

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Fargo-Moorhead

GRATITUDE REPORT

2021



FRIENDSFARGOMOORHEAD.ORG



Our Program

WE COMMIT TO CHILDREN FOR THE LONG-TERM

Friends of the Children has redefined the youth mentoring field by creating the first and only long-term professional mentoring program in the country. Our model has been proven by third-party research to break the cycle of generational poverty.

We pair children facing multiple systemic obstacles with salaried, professional mentors, called Friends, from kindergarten through graduation.

12+ Years. No Matter What.

The positive impact of this commitment creates a ripple effect, extending to each child's siblings, caregivers, friends, community and eventually... to their own children.

We invite you to help change a child's story. On these pages you'll see not only the amazing outcomes we've already experienced in our chapter's short tenure, but our plans to create lasting social change in our community.

John H. Fisher Jr

JOHN H. FISHER JR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN FARGO-MOORHEAD

Stories of Impact

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

This year, Friend Daniel supported a single parent family experiencing compounding set backs. His work prevented child Mike* and his brother from being placed into foster care.



Daniel and Program Director, David, arranged for the children to stay with a family member while their father received mental health treatment. They also supported the children in getting to school, helped the family through an apartment fire, filled food, clothing and supply needs, and assisted with unexpected car repairs. The family's case worker recognized the support of Friends of the Children in keeping this family together.

**Child's name has been changed to protect the family's privacy.*

FRIENDS FARGO-MOORHEAD 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

2,919

Hours Were Spent in
One-on-One Mentoring

We Served

35

Children

47

Caregivers*

72

Siblings

3,510

Check-ins with
Caregivers

935

Check-ins with Teachers
& School Administration

16

Community
Enrollment
Partner Agencies

1,080

Outings with
Children & Friends

40+

Number of Children Referred to Friends Fargo-Moorhead by Partner Agencies, Illustrating the Immense Need in Our Community

**We use the term "Caregiver" because it encompasses all of the families we serve.*

Every child has a story.

No matter who they are or where they live, children have dreams of doing big things. They have unique talents, and they face obstacles. But some children face more obstacles than others. Things like systemic poverty, structural racism, childhood trauma, violence and homelessness.

This can seem overwhelming, and too complicated to solve. But it isn't. It takes two things:

Changing systems in the long term and changing a child's life right now.



FRIENDS' LONG-TERM

COMMUNITY IMPACT

2019

Founded in July

Hired First
Two Friends
(Professional
Mentors)

First 16
Children
(All Ages 4-6)
& Families
Enrolled

2021

Local Schools,
Social Services &
Shelters Actively
Referring Children

Services Continue
Throughout the
COVID Pandemic

Adding 2 Friends
& 16 Additional
Children Each Year

2023

First Class of
Children Enters
5th Grade

Friends Working
with Children to
Fuel Social/
Emotional
Growth, Self-
Awareness &
Confidence

2027

First Class of
Children Enters
High School

Friends Working
with Teens to
Build Life Skills,
Responsibility,
Perseverance &
Independence

2029

High Schoolers
Pursue Goals of:

Graduating or
Obtaining a GED

Avoiding the
Juvenile Justice
System

and Avoiding
Early Parenting

2031

First Class
Graduates, Each
With a Plan to:

Continue Their
Education

Enter the
Workforce

or Serve Our
Country

IT WORKS: The investment we make in each child is high, but helping ONE CHILD can save \$900,000 in social costs.

GROWTH PROJECTIONS



**Friends on Staff
Professional Mentors**



**Children Enrolled
& Families Supported**



**Development
Budget**

2022	8	64	\$800,000
2023	10	80	\$1,000,000
2024	12	96	\$1,200,000
2025	14	112	\$1,400,000
2026	16	128	\$1,600,000

OUR TEAM



John Fisher
Executive Director



David Kemper
Program Director



Jen Kalvoda
Operations Manager



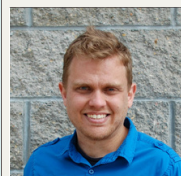
Chai Vang
Friend



Kristy Tran
Friend



Haley Heinen
Friend



Daniel Berg
Friend

Stories of Impact

YOU ARE MY PERSON

Friend Haley works with Jodi* whose trauma early in life makes it hard for her to regulate her emotions. After a particularly strong outburst on an outing, Haley learned Jodi's caregiver had been incarcerated.



Because of their strong relationship, Haley is able to provide a safe space for Jodi to work through her anger. Haley now has been given access to connect with Jodi's therapist to continue working through the calming exercises she learns in therapy. Jodi's school social worker also reaches out when concerns pop up in the classroom, and they feel Jodi could use extra support. Jodi recently shared with Haley, "I'm so glad you're my person."

**Child's name has been changed to protect the family's privacy.*

OUR LONG TERM OUTCOMES

Since Friends of the Children began over 25 years ago, we have been tracking outcomes, and the results are remarkable:



83% of youth
graduate high school



92% enroll in post-secondary
education, serve our country,
or enter the workforce



98% avoid early
parenting



93% avoid the juvenile
justice system

WE NEED YOU!

Our program is FREE for children and families in need of a Friend. We are able to continue our 12+ year commitment and grow to serve more local children solely through grant funding and donations.

By donating online at friendsfargomoorhead.org or partnering with us through an individual, foundation or corporate gift, you can personally help break the cycle of generational poverty the Fargo-Moorhead community.

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN FARGO-MOORHEAD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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