

TEAMMATES OF BLAIR
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Blair TeamMates First Graduates Honored

It was an exciting day for TeamMates of Blair when our first class of nine, most of whom joined our program as 6th graders in 2004, graduated from Blair High School on May 15, 2010. Some won scholarships, and most went on to post-secondary education. Scholarship recipients included :



Among our first graduates and scholarship winners of the TeamMates of Blair Mentoring program, Belarmino receives his TeamMates Osborne Opportunity and local TeamMates of Blair Mentoring Program Scholarships. Belarmino is now majoring in Business at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Belarmino, who won the Osborne Opportunity Scholarship, and local-TeamMates Mentoring Program Scholarship; Kahdesha, United States Bowling Congress Scholarship, and local TeamMates Mentoring Program Scholarship; and Lewis, Max West Local TeamMates Scholarship.

We are proud of all our TeamMates of Blair Graduates!

And Seven Short Years Ago....

.... Belarmino (pictured above at graduation) here a 6th Grader at Otte Blair Middle School, and his mentor, Mic Pinguoch, began a friendship that continued one hour a week at school and today as Belarmino joins the ranks of freshman at UNL. Mic says:



"Belarmino is a great role model for his three younger brothers." Of his mentor, Belarmino says, "He's meant a lot to me. His advice has helped to get me where I'm at today. I hope we can still hang out in the future. His advice will still be helpful."

Blair TeamMates Mentors: Thank you!



A few of the many TeamMates of Blair Mentors.

2010-2011 Mentors : Terry Schumacher, Nancy Sipple, Leon Haith, Ann Hackerott, Mic and Susan Pinguoch, Judith Hardy, Alana McCrillis, Vaughn Christensen, Charles Bagby, Todd Foje, Liz Hall, Mary Beth Hunt, Michael Jones, Joel Jorgensen, Richard Jorgensen, David Kaslon, Karen Madsen, Laura Nelson, Sharron Potatdle, Rebecca Versch, Greg Andres, Darrel Dibben, Joan Krogh, Jim Nelson, Nan Smutko,

Jane Stavem, Harriet Waite, Connie Andersen, Lori Davidson, Mark Dickinson, Nate Dougherty, Ryan Fischer, Nancy Gardner, Dave Jensen, Kristi Lippincott, Emily Petersen, Sharon Ray, Karene Ryan, Tami Christoffersen, Teresa Dice, Katy Flynn, Debra Foust, Chris Mommsen, RJ Ryan, Jane Smith, Kay Spidle, Jenaca Camden, Pastor Pam and Sal Ciulla, Marc Gengenbach, Eloise Hiemke, Curt Hougen, Pastor Mike Knudson, Angel Martin, Brandi and Dan Petersen, Emil Hiykel, Richard Randall, Betty Widtfeldt, Don Williamson, Carissa Castro, Chuck Caul, Mitch and Christy Chappellear, Heather Cottle, Peggy Cowley, Gary Housemann, Loren Havekost, Diane Highfill, Pam Realph, Cody Carritt, Kari Huenink, Dave Ladwig, Joyce Madsen, Ellie Richardson.

“He’s not one of those people who think they are most important; he thinks everyone is important to themselves and others.”

Their Students Say...

“He’s really fun, and really nice. He listens to my stories. It helps me concentrate. It kind of relieves me so I can do my work.”

“He’s funny. He’s not one of those people who think they are most important; he thinks everyone is important to themselves and others.”

“She makes me feel good about myself and makes me want to try harder. Everything’s coming together for me, but it’s coming fast!”

“She’s always coming with a good attitude, always smiling and encouraging. It helps me keep my head up high.”

“He’s a cool guy. He makes me feel like I can release, chill and relax. He goes to my games.”

“She’s opened me up so I’m more willing to talk. Our bond helps me trust people. I’m not alone, and I’m willing to help people.”

Blair TeamMates Chapter Wins Friend of Education Award



TeamMates of Blair received the 2010 *“Friend of Education Award”* from the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals Region II at their state convention. The award recognizes *“exemplary leadership in promoting public awareness of ele-*

mentary and middle level education., exemplary efforts providing special services and unique opportunities for children in elementary and middle level schools, exemplary efforts in becoming involved in elementary and middle level education., and

exemplary efforts to support the mission of elementary and middle level schools as well as the mission of the NAESP.” The award was presented to TeamMates of Blair by NAESP representative, Principal Mike Janssen. Thank you, NAESP! We are honored.

Thank You *ALL* for Making a Difference!

The TeamMates of Blair Board of Directors, **Mic & Susan Pinquoch, Dave Jensen, David Kaslon, Dave Ladwig, Kristi Lippincott, Jim Nelson, Judi Pedersen, Pam Realph, Carol Suhr, Kathy Tripp, Harriet Waite, and Louise Woodhouse**, would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our program. While it is not possible to recognize everyone who has helped build and sustain TeamMates of Blair over its first seven years,

we would like to highlight those who were part of the 2010-2011 school year.

Over 70 mentors met weekly with their mentees, to provide encouragement, guidance, and friendship. Without their dedication, and that of our **parents and students**, we would not be able to fulfill our mission. **Ann Hackerott and Assistant, Gail Conyers**, coordinate the program, with assistance of **TeamMates Administrative Staff**.

Blair Community Schools continues its outstanding welcoming care and dedication through its **administration, counselors, teachers, secretaries, and other staff**, contributing to the strength and safety of our chapter.

Finally, as a non-profit program we must have financial assistance. We thank the **businesses, organizations, and individuals** who have made it possible to build and support a first-class mentoring program.

“It is not possible to recognize everyone who has helped build and sustain TeamMates of Blair in its first seven years.” But we thank you!

2010-2011 Financial Contributors

\$2500-\$5000:

Great Plains Communications
Washington County Bank

Two Rivers Bank
Washington County Recycling Association
Woodhouse Auto Family

Mr. & Mrs. Curt Hougen; ITPA; Lynette Jennings; Janice Jones; Frank Korshoj; Livewise 40; Mike & Donna Mahlendorf; United Methodist Men; Mic & Susie Pinquoch; Richard Randall; Runza; Sidebottom Farms; Nancy Sipple; Pat & Kathy Tripp; Bob & Louise Woodhouse; Womenø Bridge Marathon; XI GAMMA PHI.

\$1000-\$2500:

Blair Community Foundation (Grant)
Cargill Employee Matching
Sid-Dillon Chevrolet

\$50-\$500:

Blair Lions Club; Blair Real Estate; Carissa Castro; Sal & Pam Ciulla; Todd & Amy Foje; Jay Frazer; Eloise Hiemke;

TeamMates LOVE their Events!

TeamMates students and mentors have one thing in common: they like to have fun! For free! And nothing is more fun than TeamMates of Blair events.

The favorite of students, mentors and family is the Crieghton Game. A ride on a deluxe tour bus with a family member and

mentor to watch the Jays menø team at the Qwest Center, with concessions, t-shirts, posters, and an autograph party with the menø and womenø team.

Our Kick-Off events include a tail-gate party with truck loads of munchies. Donø forget the Bowling party with pizza, pop,

prizes, and lots of bad (and some good) bowling. Our Senior Recognition Dessert and High School Year End Party are new traditions. Fun is always our style.!





TeamMates of Blair

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“The One Hour Difference”

The mission of TeamMates Mentoring Program is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring. Dr. Tom and Nancy Osborne founded the program in 1991 in an effort to provide support and encouragement to school aged youth. The goal of the program is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. To reach this goal, youth meet **one hour a week in the school setting** with a caring adult who serves as a volunteer mentor. The TeamMates of Blair chapter has served Blair Community Schools since 2004.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How are students chosen for the TeamMates of Blair Program?

A. Anyone may nominate a student, but most of the nominations come from teachers in the 4th and 5th grades. Students are nominated on the basis of their potential, on their ability to work to success with an adult volunteer, and for the **extra encouragement a mentor can provide.**

Q. My work schedule is full time and hard to predict. Can I be a mentor?

A. Yes! Although students and mentors meet at school during school hours, we work hard to provide the flexibility mentors need, including the option of

meeting at lunchtime, just before or just after school, and varying schedules during school hours.

Q. I take vacations and business trips—Can I mentor?

A. Yes! Bon Voyage. How about sending a post card or photo?

Q. What do mentors and mentees do at school?



A. They can talk, read, play board games, go outside and walk, sit and talk, throw a ball, shoot hoops, sometimes work on a hobby, craft, baking, or studying. The sky is the limit!

Q. How can I get in contact with someone who can get me started in the TeamMates program or answer more questions?

A. Contact: Ann Hackerott
Coordinator
TeamMates of Blair
402-278-0996 or 402-278-0528,
BlairteamMates@blairtm.org,
or visit TeamMates.org
for more about TeamMates
and an **on-line application** to become a TeamMates Mentor.