

TeamMates ends year with more matches

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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The local TeamMates mentoring program ended the school year with 49 mentor-student matches, the largest number in the program's 11-year history, according to local coordinator Lindsey Tederman.

Tederman said the goal of the program is for adult mentors to see students reach their full potential through an hour of mentoring a week.

"It also provides matches with unique opportunities off campus," she said.

This past year, mentors and mentees experienced a bowling party, a tailgate party with free entry into a school activity, a winter banquet at Monsanto and several volunteer opportunities.

A large group of TeamMates also traveled to the spring Husker football game at Memorial Stadium in April.

While in Lincoln, the three seniors in the program—Brittney Earll, Nikki Hines and Carlie Stevens—were honored during a graduation ceremony at Saltdogs Stadium that included a walk across home plate and a picture with former Husker football standout Eric Crouch.

Tederman said the TeamMates board also provided scholarships to two seniors who have been in the program from fifth grade through their senior year.

Six volunteers make up the TeamMates board. They are Laurie Brown, Randy Burge, Ryan Groene, Maureen Olson, Lindsey Tederman and Randy Waskowiak.

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Tederman said their behind-the-scenes work ensures TeamMates can operate on donated and raised money.

For example, the board hosts a tailgate party before a home football game, serves a Nebraska Pork Producers meal before the annual Adrian Fiala golf tournament and this year served meals at Gothenburg State Bank's NestFest and a certified BBQ competition in Gothenburg.

Tom and Nancy Osborne founded the statewide program in 1991 and the Gothenburg Chapter of TeamMates began in 2002 with Gwen Fecht and Chuck Titkemeier serving as co-coordinators.

In 2008, Tederman took over as coordinator. Amanda Rossell will become the newest coordinator in June.

Rossell is conducting training sessions for those interested in becoming mentors.

Mentors must be 18 years of age and must work to create a positive friendship and experience for his/her student. It is also the goal of TeamMates that mentors continue with their mentees until he/she graduates high school.

For more information, contact Rossell at 308-440-9417.