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The Best News

Volume 10 Issue 3
3rd Quarter 2010

Making a difference in children and families, one at a time!

Tell a friend!

Best Friends Mentoring Program is recruiting



new mentors for the 2010-2011 school year! Here's what you can do to help:

- Talk to your friends and tell them how cool it is to hang out with a Junior Friend
- Tell your friends about how mentoring benefits the community and you
- Talk to churches, clubs, organizations and teams you belong to
- Talk to coworkers

Don't forget the statistics:

- 73 percent of volunteers said that volunteering lowered stress levels
- 89 percent of volunteers said that volunteering improved their well being
- 68 percent of volunteers said that volunteering made them feel physically better
- 92 percent of volunteers said that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life

Harlem Ambassadors are coming your way!

The internationally acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors will be visiting Dickinson for a game at Dickinson High School's gym on October 19, 2010 at 7 p.m.

The Harlem Ambassador performance is sponsored by Best Friends Mentoring Program and Dickinson Parks and Recreation. Proceeds will support mentoring in our community and scholarships for West River Community Center memberships for low-income families.

The Harlem Ambassadors offer a unique brand of Harlem-style basketball, featuring high-flying slam-dunks, dazzling ball-handling tricks and hilarious comedy routines. They will take on the hometown team, the APBI Western Edge All-Stars.

The Ambassadors feature non-stop laughs and deliver a positive message for kids wherever the Ambassadors play. "At our shows, we want the kids to know that they're part of our team too," Coach Ladè Majic said. "We invite as many kids as we can to come sit on the bench, have a front row seat during the show, and get involved in all of the fun stuff we do."

The Ambassadors set themselves

apart from other "Harlem-style" basketball teams by working with local not-for-profit and service organizations and holding Harlem Ambassadors shows as community fundraising events. For Dickinson's event, the Ambassadors have partnered with Best Friends Mentoring Program and Dickinson Parks and Recreation to help raise funds for mentoring services.

The Ambassadors have appeared in Dickinson to sold-out crowds in 2003 and 2007. They have performed more than 200 shows a year. Those shows have helped raise millions of dollars – an accomplishment of which Ambassadors President Dale Moss is very proud.

"It feels good to be able to provide quality entertainment and create memories that the fans will take with them," Moss explained.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students (through high school). Kids younger than school-age are free. Purchase advance tickets at Dickinson Parks and Recreation, 2004 Fairway Street, Dickinson, or Best Friends Mentoring Program, 135 West Villard Street, Dickinson.



Helping with homework



If you're looking for a fun way to help your Junior Friend with homework or for a way to encourage your Junior Friend in school, then check out Scholastic.com's "Homework Hub"

(www.scholastic.com/kids/homework).

Scholastic.com's Homework Hub has five sections to help kids with their homework: research, practice, writing, organizing and preparation.

Research

Scholastic.com's section covering research gives students tips on research methods and strategy and the best places to search for resources.

Writing

The writing section helps students write a report, understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, grammar advice and vocabulary booster tips.

Practice

The practice section lets students apply their skills by taking vocabulary quizzes, play math and science adventure games and provides memory booster tips.

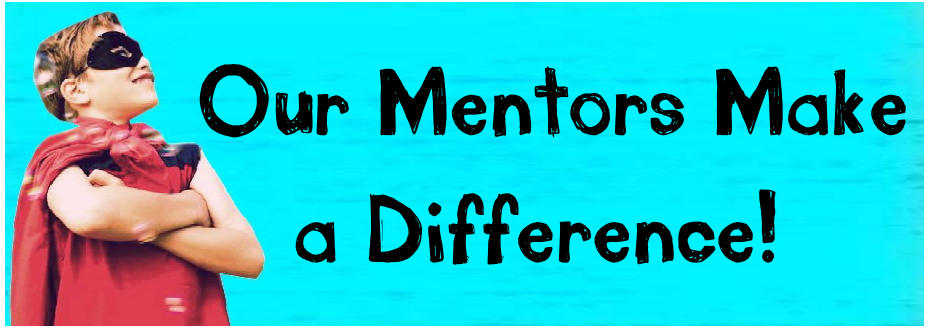
Organize

The organizing section helps kids understand the importance of staying organized by ranking priorities, making to-do lists and the benefits of good time management skills.

Prepare

The preparation section offers students advice to de-stress before a test and tells them how to create a test preparation plan.

The Homework Hub also provides online study break activities and advice from other kids. So if you're looking for a creative way to encourage your Junior Friend, jump online together!



Our Mentors Make a Difference!

BFMP match of the quarter

Several years ago, Holly enrolled her son, Ben, in the Best Friends Mentoring Program because he was a little shy at school. She thought that a Senior Friend would be the boost of confidence Ben needed in the classroom.

Ben has been matched with Joe for two years this fall and according to Joe, every year they meet, their relationship gets better and they continue to become closer.

"Ben and I have formed a friendship," Joe said. "I've also had the chance to get to form a relationship with the rest of Ben's family."

When Ben and Joe hang out, they play sports, hang out with Ben's friends, play board games or do homework.

According to Holly, Ben enjoys seeing and spending time with Joe. "Ben really likes having Joe come to see him," Holly said. "It makes him feel special."

Joe became a mentor because he thought that the Best Friends Mentoring Program was a good program and because he likes working with kids. Joe is an elementary education major at Dickinson State University and thinks that everyone who can get involved in BFMP should.



Joe and Ben at the school

Long running matches

6 years

Laurie and Shantel

4 years

Shaunda and Missy

3 years

Jim and Lane

Trisha and Rachel

2 years

Lauren and Amaya

Daryl and Austin

Whitney and Baylee

Joe and Ben

Tyler and Dawon

Emily and Jennifer

2 years continued

Sam and Jesus

Allison and Megan

Aaron and Wyatt

congrats!

Family Fun Day recap

Best Friends Mentoring Program held the 13th annual Family Fun Day on July 3 this year, during the Roughrider Days Fair and Expo.

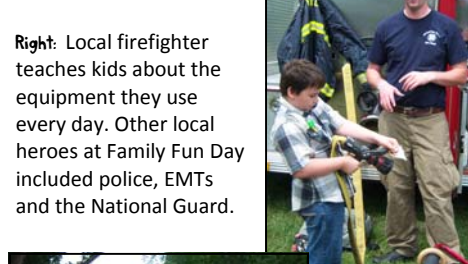
The event had wonderful weather and welcomed a large and diverse crowd of children and adults from the Dickinson area. Kids had the opportunity to enjoy eight inflatable games, barrel train rides, a giant art mural, horse rides and a free petting zoo. Concessions were also available.

The event was once again a great success. BFMP sold wristbands for \$12 each and individual, one-ride tickets for \$2 each. Wristbands could be purchased in advance or at the park. Overall, 439 wristbands and 700 tickets were sold for the event, with a total of \$6,435 from wristbands and tickets. BFMP also had 22 volunteers help run games, ticket sales and concessions.

Total raised from the event, including tickets and concessions, was \$10,241, a slight decrease from 2009, but more than previous years.



Left: Western Wellness Foundation board member, Kevin Moberg, helps out at the grill.



Right: Local firefighter teaches kids about the equipment they use every day. Other local heroes at Family Fun Day included police, EMTs and the National Guard.



Left: Kids enjoy one of the eight inflatable games at Family Fun Day.



Right: Joyful the Clown made an appearance at Family Fun Day, visiting with children and making balloon animals.



Left: Children added color to the giant art mural.

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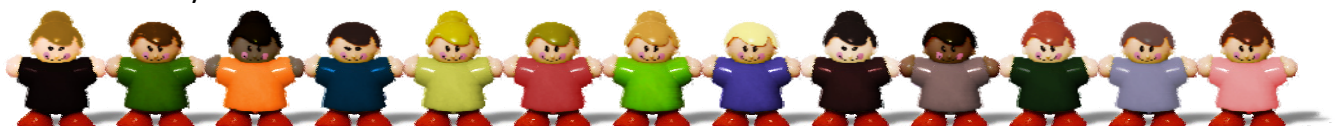
Jennifer Schnaidt
Recruitment and Training Coordinator

Friendship Drive to begin early this year

Best Friends Mentoring Program will be sending its yearly Friendship Drive mailing beginning October 1, to ask for your support. This year, to reach our financial goals, \$20,000 needs to be met through community donations.

Those involved with Best Friends Mentoring, whether a mentor, volunteer, or financial contributor, will be receiving a detailed letter about the Best Friends Mentoring Program. Please watch for it and consider a gift to help the program reach this year's funding goal, but also to provide the children in our area the life-long benefits of having a mentor.

We would also like to thank all of our mentors, volunteers and financial contributions – Our program is successful because of you!



Contact Us!

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friends@ndsupernet.com
www.westernwellness.org

We're on Facebook too!

Don't forget to sign up
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of **The Best News!**
It keeps our office
and community
environmentally friendly!

Email bestfriends@ndsupernet.com



**Best Friends
Mentoring Program**

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Upcoming Events and Activities

- September 21: U.S. Navy Band "Country Current," DSU Pavilion, 6 p.m., concert is free, bring your own blanket or chair
- September 25: DSU Homecoming Parade, 10 a.m., Downtown Dickinson
- September 25: BFMP and Kiwanis Bowling Party, 3:30-5:30, Paragon Bowl, event is free
- October 1: Best Friends Mentoring Program Friendship Drive begins!
- October 19: Harlem Ambassadors, Dickinson High School Gym, 7 p.m.
- October 31: Malloween, 2:30-4:40 p.m., Prairie Hills Mall
- October 31: Dan Porter's Annual Treat Street, 5-7 p.m., Grand Dakota Lodge
- November 7: Daylight Savings Ends!
- November 27-January 1: Annual Christmas in the Park, Prairie Outpost Park
- November 30: Ladies Night Out Shopping Celebration, 5-8 p.m., Downtown Dickinson Stores