering with Best Friends in August 2008 when she was a junior at Trinity High School.

## Match Spotlight: Friendship Milestones

The Best Friends Mentoring Program recognizes the anniversary milestones of long time mentors and youth in the program.

### Match Count

March 2010: 128

March 2009: 108

March 2008: 105



### Six Year Anniversary

**Samantha & Debra**

**Matched: 2/11/2004**

*Have you considered a bequest to the Best Friends Program?*

# Spectacular Spring Carnival and the Arrival of the Easter Bunny in Dickinson

The Spectacular Spring Celebration will be at Prairie Hills Mall on March 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the arrival of the Easter Bunny, games, prizes, face painting, fresh cotton candy and much more!

The carnival-like atmosphere is designed for children and their families. Children will have the opportunity to play games, such as the beanbag toss, fishing pond, hoop shoot, and others, to win prizes. Tickets cost 50 cents each,

with all proceeds benefitting mentoring activities for children enrolled in the Best Friends Mentoring Program.

Children can also register to win an Easter basket filled with gifts and a savings bond. They may also visit the Easter Bunny and receive a souvenir photo.

“The Easter Bunny arrives at the mall one week before Easter and these activities provide fun, positive activities to help children celebrate the arrival of spring after a long winter,” said

Kris Fehr, executive director of the Best Friends Mentoring Program.

Members of the Dickinson community, including high school and college students and Best Friends mentors, will be volunteering to help conduct the games and to assist the children, and there is always room for a few more helpers.

For more information about the Spectacular Spring Celebration, contact Best Friends at 483-8615.



## Our Newsletter is Going Electronic!

Best Friends is joining the environmental effort! Over the course of the 2010 year, Best Friends plans to move its newsletter to an (almost) entirely electronic version. There will be an exception for those who wish to receive the Best News in the paper version; however, we need you to let us know which version you prefer.

Here are a few reasons for the conversion:

- The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about two billion trees per year.
- The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50 million homes for 20 years.
- Approximately one billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- Americans use 85 million tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person



Facts from [www.recycling-revolution.com](http://www.recycling-revolution.com)

**“A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.”**  
-Oprah Winfrey



Let us know if you would like to receive our newsletter electronically. Be one of the first 200 people to return this slip or email us at [bestfriends@ndsupernet.com](mailto:bestfriends@ndsupernet.com) to receive a BEST FRIENDS SHIRT! \*Shirts must be picked up at the Best Friends office.

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Thanks to Custom Design and Continental Metal for sponsoring the Best Friends shirts!

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

**BEST FRIENDS  
MENTORING PROGRAM**

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**Sign up to receive this newsletter electronically: Call 483-8615 or email [friends@ndsupernet.com](mailto:friends@ndsupernet.com).**

## **Upcoming Activities & Events:**

*Fun* Help with the *Spectacular Spring Celebration* On March 27 at Prairie Hills Mall. Best Friends is looking for volunteers to help with games and Easter Bunny visits/photos. Call the Best Friends Office at 483-8615 for more information.

*Fun* *A Chocolate Affair*, a chocolate and wine tasting fundraising event that will benefit Best Friends Mentoring will be Saturday, April 24, 7-9 p.m. at the Days Inn. Tickets are available for \$30 each at the Best Friends office starting March 24. Tickets are limited. Must be 21 to attend.

*Fun* The Best Friends *Glow Ball Golf Scramble* will be Saturday, June 5, starting at 5 p.m., at Heart River Golf Course. A team of four costs \$200. Call the Best Friends office if you are interested in participating.

*Donate* Pepsi and Dan's Supermarkets are currently running a promotion benefitting Best Friends Mentoring. For every case of Pepsi product sold from a specially marked display, Pepsi and Dan's will donate 25 cents.

*Donate* Please save and recycle cell phones (all types) and aluminum cans. Phones can be dropped off at our office. Please bring aluminum cans to one of our recycling locations in Dickinson: the parking lots at Wal-Mart, Runnings Farm & Fleet, West River community Center and next to our office at 135 W. Villard St.



**Best Friends  
Mentoring Program**