

## Talent for TeamMates Competition Featured Students from Across LPS and the winners are...



**Sophia Wennstedt and Annemarie Schubert are the winners of the Talent For TeamMates Competition.**

After countless hours of practice, two auditioning events and some tense moments of preparation, 21 Lincoln Public School students featured in 18 musical acts gathered at St Mark's Church to participate in the first ever Talent for TeamMates Competition. The Talent for TeamMates Competition took place on Oct. 3, at St Mark's Church, 8550 Pioneers, from 4 to 6 pm, showcasing students who had been selected to represent their schools.

**And the winners are:**

Annemarie Schubert from Irving Middle School and Sophia Wennstedt from Lincoln Southeast High School were named winners by the panel of judges. Annemarie played the piece "Czardas" by Monti and was accompanied by Masako Bacon. Annemarie has been play-

ing the violin since she was 7-years-old, when she was hand selected by a teacher in Germany. Annemarie is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Irving Middle School. She said she enjoyed performing at the competition and would recommend participating next year to her friends. Sophia began playing piano at age 5, taught herself guitar at age 11, and showed her singing voice at 18 months. She has loved music as long as she can remember and now writes her own songs. Sophia's winning piece was one of her own songs entitled "Inside a Song." What was her favorite part of the Talent for TeamMates Competition? "Honestly," she said, "it was seeing all of the great talent that was out here." She is a senior at Lincoln

Southeast High School and is looking forward to going to college next year. She hasn't picked a college yet, but plans to study either mechanical or environmental engineering. Annemarie and Sophia will have the opportunity to perform during the 2010-2011 Lied Center season and Dietz Music House will provide a \$100 gift certificate to their schools.

**The judges had tough choices:**

The panel of judges included Dr. Marilyn Moore, Associate Superintendent for Instruction at LPS, Rod Bates, General Manager of NETV, Eddie Brown, former TeamMate and member of the popular band DFunk; Tony Hillhouse, sound production & IT and producer of the contemporary worship service for St. Mark's Church, Ken Siemek, television personality and meteorologist, KOLN/KGIN TV; Bill Stephan, Executive Director of the Lied Center for Performing Arts, and Barbara Zach, Executive Director of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra. The panel had their work cut out for them. The field of contestants had been narrowed from more than 140 acts from all of the schools. The 18 acts that were selected for the final competition were top competitors and exemplify the quality music programs at their schools.

The fundraising event for the

(Continued on page 2)

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*Inside this issue:*

Words From Walter	2
Toys For Tots	2
Talent for TeamMates cont.	2
Mentors to Mexico Trip	3
New Answers to Old FAQs	3
To Positively Impact World	4

*Mark Your Calendar*

*School Reminders*

- 2010
- Dec 11-Husker Women Basketball
- Dec 18-Husker Men's Basketball
- 2011
- Jan 27-Recognition Dinner

*Announcements and Kudos*

TeamMates  
Recognition Dinner  
"Twenty Years of  
Changing Lives"  
Thursday January 27th, 2011  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Lincoln Station, 201 N. 7th  
Register TODAY!  
Go to  
[www.lincolnteammates.org](http://www.lincolnteammates.org)

The TeamMates Recognition Dinner is attended by TeamMates mentors, mentees, parents, TeamMates school facilitators, board members, and other supporters of the program. At this event, we recognize our outstanding students and mentors.

*TeamMates thanks Lincoln Public Schools and the Faith-Based Partners for their support of the Talent for TeamMates Competition.*



## Words from Walter

By Walter Powell, Lincoln TeamMates Coordinator

With the holiday season fast approaching, I am reminded of the gift that you, as mentors, give each week to your mentee – the gift of time. Gratitude may not always be expressed during your meetings, but know that you are greatly appreciated.

We may not be afforded the opportunity to witness first-hand the impact you are having on your mentee, but know that you are impacting your mentee's life in ways that may not be possible without you.

*"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notation: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."* – Wilma Rudolph. Thank you for tapping into your greatness and helping a young person reach their potential and recognize the greatness that resides within them.

**TEAMMATES**<sup>™</sup>  
**MENTORING PROGRAM**  
 LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Sponsored in part by United Way

2—The Mentor, Fall 2010

## Toys For Tots

Lincoln TeamMates is pleased to have the opportunity this year to be involved with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation program sponsored by United Way of the Midlands.

Lincoln TeamMates will be able to serve 50 Lincoln Public School students. If you know of a child in need please read on to see how you can get involved! Download an application from the Lincoln TeamMates Web site

[www.lincolnteammates.org](http://www.lincolnteammates.org) - make as many copies as you need. We will be happy to send out copies as well.

### **Key Toys for Tots Facts:**

- \* Children ages 0-14 are eligible.
- \* Applications are available in both English and Spanish.
- \* Applications from LPS faculty and staff may be returned to the Lincoln TeamMates office via inter office mail from November 1 through December 3, 2010. All others should be mailed or

turned into the Lincoln TeamMates office, 5901 "O", 68510.

\* Ask the family if they are signed up with any other agency as duplications will be avoided.

\* Proof of Social Security numbers are required in the applications for all children receiving toys.

Please turn in the applications as soon as they are completed since we will only be able to serve 50 children. Once the applications are received, parents will be notified and they will need to pick up their toys from Lincoln Public Schools District Office on December 17th.

The Marines hope to provide two toys per child, plus books, games and stocking fillers.

Toys for Tots is a great opportunity for those in need and TeamMates is excited to participate in this special holiday event to serve Lincoln youth.

## Talent for TeamMates (continued from page 1)

Lincoln TeamMates was designed to be an event the whole family could enjoy and focus on our youth, said TeamMates Coordinator, Walter Powell.

It was also an event that involved a wide spectrum of "friends of TeamMates," ranging from the talented student musicians and Faith Based Partners to the schools and business community.

### **TeamMates thanks those involved:**

Emcee James Pond, from Broadcast House and Froggy 98, helped the Lincoln TeamMates thank those involved in making the event a success.

Event sponsors: Broadcast House/Froggy 98, St. Mark's Church, St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, Rembolt Ludtke, HyVee, Dietz Music, the Lied Center for Performing Arts & Williamson Honda. TeamMates thanks LPS and all of the administration, staff and faculty for their help with student support, ticket sales, promotions and use of the facilities. Also recognized for their support of the event are the Faith Based Partners, Christ United Methodist Church, First Plymouth

Congregational Church, Grace United Methodist Church, Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Sheridan Lutheran Church, South Gate United Methodist Church and Southwood Lutheran Church and St. Mark's United Methodist Church.



Talent for TeamMates Contest finalists, LtoR:  
 Front Row: Annemarie Schubert, Tomoko Yamau-chi, Riley Davis, Ashton Greenfield, Sophia Wennstedt, Elanor Jorgensen, Melissa Srb, Lydia Gall.  
 Middle row: Madilyn Piro, Emma Ebito, Michael Solberg, Calvin Sheldon, Saron Tessema, Eleanor LaDue, Claire Wilkinson, Katherine Stangl.  
 Back row: Prestyn Hartman, Danny Carraher, Justin Lepard, Andrew Schwimmer, Ian Beinlich.

# Winner of the 24 or More Club Trip to Mexico

Lincoln TeamMates congratulates Bill Venhaus. Venhaus was the winner of the 24 or More Club Trip to Mexico.

The trip was offered as incentive to mentors who had visited their mentee student 24 or more times through out the 2009-2010 school year.

The trip was also offered as an incentive to recruit new mentors. Any new mentor who completed and turned in a mentoring application by July 30<sup>th</sup> was also entered into the drawing for the trip. The trip was made possible by trip sponsors US Bank and KLKN TV

The 24 Or More Club members were recognized at the Fall Kick-off Dinner held at Lincoln High School on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Tom Osborne was the keynote speaker and members of the 24 Or More Club had photos taken with Nebraska's former coach and NU Athletic Director.

Dr. Steve Joel, LPS Superintendent, presented information about the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Joel outlined his career background and his long-time support for TeamMates. He shared the story of how he and his TeamMate had built their relationship while he was a part of the Grand Island TeamMates Chapter. Prior to coming to Lincoln in 2010, Dr. Joel served for ten years as superintendent in Grand Island and eight years in Beatrice.



## In their own words

*From TeamMates Students & Mentors:*

**While Cindy H. and Tiffany work together on projects they talk and share. When talking to others, Tiffany refers to Cindy as "my best friend, Cindy, my TeamMate."**

Brianna says, "Joyce S. is a great listener and I know she cares about me and I thank her for that."

**If big and genuine smiles are any indication, it is easy to see that Jayme Shelton and Traven enjoy spending time together. Indeed, when asked their favorite thing about being TeamMates, they both responded that they "get to hang out with each other."**

For more Mentor and Mentee stories and ideas, go to [www.lincolnteammates.org](http://www.lincolnteammates.org) and click on Mentors and TeamMates of the Month

## For Mentors: New Answers to Old FAQs

**Q. Can I meet with my mentee outside of school?**

A. Yes, if your mentee is in the 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade, you may choose to meet outside of school occasionally during the school year. It is not required.

**Q. What do I need to know?**

A. Who can go where:

All meetings outside of school must have the approval of the parent and school facilitator

Mentees in grade 3 may not participate in any outside of school meeting/event

Mentees in grades 4-5 may participate in outside of school events only if the event is sponsored by TeamMates

Mentees in grades 6-12 may participate in outside of school meetings/events that are local events and not in any private home (see your Mentor Training Manual for more information)

What is required:

A third party over the age of 18 must accompany you and your mentee to all events (except TeamMates sponsored events unless you are transporting)

the "Meeting Outside of School" form must be completed, (see our website ([www.lincolnteammates.org](http://www.lincolnteammates.org) under "For Mentors") or ask the facilitator at your school.)

If you transport the student, documentation of current vehicle insurance liability limits, vehicle license plate number and driver's license must be provided

If you have questions:

Call the TeamMates office at 436-1990  
Ask the TeamMates facilitator at your school.

**Q. Can I take a fast food or a sack lunch to my mentee?**

A. Federal School Lunch Regulations state that no food can be purchased and brought into the school during the lunch hour for any student unless you are their parent.

**Q. Can I give my mentee money or gifts?**

A. TeamMates policy states mentors are not to give money or gifts of any size to their mentee. Gifts can become an expectation. Mentees visit with each other

and compare experiences. If some receive gifts and others do not, mentees may not understand and feel left out. Time is the important and extremely valuable gift you are giving.

**Q. Can I buy a game or craft project to do with my mentee?**

A. Yes! You may purchase any reasonable item for the purpose of mentoring. You may ask the facilitator if you can leave it at the school, or you may carry it with you to each meeting.

**Q. The time and day that I currently mentor does not allow me to meet with my mentee for one full hour. Should I try to get the meeting time changed?**

A. If the current schedule works well for your mentee, you and the school, there is no need to change it. Because of individual school and student schedules, TeamMate mentors meet with their mentees for varying lengths of time up to one hour. We still consider it as one hour for the visit. Thanks for fitting in with the time frame available!

**Return Service Requested**

Lincoln TeamMates  
Phone: (402) 436-1990  
lincolnteammates.org  
Email: teammates@lps.org

*The Mentor* is printed quarterly by TeamMates™ of Lincoln to inform, inspire and engage the mentoring community. “Our mission is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring.”

*Our mission: “...to POSITIVELY IMPACT the WORLD”*



**Mike and David  
NOVEMBER TEAMMATES**

For David, a senior at Northeast high school, the most important element of his TeamMates experience is that he has someone to talk to.

David and Mike have established the kind of relationship in which David feels he can talk to Mike about anything. Mike’s help with homework has also been a key.

In previous years they’ve worked on history, reading, math and Spanish. This year they’ve mostly spent time on literature and history.

“I’ve come a long way,” David said. Mike helped him realize how important it is to focus on homework. “He helped me become more outgoing and to be more confident.”

With pride in his voice, Mike added, “He has mostly As and Bs across the board.” The two have sports in common as well. David appreciates that Mike comes to

his swimming, diving and track meets – and the connection between academics and sports.

“Sports keep you on track. It is a privilege to play, so you have to keep your grades up. Academics come before sports.”

They are both looking forward to attending the TeamMates Recognition Event in January. Mike and David have attended together in previous years and David said he’s enjoyed hearing the speakers. College is definitely the next step. David wants to combine his special interests and hopes to pursue a career that includes public speaking, perhaps counseling and working with youth, possibly as a youth pastor.