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The rewards that come from overcoming the fear and building a friendship, Jones said, are tremendous for everyone involved. In many cases the persons in the friendship learn a

great deal from each other.

"The program opened my eyes," Jones said. "It helped bring down my fears of what disabled is.

"For any volunteer, there's a growth that happens," Jones said. "You go in thinking

you'll help the person with the disability, but in actuality they're helping you.'

Friendship and self-esteem are only some of the rewards the disabled person receives from the program. Jones said. In addition, they enjoy the oneon-one attention, new experiences, and the companionship found in any friendship.

For University students, the program offers that companionship and a chance to learn beyond what the classroom can

"Things like this are so much more valuable to me than sitting in a classroom." Moen said. "I finally feel like I'm learning something. I'm so excited about this, because you're actually out there doing it.

'Even if it wasn't in your major." she said. "there's so much you can gain from giving of yourself."



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