

Success Stories . . .

Mildred Berry Center

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Our Families... Our Future.

Lunch Buddies Success Story

Lunch Buddies is a school-based mentoring program funded in part from United Way of Rock River Valley. It links an adult volunteer with a child age 6-11 who is having difficulty in school. The meeting between child and adult takes place at the school during the lunch hour. Referrals are received by the teacher. Adult volunteers must commit to one year.

Natasha began participating in the Lunch Buddies program four years ago. She had been acting out in school and was having further behavioral problems at home. Some days she would not make it to school. She was paired with an adult volunteer named Cheryl and the two have been spending lunch together regularly for nearly four years. This simple act of spending one hour with Natasha, talking, listening, guiding, and supporting, has transformed her behavior. Since first beginning the program, Natasha's grades have improved significantly, she now attends school every day and she reports that no matter what happens to her before lunch, after meeting with her lunch buddy Cheryl, she can "start her day over again." Since her first year with lunch buddies, she has asked to participate in the program every year. The consistency of the program and dedication of the volunteers goes a long way to helping the children in Lunch Buddies succeed.

At the beginning of each year the school and students wait to be contacted by the Lunch Buddy staff. When Lunch Buddies staff arrive in the cafeteria at the school, the children race to them to make sure they will be signed up!



Community Partner