



BEST FRIENDS
of NEENAH
MENASHA

MENTOR A CHILD

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March / April 2017

Making a Difference



Kennedi Calmes and Lauren **St. Mary Catholic High School Lunch** **Mentoring at Taft Elementary**

Kennedi Calmes is a senior at St. Mary Catholic High School and has been a volunteer at the Best Friends Gourmet Bike Tour for many years. Kennedi enjoys being around children and decided to join the Best Friends Club at SMC to become a Lunch Mentor. Kennedi was matched with a Young Friend in 2014, and in 2015, Kennedi and Lauren were matched. Kennedi and Lauren love to talk, make each other laugh, and play Jenga. Being a mentor is important to Kennedi because she loves knowing that she can make a difference in someone's life. Kennedi said, "It's such a nice thing to have a program like Best Friends to get involved in and help out the community." Thank you, Kennedi, for being an amazing mentor and role model to Lauren!



Rizky Almaeda and Gavin **After School Mentoring Match** **Menasha High School**

Rizky is a senior at Neenah High School and this is his first year being involved with the Best Friends After-School Program. Rizky wanted to become a mentor because he loves being around younger children and wants to be a positive role model for them.

Rizky has definitely become a positive role model for second grader, Gavin. When Rizky and Gavin were first matched in November 2016, there was an immediate connection. Rizky stated "I love Gavin's energy. He is very smart and fun to be around." Gavin also looks forward to his time with Rizky, especially playing Uno, running down the hallways, playing catch and board games. Rizky's favorite part about being matched with Gavin is being a big brother figure to him, as he does not have younger siblings. Rizky also stated he wished the After-School Program was more than once a week, so he could spend more time with Gavin. Thank you, Rizky, for taking the time to be such a positive role model to Gavin!



Kay Kavanaugh and Star **Community Base Match**

Kay Kavanaugh is a retired social worker here in the Neenah-Menasha area. Before retiring, Kay worked as a school social worker in the Menasha School District. After many years of referring her students to Best Friends, Kay decided it was her turn to become a Best Friend. Kay was matched with a Young Friend for seven years during which time she watched her Young Friend grow into a young adult. At that time, Kay wanted to continue her work as a mentor and was rematched in fall of 2016 with Estrellamia, also known as Star. They meet every Tuesday sharing various activities together such as craft, movies, baking and many more. Kay shared that their favorite lunch is pizza with no topping, just cheese. With the warm weather approaching, Kay looks forward to spending time outdoors with Star. Star shares with Kay that she "wishes everyday was a Tuesday."

Kay is such an inspiration to our community as she continues to give her time to the youth in our area. On behalf of Best Friends, we want to thank her for her hard work and time as a mentor and a role model. We also want to thank Star for being such a great Young Friend and sharing her time with Kay as well!

Welcome New Intern - Kendall!



Hello! My name is Kendall Stauber and I am a new intern at Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha. I am in my fourth and final year at UW Oshkosh, majoring in Human Services Leadership with a minor in Communication Studies and will be graduating in May 2017. I will be helping with the After-School and Lunch Mentoring programs, as well as match activities. I chose this internship because working with youth is something I have been passionate about since the beginning of college. I have worked with youth before, but I want to learn how mentoring benefits children and adults. I am so excited to be part of Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha.

Young Friend Ready to be Matched

Michael is an 8 year old boy who is seeking anyone who has some extra time to spend with him. He is an explorer and likes to learn new things. He enjoys playing on the computer, watching movies, running, playing with his pets and playing outside. Michael has some hearing problems and has low self-esteem from being picked on at school. Michael will soak up any undivided attention he is given, especially if you spend time outside together! If you are interested in becoming a mentor to Michael or any other child on our lengthy Waiting List, please contact our office! 920-729-5600



31st Annual Best Friends Gourmet Bike Tour

Mark your calendar for our 31st Annual Best Friends Gourmet Bike Tour that will be held Sunday, July 23rd, 2017 at St. Mary Central High School in Neenah. Check out our website at www.bestfriendsnm.org for more details. Volunteers will be needed and any matches that help at least 2 hours can ride in the bike tour for free!

Join in Raising Money for Best Friends by Walking in the Human Race

When: Saturday, May 6th at 10 a.m.

Where: Thrivent Financial (4321 N. Ballard Rd, Appleton)

Help collect pledges for Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha. Walk or run 1-3 miles and enjoy free food, beverages, and listen to the UW-Madison Marching Band. Our team will meet at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans at 9:30 am for our team picture!



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1. Go to <https://www.crowdrise.com/Human-Race> and click "Join a Team"
2. Select "Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha" as your team
3. Invite your friends and family to join your team! Anyone can join the Human Race.
4. Raise funds online (and also offline) for Best Friends.
5. Join us on Saturday, May 6 as we come together with over 50 nonprofits to celebrate our fundraising success!

If you have any questions about the Human Race Fundraiser, call Patti at 729-5600.

Parenting Resources

Online newsletters, communities, publications, podcasts, and links to reliable parenting advice for everyone preparing to, or currently parenting, (from birth all the way through the teenage years) are available to you by signing up for the digital newsletter on <http://parenting.uwex.edu/>

Something For Nothing - Quality Family Time by Martha Sparks

An interesting, but most appropriate learning skill is how to use new and unfamiliar words correctly. An expanding vocabulary will help with spelling, reading, and writing which are facets of all good communication. I suggest that each family member choose a day of the week to present a previously unknown word to the family. Discuss the word meanings, appropriate usage and spelling. This is a super time to use a dictionary too. Then plan to use this new word several times with family communication. This is really something for nothing!

The Learning Harbor

We're building more boats! Come join us for a once in a life time experience. In just 16 weeks, you can build a boat.



Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha will use the "Building to Teach" model to promote a hands-on building experience that helps students improve their math skills as well as teaching life skills.

Please join us for this incredible program. Enrollment is limited to 6 kids starting in 7th grade and up.

When: March-May (2 hours, 1 day a week)

Dates and Times: Wednesdays 4:30-7:00pm, with dinner provided 4:30-5:00pm (Start date March 8th)

Where: Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha (1st Floor)

Call Best Friends at 729-5600 to reserve your spot now.

Thank You for your Support! Donations & Grants:

Liz Gumtow, Beverly McClellan, Michael Ellis, Mowry Smith III, LuAnn Zimmerman, Timothy Flaherty MD, Kenneth & Lorelei Kellner, Maren and Jeffrey Lang, Ann Cattau, Phil Jankowski, Lois Thoman, Patricia and Thomas Lison, Roger and Beth Van Groll, Jon McMurtie, Pat and Greg Van Zeeland, Richard Garman, Linda Stinski-Diaz, Patricia Schuster, Patrick and Amy Galloway, Tim Galloway, Michael and Beth Brown, Keith Wilk and Jane Jacobsen, Martha Sparks, Jeffrey Van Brunt, Kenneth and Kristine Anderson, Cindy Rieck, William and Donna Rankin, Carol Codner, Illinois Tool Works Foundation, Appleton Stainless, First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Kimberly Clark Corporation, Jeffrey Williams, Mary Houlihan, WE Energies Foundation, Pamela and David Vander Zanden, Oshkosh Corporation Foundation Inc., Thomas A. Plein Foundation, Circle of King's Daughters Donor Advised Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Circle of King's Daughters Jean & J. Treat Thomas Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Menasha Corporation Foundation, Verve A Credit Union, Earl and Laurel Stahl, Joseph Golichnik, Cheryl Pitre, U.S. Venture/Smith Family Foundation, Your Cause - Robyn Gruner, Classic Lanes Fox Valley Inc., Jane and Tad Shepard Family Foundation, Walmart Giving, Waukesha County Community Foundation-Thompson Family Fund, City of Neenah, Pitney-Bowes Foundation

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Camp Onaway Match Activity

Saturday, August 26th until Sunday, August 27th. 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 now!

Stained Glass Match Activity

Come and make your own real stained glass design on **Saturday, March 11th at 9am & 10:30am** at the Boys & Girls Brigade, 109 W. Columbian Ave, Neenah. The cost for this activity will be \$5 per match. This year's design will be a butterfly!! There will be limited space, so please call the Best Friends office ASAP to sign up. 729-5600



Both Family and Matches

Fox Cities Kidz Expo – FREE! FREE!

Saturday, April 8th - Fox Valley Technical College (1825 N. Bluemound Dr. Appleton)



FREE- FREE- FREE! This is a family event filled with fun, education & adventure. There will be interactive activities & entertainment for children and parents. Activities may include face painting, inflatables, photos with favorite costumed characters, crafts, balloon animals, diaper derby, puppets, tot-zones, magicians, petting zoo, sand bag toss, and hands on activities throughout the day. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Happy Anniversary

March/April Anniversaries

Kathy Smits	Grace	3/12/2012
Joyce Cowling	Ilyse	3/3/2014
Patti Houlihan	Parker	3/17/2014
Marti Schmall	Emma	3/20/2014
Erin and Corey Grimes	Tiana	3/28/2016
Brittney Billman	Sidney	4/15/2016



2017 YMCA Card

With the new year starting, any match needing a new YMCA of the Fox Cities card or ID card can contact us for new ones. Please remember to let the Best Friends office know of any address, phone or email changes! Thanks!

FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHTS Appleton YMCA

Enjoy all the Appleton Y has to offer. Designed for families with children 4 to 12 years old, Friday nights at the Y will definitely be a memorable one.

OPTIONS:

- Splash Pad and Swimming
- Organized gym games
- Open gym play
- Inflatable Obstacle Course
- Racquetball / Wallyball Games
- Board games, ping pong, etc. in Commons
- Family Fun Center

Float and Flick (Movie in Boldt Pool @ 6PM):

- February 17 - The Secret Life of Pets
- March 17 - Inside Out April 21 - Moana

Friday's 4:00 - 8:00 PM

February 3 & 17, March 3 & 17,
April 7 & 21, May 5 & 19

Fee: FREE for YMCA of the Fox Cities Members

Fee: General Public \$4/person or \$16/family maximum

Trauma Informed Symposium Wisconsin April 11 & 12, 2017 • Oshkosh, WI

Trauma affects individuals, families and communities by disrupting healthy development, adversely affecting relationships and contributing to serious mental and physical health problems. When communities continue to leave multiple generations with untreated trauma, there is an increase in heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, sexual and domestic violence, family instability and crime.

Reach Counseling is hosting a two-day educational event for health care professionals and interested community members. There are a limited number of scholarships for reduced registration fees. To find out more about registrations costs, speakers and the topics to be covered, see www.traumasymposiumwi.com.



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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.



***EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF A CHILD
and create memories that last a lifetime!
Become a mentor to a child today!***



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A MENTOR OR VOLUNTEERING WITH BEST FRIENDS OF NEENAH-MENASHA, COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT TO BEST FRIENDS OF NM AT 181 E. NORTH WATER STREET, NEENAH, WI 54956 AND MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU THROUGH THE MAIL. FOR A QUICKER RESPONSE E-MAIL: INFO@BESTFRIENDSNM.ORG OR CALL: 729-5600. WHO MENTORED YOU? PASS IT ON, MENTOR A CHILD.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

I AM MOST INTERESTED IN: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Community-Based Mentoring
- Lunch Mentoring
- After-School Mentoring
- Guy Stuff Mentoring
- SHARE Mentoring
- Other volunteer opportunities



PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO A PERSON YOU THINK WOULD MAKE A GOOD MENTOR • Thank you!