




**Kinship**

**2009**  
**Annual Report**



# 2009 Volunteers

We gratefully acknowledge these volunteers for sharing their time and talents with Kinship Kids

## Board Members ~

Board volunteers provide governance to Kinship, insuring a clear mission and resources to achieve it.



Board member Erika Randall finds her Reading Buddy, Chris, eagerly waiting for her on Thursdays. After eating lunch together, they read for 20 minutes.

Gregg Bervig  
Brittany Boe  
Renee Brauer  
Dave Collins  
Jan Coumbe  
Linda K Hansen  
Carter Hedeem  
Del Holz  
Terry Morris  
Kathy Peterson  
Erika Randall  
Bill Simpson  
Barb Thomason

## Reading Buddies ~

Volunteers matched with first graders at Century School eat lunch and read with them every other Tuesday or Thursday from October through April. They offer each child friendship, undivided attention, encouragement and share with them their love of reading.

Bill Bair  
Lynn Bair  
Margo Bartness  
Brian Behrens  
Jan Belshan  
Pat Cadreau  
Mike Childs  
Nikki Davis  
Betty Fuller  
Debbie Haas  
Elaine Hanson  
Sheila Hastings  
Carter Hedeem  
Paul Howes  
Erna Johnson  
Kathie Kavolak  
Edith Kufus  
John LaFrance  
Joyce LaFrance  
Judy Lentz  
Sarah Lester  
Karen Lundstrom  
Gail Manlove  
Kathy Medellin  
Carol Nelson

Betty Norlin  
Trudy Overmyer  
Jack Parisian  
Pam Parisian  
Patricia Pederson  
Erika Randall  
Cathy Reich  
Brittany Roach  
Linda Schissel  
Robert Schissel  
Coral Schmitz  
Diane Schmitz  
Iris Shepard  
Ken Shepard  
Cassy Smith  
Carolyn Spangler  
Maurice Spangler  
Jolly Stuemke  
Phil Stuemke  
Jodi Sullivan  
TJ Tjaden  
Linda Warmbold  
Linda Wurm  
Barb Zahlen

## 2009 Volunteer Mentors ~

Volunteers matched with children aged 6-18 share an hour or more weekly with a child in an activity they both enjoy. Through these friendships, a Kinship youth's self-confidence grows, and in turn, volunteers find themselves gaining far more than they give.

Dave & Amy Anderson  
Dennis Anderson  
Gregg Bervig  
Terese Bervig  
Kevin Brauer  
Renee Brauer  
Vicki & Gordon Breun  
Mike Cohrs  
Edie Evarts  
Mary & Rich Frahm  
Elaine Hanson, Neil King  
Sheila Hastings  
Deane & Jill Johnson  
Greg Johnson  
Sherry Johnson  
Marilyn & Hank Kaping  
Dick & Karen Kok  
Donna Lampl  
Mia Long  
Dennis Mackedanz  
Joel & Mary Maxwell  
Raeann Mayer  
Tom & Bonnie Miller  
David Niemela  
Steve Norlin  
Carol Schellack



Mary & Rich Frahm check out Damion's photos after hiking at Itasca State Park

Lowell Schellack  
Phil & Liz Smith  
Phil & Jolly Stuemke  
Barb & Mark Thomason  
Kenneth Thompson  
Arnold Valentin  
Candy Weinzierl  
Bonnie Welch  
Steve Wilkie  
Steve & Barb Zahlen  
Dan Zimmerman  
Lezli Zimmerman

Mentors Mark Thomason, Lezli Zimmerman and Mia Long team up with Jessica and Damion to package food for Kids Against Hunger at St John's Lutheran Church



# 2009 Donors

**We gratefully acknowledge those who made financial gifts to support the mission of Kinship of the Park Rapids Area from January 1 to December 31, 2009. Donors are recognized for accumulative gifts made throughout each calendar year.**

## **Advocate (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

Mentoring Children of Prisoners

## **Mentor (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Dean Hayes  
Hubbard County Child Abuse  
Prevention Council  
Denny & Linda Hunt  
Itasca Mantrap Coop Trust  
NorthStar Orthodontics, Inc  
Pine Manor, Inc.  
Northwoods Dental, Tina Robin  
St. Joseph's Area Health Services

## **Guide (\$500 - \$999)**

Gregg & Terese Bervig  
Calvary Lutheran Church  
Carter & Florence Hedeem  
Del & Alice Holz  
Itasca Mantrap Coop  
Jay Jorgenson, DDS  
NorthStar Charitable Foundation—  
Scott Richards  
Jennifer Therkilsen & Duane  
Gebhard  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Township of Straight River  
Wal-Mart Foundation

## **Role Model (\$250 - \$499)**

Evergreen Lodge  
Bob & Mary Berdahl  
John & Sheila Hastings  
Hubbard United Methodist Church  
Mary Larsen  
John & Brenda Mason  
Nevis Lions Club  
Park Rapids New Car Dealers/  
Thielen Motors/Park Rapids Chrysler  
Guy & Cathy Reich  
Riverside United Methodist Church  
Bill & Nora Simpson  
Maurice & Carolyn Spangler  
Trinity Episcopal/Presbyterian Church



*Alycia plays fetch with  
Coco at Andersen's July  
Swim Party*

*Steve Zahlen & Kyler  
(below). Jackie (right) plays  
her favorite game of Sorry  
with Deane Johnson while  
Edie Evarts plays Uno .*



*Jade, Caiden, Kyron, Kasarra,  
Jennifer and Ana listening to  
a story at the Sons of Norway  
& Kinship Christmas Party*



## **Supporter (\$100 - \$249)**

Arago Township  
Ralph & JoAnn Badger  
Bethany Women's Ministry  
Brittany Boe  
Richard Cox  
Dennis Dodge  
Tim & Sue Fisher  
Greg & Joan Grover  
Gail Haas  
Marilyn & Hubert Hanson  
Hendrickson Township  
Neal & Carol Holter  
Roman & Joy Horejsi  
Hubbard United Methodist  
Church Women  
Itasca Park Ministry  
Steve & Glenda Johnson  
Marilyn Kaping

Cal & Jan Kehr  
Ben & Lisa Koppelman  
LA Rossman Distributing, Inc.  
Fran & Lyle Laske  
Mia & Steve Long  
Dick Longtine & Sarah Loktu  
Curt & Betty McCabe  
Bill & Kathryn Medellin  
Dick & Judy Miller  
Jay & Judy Mondry  
Rod & Marie Nordberg  
Dick & Jane Nunn  
Park Rapids BP  
Park Rapids Walker Eye Clinic  
Royce & Kathy Peterson  
Dorothy & Tony Platz  
Erika & Nickolas Randall  
Riverside United Methodist Women

Craig & Melissa Rossman  
Phil & Brita Sailer  
Donald & Clarice Schieck  
Ken & Iris Shepard  
Bill & Nora Simpson  
Richard Hamilton Smith Photography  
& Melodee Moniken  
Super 8 Motel  
Tony & Carol Szymczak  
Thomason Law Office  
Township of Hubbard  
Trading Post  
TruStar Federal Credit Union  
Michael & Janine Weideman  
West Central Telephone  
Ruth Wibe  
Donna Wilcox  
Michael & Mari Willie



# Community Rallies to Support Children

By Del Holz, President of the Board

Thanks to record numbers of volunteers as well as individuals, organizations and businesses who made donations, Kinship of the Park Rapids Area is now serving more children and families than ever before.

In 2009 we saw:

- 15 new volunteers stepped forward to be screened and trained as Mentors
- 35 Child/ Mentor Matches in place by end of the year
- 32 first graders have their own Reading Buddies in Park Rapids
- Monthly group activities offered fun for Kinship kids and mentors
- Plans formulated to begin Reading Buddies in Nevis in 2010
- Special group activities initiated for older Kinship youth in grades 7-12
- Support for current matches through staff follow-up with mentors, parent and/or guardian, and youth.
- Board members developed and followed a plan to bring financial stability to the organization.
- Northwoods Bank built and donated a clubhouse that raised funds and awareness for Kinship through a raffle
- Local businesses supported Kinship with hosting the clubhouse, gifts of cash, in-kind donations and commitments to multi-year pledges
- Rotary Club of Park Rapids gave tickets to their fundraiser basketball game so all Kinship Kids could attend with their mentors
- Churches hosted Kinship group activities, sponsored Heavenly Cash for Kids, promoted events in their newsletters and bulletins and made special donations
- Local newspapers and radio stations supported recruitment of new volunteers with feature articles and radio spots seeking new members
- Generous individuals, businesses, and organizations gave donations sufficient to meet and surpass budget obligations.



Board President, Del Holz, typifies Kinship board members by supporting the organization in multiple ways. Here he is chief cook at the Kinship Fish Fry.

Some say it takes a village to raise a child. We at Kinship know that to be true. We are so pleased that the people in our local villages are willing to invest their time, trust and treasures in children through Kinship.

We anticipate having more good news to share with you for 2010 as new applications continue strong for Kinship Kids, Mentors and Reading Buddies. We will remain good stewards of our resources and staff insuring the high quality of Kinship programs as they grow, responding to community needs, and continuing to be efficient and effective.

Thank you for your generous support which insures that *Kinship Connects Adults With Kids and Puts Hope In Their Hearts.*

## 2009 Tributes & Memorials

Many thanks to those who chose to honor a loved one or their memory with a gift that will result in a child having a friend, something to look forward to every week, and hope for a brighter future. Tribute and Memorial gifts to Kinship help connect adults with kids and put hope in their hearts. Gifts to the Kinship Endowment Fund make especially meaningful memorial gifts as they continue generating income for Kinship in perpetuity. We are pleased to honor these special individuals and to recognize the donors.

### **In honor of:**

All children ~ Char & Rod Westrum  
Margo Bartness ~ Terry Bartness  
Alma Brauer ~ Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Kevin Brauer ~ Eddie Neidviecky and Brittany Boe  
Alma Brauer  
Kevin & Renee Brauer ~ Dorothy & Tony Platz  
Ruth Wibe, Hubert & Marilyn Hanson  
Mike Cohrs ~ Ethan Neidviecky and Brittany Boe  
Kinship Mentors ~ Maurice & Carolyn Spangler  
Ruth Wibe ~ Kevin & Renee Brauer

### **Merry Christmas**

Harold & Helmi Becker ~ Tod & Renee Becker  
Kevin Brauer ~ Ruth Wibe

### **Happy Birthday:**

Kevin & Renee Brauer ~ Alma Brauer, Ruth Wibe  
Alma Brauer ~ Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Hollis Hiemark ~ Kevin & Renee Brauer

### **In memory of:**

Terry Bartness ~  
Margo Bartness  
Carter & Florence Hedeem  
Maurice & Carolyn Spangler  
Larry & Ruth Swenson  
Roberta Cox ~ Richard Cox & friends  
Charyl Gerring ~  
Frank & Bickey Bender  
Bill & Kathy Medellin  
Sylvia Gottormson ~  
Dick Longtine & Sarah Loktu  
Hank Kaping ~  
Deane & Jill Johnson  
Marilyn Kaping  
Maurice & Carolyn Spangler  
Jennifer Therikilsen

Olive King ~ Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Rollie Kufus ~ Edith Kufus  
Connor Nolan McGuire ~  
Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Adeline Musberger ~  
Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Jill Johnson  
Swede Nelson ~  
Jay & Judy Mondry  
Jennifer Therikilsen  
Al Potter ~ Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Inez Schissel ~ Bob & Linda Schissel  
Richard Walsh ~ Jay & Judy Mondry  
Ted Weyland ~  
Grant & Marsha Weyland  
Russell Wilcox ~ Donna Wilcox



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## Endowment Fund Growing for the Future

The Kinship Endowment Fund was formed to provide financial support for the program, projects and activities associated with the mission of Kinship of the Park Rapids Area.

It works like this:

Gifts designated to the Kinship Endowment Fund are permanently invested with only a portion of the *earnings* each year used to support Kinship. As the fund grows, it will generate greater earnings which can be used for annual operating funding. This will hopefully provide financial stability during rough times and/or funding to initiate new or special programs and services.

Bequests and memorial gifts to the Kinship Endowment Fund seem especially appropriate for persons who loved children. The gift given in their memory will generate permanent income to the Kinship program, year after year, helping to fund ongoing recruitment, screening and support of mentors who befriend children in need.

The Kinship Endowment Fund is administered as part of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF), a regional community foundation. NMF is a 501(c)3 charitable non-profit and all gifts to the fund are deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

You can help build the Kinship Endowment Fund by making a gift. Your gift can be made out to Kinship Endowment Fund and sent to either the Kinship office or NMF office. You can also donate on-line through the NMF website [www.nwmf.org](http://www.nwmf.org) at Make a Donation.



## 2009 Donors to Kinship Endowment Fund

Terry & Margo Bartness  
Brittany Boe  
Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Carter & Florence Hedeon  
Del & Alice Holz  
Andrew & Dannon Keitzman  
Curt & Betty McCabe  
Edith Eliason Noeske  
Dorothy & Tony Platz  
Jennifer Therkilsen & Duane Gebhard