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The Best News

Volume 10 Issue 2
2nd Quarter 2010

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

Scherr joins Best Friends in temporary position



Chelsey Scherr

The Best Friends Mentoring Program announces that Chelsey Scherr is the new part-time, temporary receptionist.

Scherr volunteers as a mentor with Best Friends in the community-based program. In her new position, Scherr will be helping the program with administrative responsibilities and data collection that is used to evaluate the mentoring program.

Scherr recently graduated from Dickinson State University with a degree in elementary education.

Scherr's position is funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Mentoring Program's initiative.

Family Fun Day Fast Approaching



Family Fun Day will be held Saturday, July 3 at Jaycee Park, south of Dairy Barn, from noon to 4 p.m. Family Fun Day takes place during the 45th

annual Roughrider Days Fair and Expo.

Family Fun Day continues to bring positive and fun activities to children and families in Southwestern North Dakota over the Fourth of July weekend and Roughrider Days.

Family Fun Day is an afternoon of enjoyment that includes a giant inflatable bouncer, inflatable slides and obstacle course, hoops, skee-ball, t-ball, jousting, a clown, a free petting zoo, horse rides, barrel train rides, Pine Wood Derby, entertainment, a free giant art mural and concessions.

Wristbands are \$10 in advance at the Best Friends Mentoring Program office, 135 West Villard Street, from June 24 to July 1. Wristbands are \$12 each on the day of the event and can be purchased at Jaycee Park. The wristband is good for unlimited rides (wristband excludes

horse rides).

For more information about Family Fun Day or to make a donation to the event, contact Best Friends Mentoring at 483-8615 or 1-877-877-8586.

Proceeds from Family Fun Day support Best Friends Mentoring Program and mentoring activities in southwestern North Dakota.

If you are interested in volunteering for Family Fun Day, contact Casey at 483-8615 or best-friends@ndsupernet.com.



2010 Scholarship Winner: Brooks Thorson



Brooks
Thorson

The Best Friends Mentoring Program announces that Brookes Thorson, a Dickinson native and Dickinson State University student, has been selected to receive the seventh annual scholarship awarded to a volunteer in the program.

Thorson applied to be a mentor with the Best Friends Mentoring Program when he was a junior in high school. Thorson has been matched with the same child for over two years, a second grader at the time of the match.

"I volunteered to be a mentor for the Best Friends Mentoring Program to make a difference in young kids' lives. I know, as a person who went through high school, that there are many things that can bring a young kid down. Be it alcohol, drugs, or any other negative influence, I know how hard it can be to take the high road when facing these peer pressures. However, I know that through my life I made good choices, and I felt that I could influence someone else to make good decisions too," Thorson said.

Thorson spends one hour a week at his Junior Friend's school where they eat lunch together, go to the computer lab, play outdoors during recess or work on homework.

Thorson graduated from Trinity High School in May 2009 and recently finished his first year of college as a nursing student at DSU.



Kids with Heart



Four mentors from Best Friends were selected to receive the "Kids with Heart" award, which was announced on April 24 at Prairie Hills Mall.

Haley Fong, Aaron Grinsteiner, Megan Michaelson and Whitney Wilhelmi were selected among the top ten candidates for the award. The grand prize winner receives a \$500 award that is donated to a charity of their choice. Although none of the Best Friends mentors received the grand prize, Best Friends appreciates their hard work and dedication to making a difference in the lives of children in our community.

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



Haley
Fong



Aaron
Grinsteiner



Megan
Michaelson



Whitney
Wilhelmi

BFMP Match of the Quarter

Stacy enrolled her son, Shelby, in the Best Friends Mentoring Program because she wanted him to have a connection with an older male who would make a positive difference in Shelby's life.

Shelby has been matched with Ryan for two years and their relationship has grown significantly.

"We hang out every week," Ryan said. "I teach him a lot of things and he teaches me too."

When asked what kind of activities Shelby and Ryan do together, Stacy wondered what kind of activities they don't do together.

"They go to all sorts of Best Friends activities. They play Frisbee golf together, work on Lego's, and Ryan helps Shelby with anything he's working on, like homework," Stacy said. Ryan says they also go bowling together.

Ryan also helps Best Friends with its recycling through a partnership with Special Olympics.



Shelby and Ryan at a Best Friends bowling event

A Chocolate Affair Huge Success

The Best Friends Mentoring Program hosted the first-ever Chocolate Affair: A Chocolate and Wine Tasting event at the Days Hotel on April 24.

The event featured eight Dickinson area chefs with 12 desserts for guests to sample. Pat Pender, from Town and Country Liquor, sponsored a wine tasting to compliment the event. Guests had the opportunity to be entered in a basket raffle and to participate in a mystery wine pull.

After sampling each chocolate, guests voted for the People's

Choice Award. The winner was the Elks Lodge's white Russian chocolate turban.

"We heard so many wonderful comments about the desserts. There was more than enough chocolate presented to satisfy the most discriminating taste buds," said Kris Fehr, executive director of Best Friends.

Best Friends made 200 tickets available to the community to purchase for \$30 each. Overall, Best Friends raised \$6200 to support mentoring activities in southwest North Dakota.



Above from left to right: Chocolate house with Best Friends logo by Marlene Schopp; Ryan Carson from Take Home Chef; The Brickhouse Grill and its Banana Rum Truffle with Strawberry Drizzle; Marlene Schopp Armando Cobian, both from Mulligan's, being awarded second place in the People's Choice Award by Kris Fehr

Glow Ball Golf Recap

The fourth annual Glow Ball Golf Scramble attracted a record 69 golfers, playing on 18 teams, on June 5 at Heart River Golf Course.

The Glow Ball Golf Scramble is an annual fundraiser by the Best Friends Mentoring Program that includes golfing nine holes in the late afternoon, a dinner, contests and golfing nine holes in the dark on a specially lit course with glowing golf balls. This year's scramble was limited to 18 teams and raised more than \$4,000 to benefit mentoring services provided to at-risk youth served by the Best Friends Mentoring Program.

Congratulations to the Filkowski-

Kent team, which took first in the scramble by just one stroke. The Evil Olive team took second, with Team Toilet taking third by just five strokes.

Contest winners included Lyndsey Filkowski and Mike Fisher for longest putts; Sara Diede and Steve Lervik for closest to the pin; Gail Wallace and Stephen Thompson for closest to the pin during glow ball; and Lyndsey Filkowski for the longest putt during glow ball.

Golfers teed off into 25 mph winds that receded following dinner and again after dark for the glow ball fun.

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Glow Ball Golf Scramble Highlights-June 5, 2010

Contact Us!

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Upcoming Events and Activities

- June - August: Prairie Cruisers "Cruise Nite" every Sunday, 7-8 p.m. in the McDonald's parking lot
- June - August: Arts on the Prairie Concert Series every Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Young's Park
- July 3: Roughrider Days Parade, 10 a.m., downtown Dickinson
- July 3: Family Fun Day, noon-4 p.m. (\$12/wristband), Jaycee Park, **Call Best Friends to volunteer**
- July 4: Fireworks, 10 p.m., DSU Rodeo Arena
- August 31: NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick, Badlands Activity Center, call Parks and Rec, 456-2074