

A Newsletter of  
Kinship of the  
Park Rapids Area

Summer 2012  
Volume 5, Issue 1

# Connecting With Kinship Celebrating 20 Years



Founders and board members celebrated Kinship's 20 years of serving children at a luncheon sponsored by State Bank on May 22. Attendees included, front row: Raeann Mayer, Ruth & Bob Foster, Jennifer Therkilsen, Carolyn Spangler, Florence Hedeem, Bonnie Benham, Lynn Bair; second row: Linda Smith, Linda Hansen, Nancy Utke, Pam Hereen, Erika Randall, Bill Simpson, Mary Adams, Barb Thomason, Fran Laske, Kathy Peterson, Alice Holz; back row: Joel Maxwell, Jill May, David Collins, Jim Hereen, Carter Hedeem, Richard Magaard, Del Holz, Robert Tiffany, Arlys Hess, Maurice Spangler

Kinship Connects  
Adults With Kids  
And  
Puts Hope In  
Their Hearts

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## How did Kinship of the Park Rapids Area get started?

These notes from the founders give insight ~

*Florence Hedeem: The statistics showing Hubbard County to have the highest out-of-wedlock birthrate for teens in Minnesota first brought us together.*

*Raeann Mayer: Jill May wanted to establish a mentoring program for teen moms & after a lunch, we expanded our circle and included Marianne Gilbertson, the PR School nurse. She led us to the Foster's—and as the old saying goes, "the rest is history"*

*Jill May: I pulled together some key community members in my role as Extension*

*Educator for Hubbard County to look at teen issues. I wrote and submitted the grant to MN Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting that provided funding to start up Kinship and Youth Issues Network.*

*Marianne Gilbertson: I brought student issues to the table as a representative from the school... After Kinship got going and made some matches, I thought, Oh, Wow! This really does make a big difference for families!*

Continued on page 2

## Welcome New Mentor Matches!

Janelle Seikaniec and Arianna  
Olga Mosner and Haley  
Pam & Jim Heeren and Natalie  
Peg & Del Odegaard and Morgan  
Bob & Linda Schissel and Marcus  
Jeff Mosner and Cody  
Beth Baker-Knuttila and Viviana  
Lezli Zimmerman and Megan

## Thank You dedicated members of the Kinship Board of Directors 1992-2012:

Mary Adams, Bill Bair, Ginny Bair, Bonnie Benham,\* Gregg Bervig, Brittany Boe, Craig Brand\*, Renee Brauer,\* David Collins, Jan Coumbe, Donovan Dulski, Bob Foster, Ruth Foster\*, Jean Gustafson, Mary Haedt, Linda Hansen, Carter Hedeem, Florence Hedeem, Arlys Hess, Del Holz\* Ann Jacobson, Erik Jensen, Steve Johnson, Lorna Jones, Dave Keller, Dannon Kietzman, Laurie Knutson, Paul Knutson, Francine Laske,\* Dave Lawrence, Richard Maggaard, Jacque Masog, Joel Maxwell, Raeann Mayer, Jason McCollum, Judith Miller, Terry Morris, Phyllis Neuenfeldt,\* Todd Nordquist, Margaret Osika, Kathy Peterson,\* Erika Randall, Kathleen Shilson, Bill Simpson, Linda Smith, Barb Thomason, Robert Tiffany, Nancy Utke, Gary Walpole, Marilyn Whitchurch, Gina Williams, Dan Zimmerman.

(Continued from page 1)

*Bonnie Benham: I was working for Head Start so knew first hand of the need for children to have a “special someone” in their life—many parents were alone, working and tired so one-to-one with their children was rare.*

*Jacque Masog: I was a guardian ad litem for Hubbard County. This was just another manifestation of my deep concern and love of children. It was wonderful sitting at the table with people who cared enough about children to give them time and energy on their behalf.*

*Bob Foster: What drew me in was a combination of my teaching experience and my learning that the single most formative influence in a child’s life is an adult mentor.*

*Ruth Foster: Our compelling concern was to help kids. It was a tremendous privilege and joy to be in on the beginning of Kinship. I am so impressed with the way it has endured and grown.*

## Milestones through Kinship’s 20 Years

- 1993—First mentor match, Audrey Iverson with Michelle
- 1999—50th mentor match, Bob & Mary Haedt with Tomi
- 2004—100th mentor match, Diane Brophy with Mariah
- 2006—Reading Buddies starts in Park Rapids, serves 19 Kids
- 2009—150th mentor match, Liz & Phil Smith with Jackie
- 2010—Reading Buddies starts in Nevis, serves 9 students
- 2012 180th mentor match, Lezli Zimmerman with Megan
- Reading Buddies serves 30 students in PR
  - Nevis Reading Buddies serves 14 students
  - Board plans to grow mentoring program; seeks sustaining donors



*Enjoying time together at the 20th Anniversary Celebration luncheon are Kinship Executive Directors, Carolyn Spangler 1994 to 2008, Jennifer Therkilsen, current director since May of 2008, and Barb Thomason, who started the program in 1992 . Barb is a mentor and currently serves on the board of directors while Carolyn is a Reading Buddy .*

*Bill Simpson: I recall working on attaining the non-profit status for Kinship; we collected \$7 from each of the founders to pay the \$50 incorporation fee.*

*Jan Coumbe: I was just honored to serve on the board—to be along for the journey. There are always so many wonderful people involved. With all the bad news in the world, it’s always so refreshing to hear about Kinship. It is just the best program for our community, don’t you think?*

*We were unable to make contact with Jean Gustafson.*

*Barb Thomason: My task as the first staff person was to secure a grant so Kinship could spin-off and become self-supporting. As I was doing the grant research, I found numerous convincing case studies on the resiliency of children who had a caring adult in their life. Kinship has been connecting children with adults in the Park Rapids area and putting hope in their hearts ever since.*

## Kinship Group Activities



*Kinship youth, playing a rousing game of water volleyball, always love the January swim party at Kevin & Renee Brauer's home.*



*Steve Maanum captivated mentors and kids alike with his presentation on loons at the Mentor Appreciation Dinner at Riverside United Methodist Church in April.*



*Mackenna, Brennen and Kylie helping Brennen's mentor, David Niemela serve beverages at the May 11th Fish Fry. Lezli Zimmerman, event chair, and 54 Kinship volunteers served a delicious dinner for almost*



### **Northwoods Bank named 2012 Kinship Mini-Golf Tournament Champions**

Evergreen Gifts And Fun Park sponsored the 2nd Annual Benefit Tournament for Kinship on June 27th.

Twenty-three teams vied for the prestigious traveling trophy won for Northwoods Bank by Sheldon & Helen Griess and Pat & Bob Cadreau, shown above. Prizes were awarded to the top team of each fleet and for all who made a hole-in-one on the wacky holes: Three-year-old Brady Hirt was the only golfer to make it with a wobbly club; Linda Meyer and Kim May from Citizens Bank and Parker Harmon conquered the square balls; Jonathan Friedan and Jade Thelen won blindfolded!

The Northwoods Bank team had such a good time for a good cause they are ready to bring two teams next year. They challenge other businesses and organizations to join in the fun to support mentoring.

Thanks to the Tom & Barb Atwood family of Evergreen Gifts And Fun Park and all the golfers!

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### **All Proceeds Benefit Kinship:**

**Dorset House Ice Cream Social**  
**Thursday, Sept 6th, 5-8 pm**

**Spaghetti Dinner Extravaganza**  
**Friday, Sept 21, 5:30 to 7:30**  
**Century School Cafetorium**

Spaghetti, Garlic Toast, Salad, Dessert  
**Performances** by New Orleans Brass Band, Northland Studio of Dance, Classic Chorale, and more!

**Exhibits** by area Arts and Legacy organizations  
**Come, Eat to the Beat! Support Mentoring!**

# In Memory

Sweet Jackie is gone. I met her as a first grader in the Reading Buddies program, matched her with Liz Smith and watched them become fast friends. Within weeks Liz talked her husband Phil into becoming mentors for Jackie so they could spend more time with her. They were officially matched on Dec 8, 2009.



Since then they have gotten together for several hours every week the Smiths were in town. Always, they took time to read together. Jackie loved playing with Barbie dolls and in the playhouse at Liz & Phil's. She also enjoyed playing with their granddaughters and riding in the July 4th boat parade with them. Jackie eagerly tried new things and was happy to work at learning to ice skate, swim and ride bike with help from Liz and Phil. She and Liz found delight in a variety of projects, participated in numerous Kinship activities and baked lots of cookies ~ which causes me to remember that at Jackie's home interview, she said when she grew up she wanted to be a baker and a Reading Buddy... We will miss her gentle spirit and winsome ways, now treasuring our memories of her.

Jennifer

Jackie Edmunds-Bates January 2002 to July 2012

**Marilyn "Lynn" Bair** was a Reading Buddy at Century School for three school years until she became too ill to continue. She and her late husband, Bill, were long time supporters of Kinship. Bill was also an early Kinship board member. Lynn, like the other Reading Buddies, enjoyed giving her undivided attention to her engaging first grade buddy.



## Seeking Reading Buddies & Substitutes

"It's one of the most meaningful hours of my week."

"It is so delightful to spend time with these children, rejuvenating to experience their energy and gratifying to be a part of their learning to read."

If you would like to join a team of Reading Buddies in Park Rapids or Nevis, call Kinship at 732-0058. To learn more and download an application form go to [www.kinshipparkrapids.org](http://www.kinshipparkrapids.org) and click on Volunteer.

Reading Buddies runs from October through April.

## 20 Years of Kinship Volunteer Mentors—

You put the heart in 

Paul Albright  
Lewis Allin  
Pat Allison  
Dave & Amy Andersen  
Dennis & Ruby Anderson  
David Andress  
Beth Baker-Knuttila  
Jeremy Bartosh  
Ruth Beacham  
Allen & Kathy Belt  
Gregg & Terese Bervig  
Janeen Bittmann  
Kevin & Renee Brauer  
Vicki & Gordy Breun  
Diane Brophy  
Darlene Broughton  
Sheila Brustuen  
Dave Hanson  
Phil & Sharon Busch  
Angela Carlson  
Lisa & Gaylord Carlson  
Joshua Carpenter  
Katrina Carrier  
Martin Carter  
Doug & Lori Cheney  
Kathy Cheney  
Mike Cohrs  
Debra Crandall  
Scott Dahl  
Denise & Lewis Deitchler  
Matt & Rachel D'Incau  
Trisha Dunn  
Edie Evarts  
Frank & Sara Forsberg  
Rich & Mary Frahm  
David Gansen  
Jean & Chet Glogowski  
Boo Groth  
Bob & Mary Haedt  
Stacey Hanke  
David Hanson  
Elaine Hanson & Neil King  
Michelle & David Harris  
Sheila Hastings  
Therese Hauber  
Mark & Amanda Haugen  
Florence Hedeem  
Pam & Jim Heeren  
Alice Holz  
Jenny Huckbody  
Audrey Iverson  
Deane & Jill Johnson  
Greg Johnson  
Sherry Johnson  
Marya Kadow  
Marilyn & Hank Kaping  
Bob Kaumans  
Kathie Kavolak  
Dannon & Andrew Kietzman  
Dick & Karen Kok  
Donna Lampl  
Betty & David Larson  
Kay Larson  
Linda & Clark Linder  
Cindy Little  
Mia & Steve Long  
Karrin Luksik  
Fred & Karen Lundstrom  
Roberta Lutz  
Dennis Mackedanz  
Ken Manlove  
John & Brenda Mason  
Simona Massie  
Joel & Mary Maxwell  
Raeann Mayer  
Ron McLevis  
Tom & Bonnie Miller  
Jeff & Olga Mosner  
David Munsinger  
Janet Munson  
David Niemela  
Steve Norlin  
Del & Peg Odegaard  
Trudy Overmyer  
Myron Pauna  
Bonnie & Jack Pierce  
Paula Price  
Erika & Nicholas Randall  
Ardelle Reynolds  
Andy Roach  
Phil Sailer  
Lowell & Carol Schellack  
Sharon & Bob Schinnert  
Bob & Linda Schissel  
Gary Schwartz  
Elizabeth Shaw  
Janelle Siekaniec  
TJ Simon & Esther Potter  
Liz & Phil Smith  
Phil & Jolly Stuemke  
Curt & Sue Sumner  
Dee & Jerry Sundet  
Barb & Mark Thomason  
Ken & Judy Thompson  
Pat Thompson  
Joan Thorndycraft  
Karen Thorstad  
Lori Turner  
Cliff & Joan Tweedale  
Arnie Valentin  
Nathasha Walker  
Russ & Donna Walsh  
Candy Weinzierl  
Bonnie Welch  
Stan & Sue Westra  
Marilyn & David Whitchurch  
Steve Wilkie  
Kathy Williams  
Rose Williams  
Steve & Barbara Zahlen  
Dan & Lezli Zimmerman

## Kinship Youth Retreat to Deep Portage



Thanks to a grant from Itasca Mantrap Operation RoundUp, Kinship was able to take 9 youth and 9 mentors on an overnight retreat to Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center near Hackensack July 8 and 9. They participated in team building challenges, archery, swimming, canoeing, tower hike, orienteering, evening campfire and Pioneer Olympics .

### Raffle Drawing:

**August 25, 2012 at 5:30 PM**

**Heartland Park, Park Rapids, MN**

**Need not be present to win**

**Winners, in order drawn, choose their prize**

### 6'x8' Amish Built Clubhouse

Donated by



**42" Bear** by Artist, Scott Davis.

Donated by Trading Post

### 100 Fun Park Tickets.

Donated by

Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park



**\$200 T&M Express**  
Gift Card

Congratulations to Kinship founders, board members, volunteers and supporters for mentoring children in the Park Rapids Area for 20 years! You successfully maintained the organization as it moved from fully grant funded to fully community supported.



As a result of being in Kinship, there are young adults who entered the work force better prepared, with more social skills, confidence and connections. There are more students currently making the A and B honor roll in their schools, getting along better with their family members and planning for their own future. We are seeing more success and less trouble in the lives of our Kinship kids.

In its strategic planning this year, the Board recognized the strong need for Kinship and set goals for moderate growth in the next years. These plans, of course, are contingent on increased funding support. Thus, we are hosting Kinship's Amazing Chase on August 25th, and celebrating with the arts and culture of the area at our Spaghetti Dinner on September 21st. Please join us.

More pointedly, we invite you to become *sustaining* donors to Kinship, someone we can count on for a monthly or annual gift for 2-5 years, or until you decide otherwise. This will be of tremendous help as we work with our frugal budget.

May I suggest the model of **\$20 for 20**: \$20 (per month, quarter or year) to celebrate Kinship's 20 years AND to grow the program to serve 20 more children.

Appreciating all of the support you can give,  
Jennifer Therikilsen, Executive Director

### \$5 Clubhouse Raffle Tickets for sale:

<b><u>Park Rapids</u></b>	J&B Foods Customer Service Northwoods Bank Locations Evergreen Gifts And Fun Park Family Hair Affair • Fresh Catch Good Life Café • Northern Convenience Beagle Books • Park Ace Hardware Pizza Hut • PR Building Supply RiverBend Home Expressions T&M Express • Trading Post Wildwood Enchantment
<b><u>Akeley</u></b>	T&M Express
<b><u>Dorset</u></b>	Dorset House Restaurant Professor Nil's Photography
<b><u>Nevis</u></b>	Northwoods Bank T&M Express
<b><u>Osage</u></b>	Floor To Ceiling Store Osage Bait & Tackle



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## Quotes from Kinship Kids

At the mentor appreciation dinner in April, board president, Kathy Peterson, asked Kinship kids to write a few words about how they feel about being in Kinship. Read a sampling of their responses:

“Thank you for giving us kids the chance at having a caring adult in our life.”

“I love to just spend time with my mentor.”

“I like Kinship because it’s really fun and you get to meet with your friends and make new friends.”

“Kinship has made a huge difference in my life.”

“I like going swimming and somewhere without my family.”

“Me and Doug is going to make a rocket!”

“Kinship has given me the opportunity to meet someone who cares and helps plan my future.”

“I had the opportunity to meet two people I love so much now. I love my mentors!”

## Kinship’s Amazing Chase

Presenting Sponsors:

Citizens National Bank & St Joseph’s

**Sat, August 25th, 1-5 pm**

**Gather a team of 4-6 of your family and friends, compete in fun timed challenges in Park Rapids.**

Competition concludes with final challenge in Heartland Park at 5 pm.

**Your team could win up to \$1,000!**

**\$500 First Place prize**

**\$500 Bonus prize\***

\*See registration form for details

For info: [www.kinshipparkrapids.org](http://www.kinshipparkrapids.org) call 732-0058,  
email [kinship@unitelc.com](mailto:kinship@unitelc.com)

## Kinship Picnic

Sponsored by Park Rapids Rotary Club

***Celebrating 20 Years with Kinship  
Volunteers, Families & Supporters***

Watch final Amazing Chase competition

**Heartland Park, 5 pm**

Freewill Offering

**Raffle Drawing 5:30 pm**