



December 2024 Newsletter



EHS Mentor Lauren and her buddy

Mentor

My experience with Athletes for Kids has been one of the most rewarding and joyful parts of my life. Mentoring my buddy has allowed me to build a meaningful connection with an incredible young person while witnessing her grow in confidence and joy, which has been truly heartwarming. Whether we're playing games, sharing stories, or simply spending time together, every moment has reinforced my belief in the importance of lifting others up and being a consistent, positive presence in someone's life. This mentorship has left a lasting impact on me, and the joy I have found in my time with my buddy is something I will carry with me forever. Athletes for Kids has shown me the transformative power of mentorship and deepened my commitment to serving and supporting my community. I feel incredibly grateful to have been part of such a meaningful program and to have built this special bond with my buddy.

Mentee Parent

Lauren was matched with our daughter last year and the difference it has made in her life has been incredibly positive. Given that they are close in age, I was worried that it would be awkward for both of them, but they've settled into an easy friendship. They are both high schoolers attending the same school and Lauren has made it a point to introduce our daughter to her friends and include her in their activities. Our daughter looks forward to hanging out with Lauren and I believe in Lauren she has made a lifelong friend.

Mentee

I really like Lauren. She is so kind and always makes time to spend with me. We hang out at school sometimes, and sometimes we go out in the community. We do things like feeding the ducks, going to the dog park, and making cookies. She has become one of my closest friends and I am glad that she and I are part of AFK.

Join Us on Giving Tuesday!

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

What are you doing on Tuesday, December 3rd? It's Giving Tuesday - a global day of giving where people all over the world come together to support their favorite nonprofits.

In lieu of our annual gala, AFK Youth Mentoring is participating in Giving Tuesday and our goal is to raise \$10,000! These funds will be used to support multi-year mentorships between high school athletes and children with special needs and disabilities. We'll only reach this goal through the kindness and generosity of people like you.

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With Gratitude

**Bellevue Breakfast
Rotary
Club**



Thank you to the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club!

For the fourth year in a row, Athletes for Kids has partnered with the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary for their All in for Autism race. On April 28th. 100 AFK mentors

volunteered at the annual race. Whether they were course monitors, water station supporters or part of a cheering contingent, the mentors were all smiles and excited to be part of such a fantastic community event. Over 40% of the buddies in the program have autism and Athletes for Kids was excited to partner once again with the BBR. For the efforts of the mentors as well as countless hours of Athletes for Kids staff time, we were awarded a very generous check from the BBR. These monies will go directly back into the program. Thank you BBR, and we look forward to working with you again next year.

AFK Moments



As we look back on a month of memories, we look forward to more friendship moments and choosing kindness, acceptance, and inclusion every day.

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