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**Best Friends continues community impact with director search**

The Best Friends Mentoring Program (BFMP) is approaching a quarter-century of community service with a search underway for a new executive director.

Kris Fehr, the longtime executive director of BFMP and the Western Wellness Foundation (WWF), has announced her retirement at the end of this year. Plans are underway to find a replacement for Fehr, who initiated the organization's growth in 2000, culminating in the mentoring of more than 3,000 youth during her two decades with BFMP. Fehr also launched signature fundraisers, such as Family Fun Day and the Chocolate Affair – events which supported hundreds of mentor-mentee matches.

“Kris has been a tireless worker and advocate for mentoring across Southwest North Dakota,” said Carter Fong, president of the WWF board of directors. “She is a wealth of information on mentoring and is very thorough in her work. We are grateful for her leadership, especially during our pandemic, to position the organization to continue reaching at-risk youth.”

Fehr said BFMP has earned a reputation as a trusted community partner as the result of a TEAM approach, or Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

“When I think back, the absolute highlight has been seeing the success of thousands of youth mentored over the years,” said Fehr. “My top priority is a smooth and effortless transition for the continued success of our foundation, the program and the people I have served with for 20 years.”

Information on BFMP's search is available at [www.bestfriendsnd.org/executive-director-search/](http://www.bestfriendsnd.org/executive-director-search/). Applicants must submit their material by Friday, Nov. 20.

Based in Dickinson since 1995, BFMP provides mentoring services to at-risk youth ages 6-16, including Stark County and across southwest North Dakota. For information, call (701) 483-8615 or visit [www.bestfriendsnd.org](http://www.bestfriendsnd.org).

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