



# Kinship Konnections

Volume 17, Issue 5

October, 2010

## Save the Date—Mark Your Calendar Now!

Please remember that all Kinship Group Activities are optional for you and your Kinship kid. They are a service provided by the Activities Committee of the Kinship Board of Directors. Enjoy them and have fun!

### Package Food for Kids Against Hunger

November 16 Tuesday, 5:30—7:30

#### St. Peter's Catholic Church

(Use the parking lot on the corner of Court Avenue and 4th Street. Enter the north door closest to the two-stall garage, which is the kitchen entrance.)

This activity is back by popular demand!

First we will feed ourselves with spaghetti, garlic toast and treats left from the Spaghetti Dinner. Then we will form teams to measure ingredients, bag, seal, count and pack nutritious meals to be distributed locally and around the world. This is a wonderful opportunity for Kinship kids to experience working together with a mixed age team to benefit others. They leave with a real sense of accomplishment after having a fun time.

#### RSVP to facilitate Packaging Set-Up Planning

### Old Fashioned Christmas Party

With the Sons Of Norway

Thursday, December 2nd

#### Riverside United Methodist Church

(1005 North Park Avenue /Hwy 71 North)

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner

Carols, Games and a Gift Bag for Kids

RSVP to Kinship for a Gift Bag

## “After the Drop Off”

### Kinship Mentor Fall Training Session

with Jessica Burkhamer

November 1, Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm

St. Joseph's Area Health Services,

Lower Level Conference Room A

National speaker, published author, local therapist, and parent Jessica Burkhamer is familiar with many Kinship kids and youth. She will help us explore our feelings and receive strategies to help cope after we have spent some quality time with our Kinship kids and then return them to the environment that may contribute to their challenges.

## Pumpkin Carving & Bon-Fire

Thursday, October 28

5:30 TO 7:00 pm

### St John's Lutheran Church

(west end on town, right side of 34)

A NOTE from Kinship Chef Terry Morris:

This year for Kinship's Halloween get-together we are going to make a Goblin's Stew for the kids. This is for all the mentors and adults that are coming. I thought it would be fun to put things in the stew and pretend they are body parts. I am bringing hot dogs and use them as fingers. Stuffed olives could be used as eyeballs. Celery could be in long strips and used as bones. Get creative and come up with something. I'M THINKING OF Tomato juice for a bloody base. I think it would be just a fun thing to have with the kids and put them in the mood. For drink we are going to make a witch's brew and if anyone has a good idea on how we could give apple cider or hot chocolate a scary twist, let Jennifer or me know. I'm game for anything.

RSVP for a pumpkin for your Kinship Kid

## Thank You for Your Support!

Many of you and your Kinship kids helped with the Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, September 24th. There was lots of good food, good company and good fun. Special thanks to Marilyn Kaping for chairing the event and all who baked or helped prepare, serve or clean up: Amy, Trudy, Lezli, Jill, Vicki, Raeann, Bonnie, Rene, Barb, Sherry, Cliff, Dave G, Del O, Terese, Jolly, Phil, Kathie, Sue, Bonnie, Edie, David N, Dennis, Beth, Sheila, Rich & Mary, Dan, Kathy P, Bill, Erika, Brittany, Gregg, Del H, Terry, and Joel!

During the summer months, the Kinship Clubhouse raffle ticket sales generated important income for the Kinship program thanks to Terese, Kevin, Renee, Edie, Mary & Rich, Sheila, Deane, Greg, Kathie, Joel, Gregg, RaeAnn, Bonnie, Del & Peg, Phil & Jolly, Sue, Barb, Cliff, Candy, Steve W, Del H, Bill, Erika, Kathy, Terry, Carter, Brittany, and Barb!

## Rules, Policies, Insurance & All That Jazz

I was complaining to our insurance agent the other day about all of the fun activities Kinship has to say are forbidden (like snowmobiling, riding ATVs, hunting, rock climbing, shooting anything, driving anything, etc.) and she explained it like this:

It is state law that first liability for any driving accident falls on the driver's (mentor's) personal insurance. Kinship insurance would come into play only once your insurance is exhausted. It is also state law that no one drive without insurance, so be sure to keep your policy current! (I know you do)

Likewise, for any other situation, your personal insurance policies will be primary; Kinship's coverage is secondary and in the case of any activity that is forbidden in our Risk Management Policy (included for your review), Kinship's insurance will not cover.

I share this not to frighten you, but just to encourage you to check your liability insurance and review the

## Welcome New Mentor!

Bob Kaumans moved with his family from Eagle Bend to Park Rapids this summer and applied to become a Kinship mentor within one month! He is a social worker for Hubbard County who enjoys the out-of-doors, sports and kids. Look to welcome him at group activities as he will soon be matched with a boy eager for companionship.

## Violence Prevention Grant Funding

Raeann Mayer, a Kinship mentor and employee of St Joseph's Area Health Services, is working about four hours per week as Kinship staff, thanks to a Violence Prevention Grant funded to St Jo's. Her primary focus is to recruit male mentors to match with boys who need a positive friend and role model. Because our program had reached capacity, she has been managing all new matches and is taking follow-up responsibilities for some existing matches. She will also be leading mentor training sessions for new mentors.

Raeann is wonderful ~ capable, competent, and caring! Welcome Raeann!

## Kinship Web-Site Coming Soon!

The Kinship web-site will soon go live! There will be a special password protected section for Mentors with the directory, a photo directory, these newsletters, and other pertinent information available at your fingertips. Thanks to a Compassion Capitol Fund grant from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, we'll soon be on the web!

Risk Management Policy. There have been no lawsuits, and I expect there will be none. But I would hate to see anyone suffer the consequences of an unfortunate situation because they were not informed of the current rules and policies.

Safety first! Then enjoy your Kinship Kid! Jennifer



2010  
Kinship  
Spaghetti  
Dinner  
September 24



Thanks to all who  
attended and  
helped in any way!  
It was a successful  
event and day!





A \$500 Itasca Mantrap Elec Coop Operation RoundUp grant made a retreat for Kinship Youth (6th graders and up) to Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center possible. Ten youth and eleven adults learned lots, developed new skills, strengthened friendships and had a fabulous time!



# Happy Anniversary Kinship Mentor Matches

Congratulations to the following mentors who have been matched with their Kinship Kid for at least one year! Research shows that the longer the match, the greater the impact it is likely to have in a young person's life. It is obvious to me that our Kinship Mentors play a very important role in our Kinship families—even when they do not yet recognize it themselves or find ways to let you know. THANK YOU for being a Kinship Mentor!

September 3, 2009 ~

Lezli Zimmerman & Jessie

September 29, 2005 ~

Bonnie Welch & Alycia

October 6 ~

Rich & Mary Frahm & Damion

October 14, 2008 ~

Joel & Mary Maxwell & Michael

October 16, 2006 ~

Dave & Amy Andersen

October 22, 2009 ~

Steve & Barb Zahlen & Kyler

October 26, 2009 ~

Phil & Jolly Stuemke & Caiden

November 5, 1999 ~

Lowell Schellack & Logan

November 24, 2009 ~

Raeann Mayer & Monica

November 25, 2009 ~

Dick & Karen Kok & Kyron

November 27, 2007 ~

Deane & Jill Johnson & Shania

December 4, 1997 ~

Marilyn Kaping & Dillon

December 8, 2009 ~

Liz & Phil Smith & Jackie

December 9, 2004 ~

Renee Brauer & Mikaela

## Halloween Entertainment for Kinship Youth

Park Rapids High School's Fall Play this year is a halloween comic thriller entitled "Halloween Screams". It will run on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 29th and 30th at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium. The story is about a theater group in the town of Chestnut Hollow, that helps to transform the community center's basement as part of it's haunted house, to raise funds for the scholarship program. Little do they know that the basement is already haunted and the troupe unearths the grisly secret that has been buried in the basement for over 200 years.

Audience members can come in costume on Saturday after the downtown "Trick & Treat", to add to the fun of this All Hallows Eve .

This funny play is very scary and is NOT RECOMMENDED for elementary age or sensitive children.

Tickets are \$4 students & seniors, \$6 adults.



## Kinship 4-H Club— You Can Join!

by Raeann Mayer

All Kinship Mentors and Children are invited to a newly formed Kinship 4-H Club. Mark Haugen, U of MN Extension, Hubbard County 4-H Program Coordinator, is working with Sherry Johnson and Raeann Mayer to bring a 4-H Club to the Kinship program. The first meeting will be Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the 8<sup>th</sup> hour room in Century School from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m.

Group members will participate in monthly activity based project learning on a variety of subjects such as Gardening, Photography, Creative Arts or other youth decided project areas. We hope to create a sense of belonging for youth by creating a "Club Project" that all club members complete cooperatively. Overall, the club will focus on developing healthy lifestyle skills of members through incorporation of exercise/active lifestyle, teaching skills of making healthy snacks and participation in relaxation activities such as yoga.

The group will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. **If you are interested in being involved with your Kinship child, call Mark at 732-3391.**