



Kinship Konnections

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April 6, 2010

Kinship Calendar of Events

Kinship Spring Training

April 19, Monday, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Northwoods Bank, Community Room

“A Deeper Look into Your Kinship Kid’s World: Behaviors & Strategies” led by Dist #309 Special Ed staff Dawn Penning & Sara Hanson.

They will give an overview of many of the challenges kids today are dealing with - from ADHD to ODD to WKW. AND they will spend some time with us talking about strategies to use to help the kids be more acceptable, comfortable and successful. Presentation followed by discussion.

Mentor Appreciation Dinner

Thursday, April 29 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Riverside United Methodist Church
1005 North Park Avenue, PR

Bring your Kinship Kid. We plan to start gathering in the sanctuary at 5:30 to show slides from group activities. Arrive when you can. At 5:45 the mentors will gather in the lounge for punch & coffee while Kathy Peterson helps the kids do final preparations for dinner. Terry Morris will make a roast beef dinner that the kids will serve to you. Jill Johnson is planning some fun interactive get-acquainted activities for after dinner.

May—no group activities. We doubled up in February and March. Enjoy spring!

Bike Ride—June 24, Thursday 6:30 pm

Tentative plans call for meeting at Nevis Muskie Park and biking to Dorset House for ice cream. Bike back again. (sag wagon available) Older, experienced bikers could ride from PR to join us (it is a mile or two further than from Nevis). Transport and provide your own bikes and helmets.

July—Swim Party at Dave & Amy Andersen’s

August 15—Kamp Kinship at Spruce Hill Campground

September 24—Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at Century



February Board Games after Sledding; March Ski Event

Welcome New Mentors!

Phil Sailer—expect to find Phil and his Kinship kid, Nate, on trails biking, hiking and skiing, as well as on lakes fishing and sailing, or at Phil’s place tending the goats.

Steve Long—An avid outdoorsman, Steve is matched with Josh, an apartment dweller, who is looking forward to exploring new worlds! Steve has been indirectly involved with Kinship for years through his wife and mentor, Mia. He knows the routine; now he has his own Kinship kid.

Kathie Kavolak—is looking forward to soon being matched with Carol. Kathie and her husband live on Boot Lake.

Del & Peg Odegaard—as retirees on Gilmore Lake, Peg so enjoyed Nevis Reading Buddies, she & Del decided to become mentors! They will be matched in June after a “fixer upper” trip to their daughter’s.

Welcome More Kinship Mentors!

Curt & Sue Sumner moved to Huntersville area from Chicago 12 years ago. Sue works in Special Ed at Century in PR; Curt does construction work. They look forward to mentoring as a couple.

Josh Carpenter—a young dairy farmer south of Menahga who played baseball and in the Sebeka high school band before heading off to college, Josh will soon be matched with one lucky boy.

Please Complete Enclosed Survey!!!

You should find a yellow survey form included with this newsletter. Please complete it in a timely manner (soon!), giving it your full attention. The Program Committee of the Board and Kinship staff are sincerely interested in your opinions and suggestions. We figure that the best way to make good things happen for Kinship kids is to help the mentors be and do the best they can. So be brutally honest (in a constructive way), then return it in the enclosed envelope by the 19th. THANK YOU!!!

Red Bridge Film Festival April 16-20

FREE tickets for Kinship Kids when accompanied by you, their mentor! Festival pass \$28 admits you to all events. Single events \$6. Tickets are available: Park Theatre, Beagle Books, Terrapin Station, and the Enterprise. See www.redbridgefilm.org for schedule. Special recommendation for Kinship Youth (older kids) to see "Lost in Woonsocket" on Sunday, 4/18 at 3pm. Free admission for everyone. Sponsored by Hubbard County Youth Drug & Alcohol Task Force, it is a riveting documentary on alcoholism and the power of individuals reaching out to help. Kids who have seen it say it is the best documentary they have ever seen.

Special Offer from PARK THEATRE

Take your Kinship Kid to any movie in PR and tell Pam or Nancy that you are with Kinship to get **\$2 off** the student's ticket and a **FREE** bag of popcorn!



Kinship Clubhouse

Northwoods Bank is doing it again! Employees will build this clubhouse and donate it to Kinship to raffle off as a fundraiser. It is made of cedar and comes with furniture pictured. Way cool!!! Will you help? Details next month.



Thanks, Jill Johnson, for arranging the Ice Skating Party at the hockey arena. New fun for Kinship!

Thanks to the following Volunteers for Advocating for Kinship at Annual Township Meetings: Board members Barb Thomason, Brittany Boe, Del & Alice Holz; Mentors Vicki Breun, Marilyn Kaping, and Phil Stuemke; Reading Buddies Gail Manlove, John & Joyce LaFrance, Jan Belshan, Dick Miller. Together, we generated \$3,850 for mentoring kids in Hubbard County!

April is Prevent Child Abuse Month

When we help children do better today, we all do better tomorrow. In recent years we have learned that children's brains are literally built through thousands of interactions with adults around them every day in a process called "serve and return." Just like in a tennis game, children "serve the ball" to adults when they reach out for interaction through a look or a smile or a coo or a cry. We each have the chance then to choose whether or how to "return the ball." Will we let it go by? If we respond in a caring, loving way, and continue in a back and forth exchange with the child, we are helping to build strong, healthy brain pathways. Something as simple as a smile given or returned really has an impact. Smile at children you meet today!

The construction of children's brains can get interrupted by chronic stressful conditions such as extreme poverty, abuse, or lack of positive interaction with adults. One of the most important things we can do is to interact positively with the children in our lives.

That's what you as Kinship Mentors already do! Thank you!