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Hopfauf, Kovash join Western Wellness Foundation Board

The Western Wellness Foundation has added two local community leaders to its board of directors.

Tanner Hopfauf of ND Energy Services and Chris Kovash with Thrivent are the latest additions to the Western Wellness Foundation board, which oversees the Best Friends Mentoring Program. The pair joins Board Chair Carter Fong of Knights of Columbus Insurance, Vice President Caleb Burgard of Dickinson Parks and Recreation, Treasurer and Secretary Amanda Lindvig of Gate City Bank, and directors Urja Aryal of ABLE and Eric Seiller of Health & Wellness Chiropractic.

Hopfauf, a Dickinson native, was a high school mentor with Best Friends up until he graduated from Dickinson High School in 2014. After earning a degree in Petroleum Engineering at the University of North Dakota (UND), he has worked in the industry and is currently with ND Energy Services. During the summer months, he enjoys golfing and spending weekends at the lake with friends and family. During the fall and winter, he is an avid outdoorsman.

Hopfauf and each of his siblings have served as mentors with Best Friends. “When I was a mentor, I saw the need for our youth to connect with positive role models and I look forward to continuing to advocate for kids and teens in my new role on the board,” said Hopfauf.

Kovash is also originally from Dickinson. After high school, he attended Dickinson State University where he graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and was offered a teaching position in the Dickinson Public Schools. He taught for a total of six years at Berg Elementary and the Dickinson Middle School. During this time, he was active in coaching football and track. In 2020, he made a career change to work as a financial associate at Thrivent in Dickinson.

Kovash and his wife Kelsey have two young girls. He enjoys weekends at the lake, watching sports, spending time with family, and helping make a difference in the lives of people in the community. “I am excited for Best Friends during this critical time in its 25-year history as new staff continues to engage youth, recruit mentors and build partnerships,” he said.

Angie Rabbitt, a native of Baker, Montana, joined Best Friends in January this year as the organization’s new executive director. She joins Mark Billings as the senior program coordinator and Katelyn Nguyen and Paige Langhoff, who are serving Best Friends through a federal program called Volunteers in Service to America or VISTA, a national service program dedicated to ending poverty by building the capacity of nonprofit organizations and public agencies.

For more information about Best Friends, visit bestfriendsnd.org or call (701) 483-8615.