There was no TeamMates program in Gothenburg when Amanda (Bryant) Rossell was in high school.

But when the 1995 Gothenburg High School graduate and her family moved back to town a year ago, she quickly learned about the mentoring organization when she joined the TeamMates board.

TeamMates matches adult mentors with students. Mentors meet with students during the school year and sometimes during the summer.

The mission of the program is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to meet their full potential.

Rossell, who also works as a receptionist at Eastside Animal Center, was encouraged by employer Randy Burge to join the board.

Burge is a board member.

While on the board, Rossell learned that former coordinator Lindsey Tederman planned to resign.

She applied for the position and got the job.

As coordinator, Rossell will recruit new mentors, organize fund raisers and submit reports and records to the state organization.

Rossell will also train new mentors and be in the TeamMates office in the high school weekly.

She said she likes the local TeamMates program because it’s a way for people in the community to be more connected to the school.

For example, many mentors attend the fine arts and sports activities of their mentees.

The former high school social studies teacher said she wanted the job because she loves kids.

“And I wanted to give back to the community,” Rossell said.

Although she doesn’t plan any changes initially, Rossell said mentors are needed, especially males.

At the end of the school year, the local TeamMates organization had 49 mentor-student matches, the largest number in the program's 11-year history.

TEAMMATES

Together We Transform Lives

TeamMates was founded in 1991 by University of Nebraska head football coach Tom Osborne and his wife, Nancy.

The program began with 22 football players who met with middle school students in Lincoln Public Schools.

TeamMates has expanded to include more than 6,000 youth in 115 communities across Nebraska, Iowa and California.

A 1995 graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Rossell earned a degree in secondary education.

She taught at Minden Public Schools for 12 years before the family returned to Gothenburg to be closer to family.

Rossell is married to 1993 GHS graduate Corey Rossell who is self employed in construction.

The couple has two children: MaKenzie, 10; and Tra, 8.

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