

The Best News

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

Winter 2011

New training coordinator joins Best Friends

Betsy Devero is the new training and outreach coordinator for BFMP. She will be developing training sessions for Senior Friends, as well as recruiting mentors for youth living in communities outside Dickinson.



Betsy Devero

"I'm very excited about being involved with such a wonderful program," she said. "It's great to work with kids and connect to this community, and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity."

Devero, a native of Oregon, has a bachelor's degree in English and secondary education from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn. She is currently enrolled in the teacher education program at Dickinson State University.

Devero is passionate about education and plans to teach language arts at the middle school level.

The 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.

Mentor provides positive male influence

Will's mom, Amanda, signed him up for Best Friends Mentoring Program so he would have a male influence in his life. Though Will was on the waiting list to be a Junior Friend for almost a year, neither Will nor Amanda got discouraged. Both were extremely excited when BFMP informed them that Will was to have a Senior Friend.

Grayson had only lived in Dickinson for four months, but when he heard an advertisement for Best Friends, he signed up to be a Senior Friend. This is Grayson's first time as a mentor, but when he was in high school he volunteered as a student aid at a nearby elementary school.

Will and Grayson have been paired together for only two months and, according to both Amanda and Grayson, the connection was a fast one. Will and Grayson have spent their time together by going to Lake Patterson, the West River Community Center, Wendy's and playing video games. William enjoys spending time with Grayson and both Will and Grayson look forward to the time they spend to-



Will, left, and his mentor, Grayson, enjoy a holiday craft, along with many other activities together.

gether.

Amanda and Grayson say that they would recommend BFMP to other community members. Amanda especially appreciates the safe, trusting environment that Best Friends provides, while Grayson sees it as a great way for newcomers to be part of the community.

AmeriCorps*VISTA joins Best Friends

Hilary Hendricks is the new AmeriCorps*VISTA worker who will be working full-time as Volunteer and Communications Coordinator for one year at the Best Friends Mentoring Program.

Hendricks, who is from Maine, is a recent University of Maine graduate with degree in international affairs with a concentration in anthropology. She has worked with volunteers in Guatemala and throughout the United States. This is her second year as an AmeriCorps volunteer.

"Being out on the western edge, supporting such a great nonprofit, is already a rewarding experience," Hendricks said.

Hilary will be working with volunteers at special events, coordinating communications and assisting with office duties at Best Friends.



Hilary Hendricks

**Western Wellness
Foundation Inc.
Board of Directors**

Greg Kontz
President

Dan Conner
Vice President

Dream O'Brien
Secretary/Treasurer

Directors:
Connie Armstrong
Rick Backes
Harvey Brock
Laurie Karie
Kevin Moberg
Janice Mosbrucker

Best Friends Staff

Kris Fehr
Executive Director

Kim Dockter
Senior Program Coordinator

Laura Hann
Program Coordinator

Betsy Devero
*Outreach & Training
Coordinator*

Laura Fehr
Match Support Specialist

Hilary Hendricks
*AmeriCorps*VISTA
Volunteer & Communications
Coordinator*

Sylvia Hartford
Bookkeeper

Celebrate National Mentoring Month:

Who mentored you? Pass it on!

National Mentoring Month will celebrate its 11th year this January. NMM spotlights the importance of being a mentor and the need for every child to have a positive, caring adult in his or her life. Mentoring enriches the lives of mentors and mentees alike.

Celebrate National Mentoring Month by becoming a mentor, thanking your mentor, telling your friends about NMM or volunteering an hour or more of your time with the Best Friends Mentoring Program.

Stop in at Best Friends' open house Jan. 17-20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and register for door prizes while enjoying a warm beverage and treats.

For more information on becoming a mentor, call the Best Friends office at 701-483-8615 or email mentor@ndsupernet.com.

DHS Honor Society paints bins

Best Friends Mentoring Program partnered up with Dickinson High School National Honor Society, the City of Dickinson solid waste department and Fisher Industries to refurbish community recycling bins that have been placed throughout Dickinson.

Four recycling bins were placed on city recycling sites, bringing to six the number of aluminum can recycling sites in Dickinson. Last year more than 4,000 pounds of cans were collected and kept out of the Dickinson landfill.

In another project, the DHS students recently collected about 50 used cell phones and dozens of accessories for recycling by BFMP, keeping them out of the Dickinson landfill and earning funds for BFMP. To recycle your used cell phone, drop off at the Best Friends office at 135 W. Villard St.



National Honor Society students from Dickinson High School painted four bins for recycling aluminum cans for Best Friends.

Aluminum can recycling locations:

- * Best Friends Mentoring Program
- * Wal-Mart parking lot
- * West River Community Center
- * 10th Ave. E. (North of Kum & Go)
- * 15th Street W (behind Ramada Inn)
- * West Broadway (near Public Works)

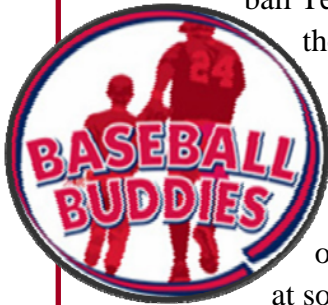
Thanks to Marathon Oil for hosting Junior & Senior Friends at a holiday party!

Best Friends, Blue Hawks become 'Teammates'



The Dickinson State Blue Hawks baseball and basketball Teams have teamed up with the Best Friends Mentoring Program to help kids from the Dickinson area. Over half of the DSU Baseball Team are mentors to youth in

The Blue Hawks baseball team hosted a baseball activity, along with pizza, for their Junior Friend Teammates and their families. The team posed with some of the children, above.



the community. The DSU students spend an hour a week with their "Best Friends Teammate," visiting them at school, helping with homework, going to the movies and doing other activities.

"I feel that giving back to the community and today's youth is part of being a Blue Hawk," said Head Coach Jason Watson. "It is a great opportunity for our players to give back and help someone who is in need because I know that at some point during their life there was someone there to help them."

Thanks to the Blue Hawks, almost every boy on the Best Friends waiting list received a mentor.

Santa Claus is coming to town!

Santa Claus has arrived at the Prairie Hills Mall in Dickinson for another season and is hearing wishes and taking pictures with children until Dec. 23. Best Friends needs volunteers to help Santa by taking pictures, handing out candy canes and registering children.

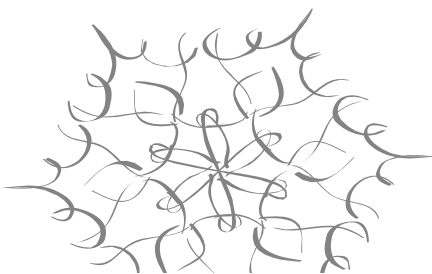


Santa recently visited with the Lewton brothers at Prairie Hills Mall in Dickinson.

Be sure to visit Santa, spend a couple of hours volunteering and support Best Friends Mentoring.

Pictures cost \$10 for two photos. BFMP will receive a donation from White Drug for every photo taken.

To volunteer to help with Santa pictures, please call Best Friends at 701-483-8615 or email outreach@ndsupernet.com.



Remaining Santa hours:

Mon. Dec. 19, 5-8pm

Tues. Dec. 20, 5-8pm

Wed. Dec. 21, 5-8pm

Thurs. Dec. 22, 10am-1pm, 2-5pm and 6-9pm

Fri. Dec. 23, 10am-1pm, 2-5pm and 6-9pm

Contact us!

135 West Villard
Dickinson, ND 58601

701-483-8615 (local)
877-877-8685 (toll free)
701-483-8616 (fax)

We're on **Facebook** too!

Sign up for the e-newsletter
and receive a free t-shirt!

Email

bestfriends@ndsupernet.com

*'Going Green' keeps our office and the
community environmentally friendly!*



Best Friends Mentoring Program

Address

Service

Requested



Coming Events

Jan. 17-20: Best Friends Mentoring open house to celebrate National Mentoring Month, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at 135 W. Villard St.. Stop in for cookies and door prizes!

Jan. 21: Best Friends swim party at West River Community Center, watch your mail & email for times.

Jan. 10, 11, 12, 25, 28 & 29: Advanced mentor training: "Building Relationships." Watch for details!

Support the Best Friends Mentoring Program and Make a Difference, Today!

Our annual friendship drive is a vital level of support to reach our mission.

Please sponsor one match for a year at \$800 or contribute to another gift level listed below:

\$1 to 99 – Buddies \$100 to 244 – Mentors \$250 to 499 – Associates
 \$500 to 999 – Partners \$1,000 or More – Champions \$10,000 or More – Program Sponsors

Please Make Checks Payable to: **Best Friends Mentoring Program**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return to : Best Friends Mentoring Program

P.O. Box 542 / 135 W. Villard St.

Dickinson, ND 58602-0542

Donate securely online at www.westernwellness.org