

*May / June 2016*

St. Mary Catholic High School – Best Friends Mentoring Club

Someone once said, “It takes a community to raise a child.” We at Best Friends have seen this statement in action at the Saint Mary Central (SMC) Lunch Mentoring Program. It’s not unusual to see elementary students standing in the doorway on a Wednesday, waiting for their lunch mentors to arrive. Starting as early as Monday, the children start asking the school counselor if mentors will be here on Wednesday. The anticipation of teaching their mentor something new, having someone listen to them, playing a game, sharing things going on in their life, being made to feel important and asking for advice are some of the reasons the students look forward to their mentors’ visits.

While eating lunch, the matches are able to talk, laugh, and learn from each other. When I ask the SMC students what they get out of mentoring, they say they are able to help a younger child and that they, too, can be a child again. This mentoring program is not only great for the elementary students but it is also teaching the SMC students – young adults - to be responsible and caring. They are learning that there are greater needs out there than just their needs. It is an honor to witness the high school students become young adults.

Ready to be Matched

Lamell is a 9 year old boy who soaks up all the attention he can get! He enjoys basketball, riding his bike, playing video games and building things. If you or someone you may know might be interested in mentoring Lamell or any child on our Waiting List, please give us a call at 920-729-5600. We have many kids ready for a mentor like you!

SMC students are also learning how to handle difficult situations in their students’ lives. Staff is able to observe the high school students responding with positive support and genuine concern.

Following is a match from our SMC Lunch Mentoring at Springroad Elementary:

Emily Minton and Alix

Emily Minton has been a mentor for the past 4 years through the Best Friends Lunch Program, since her freshman year at St. Mary High School. Emily became a mentor because of her sister, who also was a lunch mentor. After hearing how much her sister enjoyed being a lunch mentor, Emily decided to become a mentor herself. Emily is matched with a fourth grader named, Alix. Emily enjoys being a role model for Alix.



Emily enjoys that she can be the person whom Alix can talk to and have a good time with when they are together. The two enjoy going outside together and playing tag with other matches. They both also enjoy playing games, such as checkers or card games. Emily comments that the Lunch Mentoring Program is a great way to build a relationship with a Young Friend who can depend upon, trust, and look up to the mentor. The program has such a positive impact that the Young Friends can barely contain their excitement when the mentors arrive each week!

From the Director



Dawn Gohlke,
Executive Director

Helping young people thrive through the power of mentoring!



Strengthening Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Program• 214 Family Referrals made• 18 Helping Hands Requests Fulfilled• Collaboration with Reach Counseling Services
Empowering Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-to-one Mentoring• 86% of children reported receiving support from a positive adult role model.• 88% of matches improved in at least 67% of their identified areas to work on.• 67% of matches improved in all three identified areas to work on.
Academic Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational Support & Specialized Programming• 86% of children are completing and turning in homework, attending classes and want to do well• 79% of children reported they feel like they are doing better in school.• 83% of children in Community-Based Mentoring develop a plan to get more training after high school

Changing the lives of our children, their families, and our community...Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha has been changing lives in our community for over 40 years now.

We know that young people need a set of basic connections to help them through the challenges associated with growing up. They need guidance and the financial help of a stable family environment. They need access to education which helps them gain the knowledge and confidence to succeed. Without mentors, youth become disconnected. Their lack of preparation makes it difficult to secure high paying jobs with a future. Without economic security their odds of being incarcerated will be greater, as well as their chances of becoming victims of crime. Most discouraging, is that without the ability to build economic security, they will be considerably less likely to become stable providers for their own family.

This is why Best Friends exists.

Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha is creating a comprehensive approach to address poverty at its root cause to ensure at-risk kids have the educational, economic, and emotional tools they need to thrive after high school and into early adulthood.

Thank You for your Support!

Donations & Grants:

Thomas Jones, Michael Rohrkaste, Martha Sparks, Your Cause, Network for Good, Lee Heeter, Bridget Balogh, Kimberly Clark Foundation, Thrivent Financial, ThedaCare, Shopko Foundation, Outlook Group Corp., U.S. Venture, Great Northern Corporation, Ashley Vandermause, City of Neenah, Coating Excellence International, LLC., Tetting & Tetting D.D.S, S.C., Menasha Corporation Foundation, King's Daughters Charity Circle



**30th Annual Best Friends
Gourmet Bike Tour
Sunday, July 24, 2016**

**St. Mary Central High School
(1050 Zephyr Dr. Neenah)**

Can you feel it? Spring is in the air!

Clean the dust off your bike and get ready to ride! It's time again to get outside! After this extraordinarily and unusually long winter, mark your calendars to feel the warm sun on your face. Whether you want to challenge yourself or just want to have a leisurely family bike ride, we have the answer for you. Join us for Best Friends 30th Annual Gourmet Bike Tour.

This bike tour is a ride through the Neenah countryside with many routes to choose from. The family route is 4 to 12 miles and there are also 25, 55, 75, or the 100 mile Century routes. The mapped tour will have mechanical assistance, sag wagons and all distances have rest stops with Replenish energy drink, water, home baked goods, & fresh fruit.

Following the tour a Gourmet Picnic will be served from 10:30am to 3:00pm at the school featuring homemade soups, vegetables, beverages, sub sandwiches, wraps and calzones. Check out our website for more information or call 920-729-5600 or e-mail info@bestfriendsnm.org. To register on-line go to Active.com.

**Best Friend Matches Can Ride Free
in the Gourmet Bike Tour**

All matches that volunteer 2 hours at the Bike Tour can

ride in the bike tour for FREE! Please call our office for more information at 729-5600.

Love Baking? We Need Your Help!

If you like to bake, we'd love to put you to work! Anyone interested in baking desserts for our 30th annual Gourmet Bike Tour can contact Liane Butitta at 920-725-7218 or lbbaker@tds.net to get more details. Liane has some AWESOME recipes she can give you to follow if you are looking for ideas. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Things that GO

Make sure to mark your calendars for May 21st, 2016 from 10am - 2pm at Pierce Park in Appleton. Discover & explore vehicles and enjoy great entertainment at Things that GO! They will have vehicles to explore and discover. Don't forget about great entertainment: Star Wars characters, live music, DJ Tim Dorsey & more. Tickets are just \$5 per person. Proceeds will benefit Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha & REACH Counseling Services. Thank you to King's Daughters Charity Circle for your continued support of Things That Go!

Volunteers are needed for this event. If you are interested please contact Patti at (920) 729-5600.

A huge thank you to our current sponsors!! ThedaCare, US Venture, Menasha Corporation, Kings Daughters Charity Circle, Badger Plug, Wichmann-Fargo Funeral Homes, Coating Excellence LLC

Some sponsorships are still available! If your company would like to sponsor Things that Go please contact Dawn Gohlke at (920) 729-5600.

May/June Anniversaries

Best Friend	Young Friend	Match Date
Fred/Nancy Umland	Daniel	6/22/2005
Lisa Van Camp	Tyra	6/19/2013
Laura Pokrzywinski	Sarah	6/22/2015
Alicia Peeters	Selida	5/19/2008
Katie Golichnik	Sheyan	5/7/2013
Stephanie Simon	Arianna	5/30/20
Robert Paulick	Patrick	5/6/2015
Kelly Swoger	Trista	5/14/2015

St. Mary Catholic High School – Best Friends Club Springroad Elementary

Ahles, Elizabeth - Lillian
Ahles, Mary - Kaylee
Albrecht, Alex - Joseph
Berg, Nathan - Tyler
Boyson, Elana - Mya
Chai, Xinyu (Ivy) - Calissa
Davidson, Ethan - Logan
Dionne, Sophia - Aidan
Greif, Kevin - Eyon
Gullickson, Katelyn - Macy
Henshaw, Jack - Jackson
Holder, Richie - Caleb
Hu, JunQuig (Richard) - Jorge
Metz, Emma - Morgan
Michel, Kristina - Reese
Minton, Emily - Alix
Pingel, Emily - Natalie
Prosser, Brigid - Olivia
Puls, Makenna - Khally
Riehl, Cooper - Klein
Rosiejka, Alex - Eli
Seidl, Ben - Asher
Solowicz, Sam - Gerardo
Stilp, Brianna - Lillie
Stinski, Joe - Riley
Uhlenbrauck, Maddie - Mallory
Uhlenbrauck, Caden - Carter
Van De Hey, Mike - Lincoln
Wu, Lydia - Raegen
Zelinski, Nate - Hayden

Clayton Elementary

Athey, Kylee - Wyatt
Butler, Rheanna - Lily
Butler, Shelly - Carson
Davidson, Caleb - Fraley, Mason
Engelhard, Robert - Zachary
Franda, Katrina - Amanda
Hoheisel, Sam - Wyatt
Jarosinski, Julia - Anthem
Jarosinski, Malayna - Jasmine
Jencusova, Petra - Aryanna
Keuler, Abby - Lily
King, Carter - Zach
Lacey, Joshua - Lincoln
Mai, William - Connor

Malson, Christina - Bryan
Parks, Zachary - Hendrix
Quinonez, Marissa - Roseali
Van Camp, Karli - Mila
Wettstein, Bethany - Aili
Wisneski, Abby - Cadence

Taft Elementary

Andersen, Regan - Jaiden
Andersen, Sydney - Sasha
Bittner, Kaylie - Ella
Britt, Kate - Zhynique
Butke, Maddy - Harmony
Calmes, Kennedi - Lauren
Dulcamara, Rachel - Grace
Ferry-LeClair, Raven - Drew
Schultz, Christine - Hailey
Unruh, Lauren - Bryce

St. Mary Elementary

Bittner, Keira - Maks
Bublitz, Emma - Ellie
Buelow, Kirsten - Mason
Fickau, Gracie - Nicolas
Gagne, Sydney - Brandon
Griffith, Lucy - Fin
Hageman, Jack - Ashton
Hogerty, Nora - George
Jack, Christian - Cayden
Jares, Grace - Ben
Keddel, Emma - Zach
MacKenzie, Ellie - Paul
Moen, Makenna - Blayke
Murphy, Sabrina - Aiden
Nichter, Olivia - Gavin
Olson, Katie - Evie
Olson, Mollie - George
Parks, Paige - Gavin
Pennings, Olivia - Ben
Peters, Emily - Mason
Puls, Bryce - Richard
Quinonez, Erika - Blayke
Riehl, Case - Sub
Roloff, Kate - Sub
Schmidt, Taylor - Nicolas
Solowicz, Katey - Maks
Staehler, Maya - Fin
Stumpf, Brittney - Brandon
Taubel, Isabel - Ellie
Thelen, Abbi - Evie
Thiel, Abie - Zach

Thone, Alicia - Aiden
Trebatoski, Ashley - Paul
Unruh, Ethan - Richard
Wallace, Andrew - Cayden
Zimmer, Andrew - Ashton

Neenah High School Mentor

Tatiana Monterrosa - Alison
Adalia Ortiz - Alyvia
Brock Zuleger - Andrew
Jackson Roh - Bryan
Madalyn Boehnlei - Chloe
Nora Martin - Chris
Zenaida DeSantos - Isabelle
Emily Aldag - Isabella
Morgan Vandeyacht - Lily
Grace Woolwine - Lizbeth
Grant Mauthe - Logan
Kaitlyn Nelson - Jayna
Lauren Hodge - Isabella
Eli Goethel - Luis
Vanessa Underhill - Madison
Megan Altekruise - MyKayla
MiKayla Butts - Sherlyn
Alyssa Paulus - Trevor
Alexandria Edwards - Bentley
Elizabeth Lawniczak - Edwin
Natalie Roh - Emma
Harper Brandt - Isabella
Brooklynn Lenz - Kayla
Katharine Cocherl - Makehna
Evan Dujardin - Jeric
Michaela Kegley - Tayton
Rachel Doberstin - Rhiana
Adam Anderson - Ronald
Kennedi Verhoff - Jaime
Nathaniel Bezier - Connor
Marissa Hart - Jordan
Abby Smith - Katrina
Taylor Obry - Kendall
Alexandra Woodburn - London
Jacob Adams - Miles
Lauren Gauthier - Carter
Matthew Piotrowski - Gunner
Taylor Beckman - Isabelle
Shannon Rectenwald - MyKenzie
Fritz Brownell - Samuel
Brianna Erdman - Zaine

Payton Koeppel - Amber
Benjamin Krause - Jessie Joe
Alan Desai - Jordan
Sarah Schultz - Jordyn
Rachel Schreiner - Kayla
Sarah Binning - Kayla
Karis Hart - Abbygail
Adelle Sturgell - Alexis
Ellie Callahan, Elizabeth
Garret Kegley - Gabriel
Bailey Ramich - Iann
Emily Roberts - Amaya
MiKenzie Clark - Charlie
Emma Pergolski - Daisy
Chloe Pergolski - Danielle
Marin McClowry - David
Arianna Vatne - Dina
Brendan Vatne - Isaiah
Caroline Jones - Isaiah
Annie Stubbing - Izayah
McKenna Mulvey - Julianne
Solon Ramos - Kane
Allison Jensen - LaKota
Emily DeVincents - McKaylee
Joshua Sturgell - Michael
Jaqueline Beran - Raven
Noah Bezier - Riley
Alex Melchert - Abraham
Austin Rickhoff - Hunt

Menasha Mentors, Menasha Young Friends

Ashely Steenis - Austin
Brianna Gries - Catalina
Chloe Young - Charlotte
Alex Butler - Eric
Christopher Warning - Kadyen
Bailey Augustine - Kennadi
Isaiha Howard - Lucas
Tristyn Heller - Madison
Colin Rusch - Miles
Adriana Zuniga - Marley
Anthony Ramirez - Jackson
Paiton Moderson - Jenaica
Tayler Fonder - Bailey
Ahilyn Mendoza - Meghan
Allegra McBride - Shatterra
Kenzie Briones - Ruby
Kathryn Pennings - Trinity

Camp Onaway is for all KIDS

Camp Onaway hosts four Girls' Camps, three Boys' Camps, Onaway Adventure Camp (OAC), and Leadership Training Conference (LTC). Anchor Camp is a three-day camp for youth who have just completed 5th grade to introduce them to the magic of Onaway Island. Several day camps are also



available for youth who have just completed 4th or 5th grade. Camps are available June-August for boys and girls who have completed grades 6-12 the previous school year. For more information contact the Boys & Girls Brigade at 725-3983. Scholarships are available!

May Waiting List Activity

May 24th, 2016 5-7pm

Come race around the go kart track or try your hand in a game of mini golf! Thrivent Financial is hosting an activity for the kids on the Waiting List. Dinner will be served.

All Waiting List kids are invited to attend! Call today to sign up, 920-729-5600.

New Girl Scout eTroop for Matches or Families!!

Are you looking for some engaging activities to do with your match/family? Maybe you are running out of ideas, or don't always have time to plan an activity? Partnering with Girl Scouts is the answer! Matches/families will have the opportunity to discover, connect and take action at home and in the community as members of the Girl Scouts eTroop. With the Girl Scouts eTroop program, mentors/families will receive a monthly email with activity ideas and information about how to earn a Girl Scout badge with her match. Badges that are earned would then be mailed right to your home. Financial Assistance is available and no girl will be turned away. Working on Girl Scout activities together will further strengthen your mentoring/family relationship, and will inspire your match/child to become even more of a confident and empowered community-minded citizen. Matches/families will also receive information on upcoming Girl Scout Council events so they are able to attend any that fit into their schedule. Visit www.gsnwgl.org for more information or contact Lisa Mengert, at lmengert@gsnwgl.org.



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.

SAVE THE DATE

Camp Onaway Match Activity

Saturday, August 27th until Sunday, August 28th. Come and enjoy nature on the Chain O' Lakes in Waupaca! We will be offering activities such as arts and crafts, sand volleyball, basketball, tubing, skiing, water activities (paddle boat, funyaks, canoeing, water slide, rafts, row boats, plus more), fishing (fishing licenses required if you are of age), and of course, **SUNSHINE!** Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on this amazing opportunity!

Free Sailing Event for Families and Matches

Grab your suntan lotion and join us for a day on the water! The fun begins at 1:00 PM Sunday, July 17 at Riverside Park in Neenah. The Neenah Nodaway Yacht Club sailors will be waiting to whisk you and your match (or family) away on their personal sail boats onto the beautiful waters of Lake Winnebago until approximately 3:00 PM.



We will meet in front of the water on the East Wisconsin side. Everyone will need to wear a life preserver and sailors will have them available, but feel free to bring one if you have it. Children can be matched or waiting to be matched, but **all**

children must be at least seven years old. Parents must sign a permission form before children set sail. Children must be accompanied by a parent or Best Friend. Remember to wear water safe shoes.

In case of questionable weather, call our activity phone at (920)-419-2960. Availability is limited so call 729-5600 to get signed up today!

Free Mini Golf for Families and ALL Matches (Site-Based and After-School Mentors are invited too!)

Swing into spring by trying your hand at mini-golf. All Best Friends' families (children who are currently matched or waiting to be matched) and matches are welcome. We will enjoy mini-golf, popcorn and soda. This fun-filled event will take place Thursday, June 23rd from 6-8 PM at Badger Sports Park located at 3600 E. Evergreen Dr. in Appleton. Call Best Friends at 729-5600 to reserve a spot by Monday, June 20th.





of NEENAH • MENASHA

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Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha Mission Statement

To help young people thrive through the power of mentoring friendships and supportive family networks.

Graduations

MacKenzie O'Bright

MacKenzie and Dave Meyer have been matched in our program since July 2014. MacKenzie will be graduating from Neenah High School and plans to enlist in the Navy! Congratulations, MacKenzie, and we wish you the best in the Navy.

Paiton Moderson

Paiton Moderson has been matched in our program for nearly 10 years with Karen & Jeff Warren. Paiton will be graduating from Menasha High School and plans to attend Fox Valley Technical College for a degree in Interior Design. Congratulations on your graduation, Paiton, and good luck on all your future endeavors!

Teri Smith

Teri Smith and Liane have been matched for nearly 10 years as well! Teri will be graduating from Neenah High School and plans to seek employment upon her graduation. Congratulations on a job well done, Teri! We are proud of you.

