A Newsletter of Kinship of the Park Rapids Area

Fall 2012

Volume 5, Issue 2

Connecting With Kinship

Edie Evarts and Viviana, above left, were matched for almost six years before Edie moved away. Lowell Schellack mentored Logan, above center, for twelve years beginning in December 1999. Arnie Valentin and Michel, far right, were matched for ten and a half years. Michel graduated from high school and Logan also moved. These matches spanned more than half of Kinship's history.

Kinship Connects Adults With Kids And Puts Hope In Their Hearts

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www.kinshipparkrapids.org

Celebrating 20 Years

2012 has been a year-long celebration of Kinship's 20th Anniversary. From the luncheon for the founders and board members in May, through the Fish Fry, Mini-Golf, Amazing Chase and picnic in August to the collaborative spaghetti dinner in September, we have been rejoicing in the resiliency and growth of the organization and its impact on children and their families in the Park Rapids area. All the while, of course, raising funds to sustain the program and position it for serving our community for the next twenty years.

For the first many years Kinship was funded by a Youth Intervention Grant. Today most of the funding comes from local people, organizations and businesses as well as several small grants and contracts with local townships and Hubbard County. More recently, area businesses and organizations are stepping up to do benefits for Kinship - Northwoods Bank, J&B Foods, Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park, Coborn's, Dorset House, and the Mah Jongg tournament. Individuals and businesses are beginning to commit to monthly or multi-year gifts, helping to insure Kinship's sustainability.

One hundred fifty-eight children and youth have been matched with 135 Kinship mentors in 182 mentor matches since 1992. (Some of the children and adults have been matched more than once due to moves, graduations, etc.) Many Kinship matches last several years longer than the one year minimum required. Often the friendships stretch much longer than the match. The mentoring program has grown through the years and has been supporting 42-48 active matches simultaneously since 2010.

How important is the program to Kinship families? Consider this. A grandmother caring for several children already matched

(*continued on page 5)*

A Note from the Board President Kathy Peterson

It has been one year since I accepted the position as Kinship's board chair. In that time I have grown tremendously in my knowledge of the workings of a small nonprofit organization. With no federal or state funding, the reality of the need for a community to pull together to support causes such as Kinship has been the stand out lesson for me. These causes are not something one can just say, "That's a great idea and so needed!" without taking action to support them with a physical presence or a financial commitment.

I must first thank again all of those wonderful adults in our community who have come forward and requested to become a mentor for a child on our never empty waiting list. They are the backbone of the Kinship program. I continue to learn of more and more amazing connections mentors have made with their Kinkid.

Many adults are also connecting with children through our Reading Buddies program and some of them have also become full time mentors.

Second, thank you all for seeing the need for Kinship and offering your support through financial gifts. Each and every dollar you give to Kinship is appreciated and needed. The less time our director and staff spend on fund development, the more of their time is spent on making matches, assisting with current matches, and recruiting new mentors.

This past summer has been terrific for the community becoming more aware of Kinship through publicity about our 20th anniversary activities. Please consider helping to spread the word that Kinship is privately funded as so many people are still unaware .

Yet, awareness is only the beginning as the need for action in growing the number of mentors and sustaining financial support is constant.

Thank you again for being the reason our community is able to support the Kinship program. Kathy

Welcome New Board Member

Erik Jensen, a Park Rapids resident, teaches Spanish at Nevis High School. He and his wife, Sara, have two young children.

Welcome New Mentors

Brittany Johnson is newly matched with Kiana.

Phil & Jolly Stuemke are back, teaming up with Dennis Mackedanz in mentoring Caiden.

Welcome New Reading Buddies

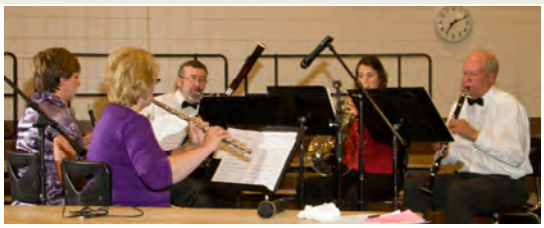
Reading Buddies new to Park Rapids this fall:

Nikki Gack Donna Nestoss Wayne Swanson

Reading Buddies new to Nevis this fall

Becky Conyers Renee Buggert...Halvord Korsberg Mary Moe Pauline Warmbold

Regular positions are filled at this time, yet we welcome applications for substitutes. Call Kinship or go to www.kinshipparkrapids.org and click on Volunteer to find application forms.



The Kinship Spaghetti Dinner with Arts & Cultural Showcase on September 21st was a hit. The Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council coordinated the lively entertainment while Kinship volunteers served 350 spaghetti dinner guests. Next year's event is already scheduled for Friday, September 27th, again at Century School. Mark your calendars now for a fun and festive evening! And thanks to all who entertained and joined us for dinner!

Kinship Donors

We gratefully acknowledge those who made financial gifts to support the mission of Kinship of the Park Rapids Area from January 1 to September 30, 2012. Donors are recognized for accumulative gifts made throughout each calendar year. Your generosity helps Kinship put hope in kids' hearts!

*** Gift to Kinship Endowment Fund** **** Sustaining Donor**

Advocate ($2,500 - $4,999)

3 M Foundation

Mentor ($1,000 - $2,499)

Hubbard County Child Abuse Prevention Council
St Joseph's Area Health Services
Northwoods Bank
Northwoods Dental**

Guide ($500 - $999)

Kevin & Renee Brauer
Citizen's National Bank
Coborn's
Community Thank Meal
Dorset House
Scott Eastman
Fab 4 Kidz: Thomas, Karla, Tanya, Ross
Ruth & Bob Foster**
Itasca Mantrap Operation Round Up
Pine Manors**
Riverside United Methodist Church

Role Model ($250 - $499)

Anesthesia Care Team, PA
Ark Animal Hospital, Inc
Brookside Resort
Citizens National Bank Employees
Henry & Ellen Dubinsky
Aryls & Jeff Hess
Hubbard United Methodist Church
Mary Larsen
Jason & Kimberly McCollum
Minnesota Power
NorthStar Orthodontics, Inc
Park Rapids Lions Club
Royce & Kathy Peterson
Craig & Missy Rossman
State Bank of Park Rapids
TruStar Federal Credit Union

Supporter ($100 - $249)

Akeley United Methodist Women
Bob & Mary Berdahl
Brian & Deborah Brattlof
Calvary Lutheran Church
Doug & Lori Cheney
David & Talaine Collins
Becky & Earl Juskowiak**
Dave & Jan Long
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Jay & Judy Mondry
Dick & Jane Nunn
Harold & Eleanor Olson
Park Rapids-Walker Eye Clinic
Helen Peterson
Christie & John Rasmussen
Guy & Cathy Reich
Jennifer Therkilsen & Duane Gebhard
June Thompson
Trading Post
Two Inlets Resort
Mike & Janine Weideman
West Central Telephone

Friend (Up to $99)

Mary Adams
Rexine Adams
Allison Ovsak Insurance Services
Dr. Eric & Phyllis Barth
Bender Creek Trucking
Herman & Patricia Block
Dick & Nancy Bogaard
Robert & Patricia Cadreau
Jeanne & Norman Ciffra
Donald & Virginia Day
Delany's Sports
Peg & Terry DeYoung
Eagle View Golf Course
Ecowater Systems
Dave & Marion Feil
Dr. Paul Fredrick & Ruth Strathman
Betty Fuller
Gail Haas
Nick & Debbie Haas
Kurt & Linda Hansen
Carter & Florence Hedeen
Roger & Jan Henderson
Margaret Henry
Larry & Miriam Hiscock
Neal & Carol Holter
Roman & Joy Horejsi
Jeraine Hokanson*
Glenys Hotzler
Ted & Lori Johnson
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Randy & Kay Leeseberg
Norm & Marty Leistikow
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Helen Marsh
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Max Bailey Photography
Joel & Mary Maxwell
Dorothy Melby
Jeff & Olga Mosner
Judi & John Nelson
Shirley Olson
Christopher, Rachel & Cascade Oppitz
Park Rapids Building Supply
Janet Peterson
Jeff & Kris Pickett
Tom & Gina Porozinski
Prairie Lakes Coop
Margret Rairdon
Ed Ransom
Nancy Reedy
Tom & Jean Ruzicka
Donna Simpson
Joan Smith
Roderick & Joyce Stave
Lloyd & Helen Stigman
St John's Evening Guild
St Joseph's Cup of Joe
Stony Lake Association
Switch Salon
Thielen Motors
June Thompson
Kenneth Thorstad
EiLoise Underwood
Ray & Lynette Vlasak
Duane & Diane Wallace
Candy & Jim Weinzierl
Rod & Charlene Westrum
Carl & Helen Wettlaufer
West Side Auto of Park Rapids
Williams Construction
Hazel Yliniemi
Melvin & Mary Ann Yliniemi
Bill & Bobbi Zigmant
Anonymous

We try hard to include all of our contributors accurately and apologize for any errors. Please call 732-0058 to let Jennifer know if your name was misspelled, listed differently than you would like, or accidentally omitted. Thank you!

2012 Amazing Chase

Saturday, August 25

Keystone sponsors:

Citizens National Bank

CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES
St. Joseph's Area Health Services

The "Paulbicke Clan" won the $500 bonus drawing. Team members: Ciann, Kay, Ron, Terra, and Kyra Paulbicke.

First place team Fab 4 Kidz: Thomas & Karla Mueller, Ross Terman & Tanya Peterson

Amazing Chase Team Sponsors

Team: **Ark Animals**
Ark Animal Hospital

Team: **Alpha and Omega**

Ginny Bair
Daryl Bessler
Korha Block
Crystal Brown
Toni Carlstrom
Marie Dearstyne
Matt Dotta
Debra Edward
Michelle Fischer
Michelle Harms
Tina Johanning
Judy Kay Johnson
Marge Johnson
Bob Kaumans
Jennifer Keranen
Tracie Koskela
Kay Leeseberg
Nicole Lueth
Kathy Melvin
Nancy Mitchell
Paula Peterson
Beth Piemonte
Sheila Rognstad
Tammie Roth
Lynn Schmid
Maria Shephard
Vicki Smith
Missy Stearns
Deb Thompson
Joy Torvinen
Randi Vaydich
Beth Vredenburg
Elie Wattenhoffer
Renee Weeks
Roxann Yliniemi

Team: **Northwoods Nickels**
Northwoods Bank
Ann & Gary Evers
Ken & Lisa Davis
Helen Griess

Team: **Northstar Dental**
NorthStar Orthodontics

Team: **TruStar**
TruStar Federal Credit Union

Team: **Freedom**
Bender Creek Trucking
Max Bailey Photography
Ecowater Systems
Westside Auto
Switch Salon
Tom & Christina Mountjoy

Team: **Paulbicke Clan**
Pat Stulich

Team: **Kindness Matters**
Anesthesia Care Team

Continued next column

Cash Sponsors:

Brookside Resort
Minnesota Power
Trading Post

Amazing Inkind Donors

Ben Franklin
KLN Family Brands
Nei Bottling, Inc, Bemidji
Park Ace Hardware

Team: **Fab 4 Kidz**
Cal & Alice Broughton
Chris & Arnie Haugen
Al & Jo Judson
Beth Baker-Knuttila
Karla & Thomas Mueller
Tanya Peterson & Ross Terman
Ray & Ann Niedzielski
Royce & Kathy Peterson

Team: **The Kernels**
West Central Telephone
Prairie Coop
Casey & Lindsey Fouts
Tom & Laura Becker
Thomas Becker II

Team: **Behrens-Kosel**
Brian Behrens
Jason McCollum
Scott Kosel
Thrivent Financial

Amazing Chase Challenge Hosts

Calvary Lutheran Youth
Citizens National Bank
Coborn's
Delaney's
Hubbard County Law Enforcement
J&B Foods
Lori Lea Lanes
NorthStar Orthodontics, Inc
Park Ace Hardware
Park Rapids Fire Department
Kinship of the Park Rapids Area

Prize Sponsors

Bears Den Golf Course
Character Challenge Course
Citizens National Bank
Eagle View Golf Course
Gabriele Zanutto's Hair Studio
Good Life Café
Lori Lea Lanes
Park Theater
Pizza Hut
Rocky's Pizza House
Style Zone Salon

Thanks to all for a successful 2012 Kinship Amazing Chase! Check out more photos at www.kinshipparkrapids.org Scroll down Announcements. See you August 24, 2013!

Donors of Gifts In Kind

From selling tickets and cutting hair to helping with a fundraiser and donating product, gifts of items and service go a long ways in helping Kinship meet its mission. Special thanks to the following friends and donors of gifts inkind!

Fish Fry/Silent Auction Donors

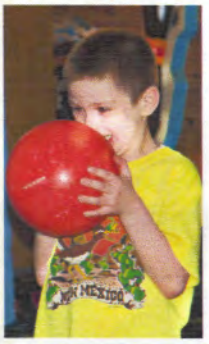
Vicki Breun & Essentia Friends
Sonja Day
Boo Groth
Debbie Haas
Del Holtz
Kathy Peterson
Carol Schellack
Bob & Linda Schissel
Pat Stulich
Candy & Jim Weinzierl
Lezli Zimmerman

Lovely quilt made, donated by Pat Stulich for Fish Fry Silent Auction.

Avant Garde on Main
Beagle Books
Bearly Used
Bella Caffe
Blueberry Pines Golf Club
Ecowater Systems
Forest & Floral Garden
Good Life Café
J & B Foods
Jake's Barber Shop
L & M Fleet
McDonald's
NAPA
Nick's Service
Northwoods Bank
Park Rapids Floral
RiverBend Home Expressions
Rocky's Pizza
Sassy & Company
Subway
Superior Embroidery & Sewing
West Central Telephone

Friends & Inkind Donors

Citizens National Bank
DeLaHunt Broadcasting
Dorset House
Downtown Business Association
Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park
Family Hair Affair
Max Bailey Photography
Northwoods Press
Park Ace Hardware
Park Rapids Enterprise
Park Theater
State Bank of Park Rapids
Super 8 Motel
Thielen Motors
TruStar Federal Credit Union
Woodtick Theater
Alice Broughton
Amy & David Andersen
Angela Carlson
Barb & Gary Gauldin
Barb & Mark Thomason
Beth Baker-Knuttila and Viviana
Bill & Kathy Medellin
Bill Simpson & Sara
Boo Groth
Bonnie & Tom Miller
Bonnie Welch and Alycia
Brittany Boe
Carol Sievers
Carol Schellack, Sky & Zoey
Cathy Reich
Cheryl Sorenson
Dan Zimmerman and Noah
Dave Keller
David Niemela & Brennen
Dennis Mackedanz and Caiden
Dick & Karen Kok and Kyron
Doug & Lori Cheney and Takoda
Duane Gebhard
ElLoise Underwood
Erik Jensen
Erika Randall
Eunice Rothermel
Faye Jasmine
Florence Hedeen
Frank & Sara Forsberg and Joseph
Fred & Karen Lundstrom, Cameron
Greg Johnson
Greg & Celeste Remus
Jacci Hadfield
Jan Jensen
Jan Vold
Janine Weideman
Jason & Kimberly McCollum
Jeannette & Andrea Dudley
Jill Johnson & Shania
Jo Judson
Joel & Mary Maxwell and Micheal
Jolly & Phil Stuemke
Joyce LaFrance
Judy Lentz
Judy Miller
Kathie Kavolak and Carol
Kathy & Royce Peterson
Katrina Carrier
Kevin & Renee Brauer
Laura Remus
Let's Go Fishing!
Lezli Zimmerman
Linda & Bob Schissel and Marcus
Linda Warmbold
Linda Williams
Linda Wurm
Lynn Gustafson
Marilyn Kaping
Marion Holtey
Mia Long and Jade
Mike & Coco Cohrs
Niomi Phillips
Northern Light Opera Company
Pam Vold
Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council
Pat Cadreau
Peg & Del Odegaard and Morgan
Phil Sailer & Nate
Renee Bexell
Rich & Mary Frahm and Damion
Riverside United Methodist Church
Riverside Youth Group
Sheila Hastings and Abby
Sherry Johnson & Farrah
Sue & Curt Sumner and Victoria
Terry Morris
Vickie Breun and Paige
Wayne Luksik



Kinship kids and their mentors send a big thank you to Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park, Lori Lea Lanes, Northern Light Opera, Kevin & Renee Brauer, David & Amy Andersen, and Fred & Karen Lundstrom for the super fun activities.

2012 Tributes & Memorials

In Honor Of~

Greg Johnson
Margret Rairdon

Phil Sailer
Margret Rairdon

Ken & Judy Thompson
Brittany Boe

Dan Zimmerman
Margret Rairdon

In Memory Of~

Bill & Lynn Bair
Becky & Earl Juskowiak

Teresa Benson
Bob & Pat Cadreau

Lynn Bair
Bob & Karrie Kapsner
Francine & Lyle Laske
Kathy & Royce Peterson*
Jennifer Therkilsen & Duane Gebhard*

Jackie Edmunds-Bates
Brittany Boe*
John & Sheila Hastings
Florence & Carter Hedeen
Rod & Vickie Helm
Larry & Kathie Kavolak*
Royce & Kathy Peterson*
Liz & Phil Smith
Jennifer Therkilsen*
Mark & Barb Thomason

Chase Robert Erickson
Brittany Boe*

Temple Hinds
Ray & LilyLou Rosenberg

Jim Johnson
Mark & Barb Thomason

Alfrieda Johnson
Citizens National Bank
Mark & Barb Thomason
Jim Wallace
Dennis & Karen Zaun

Aurelia Koch
Deane & Jill Johnson

Donna Larson
Mark & Barb Thomason

Doris Lund
Gail Haas

Darrel Naugle
Faye Naugle

John Olson
Brittany Boe

Florence Tandy
Friends & family

Karen Thorstead
Kenneth Thorstead

Kyle Vredenberg
Brittany Boe*

*Gift to Kinship Endowment

Kinship received a $1293 donation from the 2nd Annual Park Rapids Mah Jongg Tournament fundraiser September 19. Pictured front, from left, are tournament committee members Jan Vold and Cheryl Sorenson. Back, from left, Kinship executive director Jennifer Therkilsen accepts the donation from planning committee members Linda Wurm, Sheila Hastings, Coco Cohrs and Pam Vold.

Mah Jongg is an ancient Chinese tile game of skill, strategy, calculation, competition and chance. Locally, women play Mondays and Thursdays at Citizens Bank for mind stretching, camaraderie and fun. This year's tournament included eight tables of four players from local communities along with several guests from as far away as Minneapolis and Grand Rapids

Contributors to Kinship through the tournament include:

Judy Bauerly
Renee Brauer
Karen Carlson
Ann Clark
Coco Cohrs
Judith Dawson
Kathleen Drange
Georgia Erdmann
Bobbi Erickson
Kay Erickson
Anita Firman
Joyce Gobell
Joan Hard
Sue Harmon
Sheila Hastings
Julie Hopkins
Phyllis Johnson
Harriet Nerad
Bev Novak
Linda Paulson
Mary Peters
Mary Peterson
Kathy Peterson
Sharon Phelps
Judy Philips
Dorothy Platz
Sandra Randall
Christine Rausch
Cathy Reich
Linda Remiger
Sharon Robinson
Mary Shadrick
Vicki Soltis
Cheryl Sorenson
Barb Thomason
Jan Vold
Pam Vold
Janine Weideman
Linda Wurm

Kinship 20th Anniversary Raffle Winners

Raffle winners, in the order drawn at the 20th Anniversary Picnic, chose their prize. Resort Content owner, Jinx Stanwick, was excited to claim the 2012 Kinship Clubhouse for her young guests to enjoy. College student, Nate Gebhard, nabbed the $200 T&M Express Gas Card. Kinship mentor Sue Sumner, chose the 100 tickets to Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park with plans to treat her Kinship kid and siblings to a fun afternoon next summer. Betty Larson was thrilled to win the carved bear donated by Trading Post.

Special thanks to Northwoods Bank for donating this fourth clubhouse to Kinship. And to Trading Post, Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park and T&M Express for their donations. Sales of raffle tickets over four years has generated $19,981 for youth mentoring.

Many thanks to all who bought and sold tickets and the businesses who hosted the clubhouse. Special thanks and a round of applause to the Customer Service staff at J&B Foods and to Rich Frahm for moving the clubhouse weekly through the summer.

Kinship kids have been the winners every year as the Kinship program is strengthened and more kids are served. When they win, we all win ~ with happier families, more focused students, and kids with brighter futures.

Mackenna, Kylie and Brennen join Jennifer Therkilsen in thanking manager, Bob Seifert, for Coborn's support of Kinship. In addition to hosting the Kinship Clubhouse for a week and hosting a challenge for the Amazing Chase, Coborn's donated $794 to Kinship from the proceeds of their annual customer appreciation picnic in August.

(continued from page 1)

with mentors has one more child who had been looking forward to becoming eligible for the program when she turned 6-years-old. The day before the girl's birthday, Grandmother came to the office to get an application, sat down and filled it out on the spot. Not a day to waste.

Through Reading Buddies, begun in 2006, Kinship has matched volunteers with 153 first graders in Park Rapids and Nevis, helping them develop their skills and discover the joys of reading.

Research continues to support the positive impact mentoring youth can have. As best practices of the most positive and productive programs are becoming better identified, programs like ours are encouraged to adopt standards and procedures to insure that we maximize our impact. We at Kinship are already impressed with, and grateful for the work of our mentors. We are also committed to providing a program that will help maximize the impact of every mentor match with a child, for our children are our most important assets.

Up North Sports Auction

Wednesday, October 24, 6:00 pm

American Legion, Park Rapids

GUNS, BOWS, FISHING GEAR GALORE, CAMPING EQUIPMENT, SPORTSMAN COOKING GEAR, STIHL CHAIN SAW, BINOCULAR, WILDLIFE PRINTS, Wii SPORTS GAMES, TiVo VIDEO RECORDER, PORTABLE FISH HOUSE, KNIVES, DEER STAND, LOTS MORE!

See poster with item listing & photos at *www.kinshipparkrapids.org*

With more than 240 outdoor sports items already donated by the family of Chuck Hawkins, we are seeking a few more quality pieces to round out the auction. Mel Holtan is donating his auctioneer services, along with Vern Massie & clerk, Brenda McGowan. All proceeds will benefit Kinship.

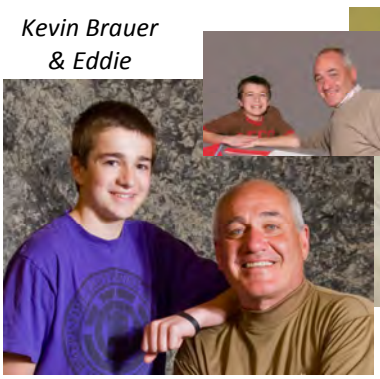
Hunting, Fishing, Camping and Outdoor Recreation Equipment in good condition is welcome. Call 732-0058 soon so we can include it in our advertising. Pick up of items can be arranged.

Is it costing you more to put your boat in and take it out than you can justify for the little you use it? Why not donate it to Kinship? Save yourself the headache of selling and take a charitable deduction while you can.

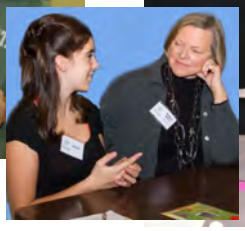
Or how about that fishing gear and those nice waders you don't use anymore? And the skis, ATV or golf clubs. Maybe the bicycle or a croquet set.

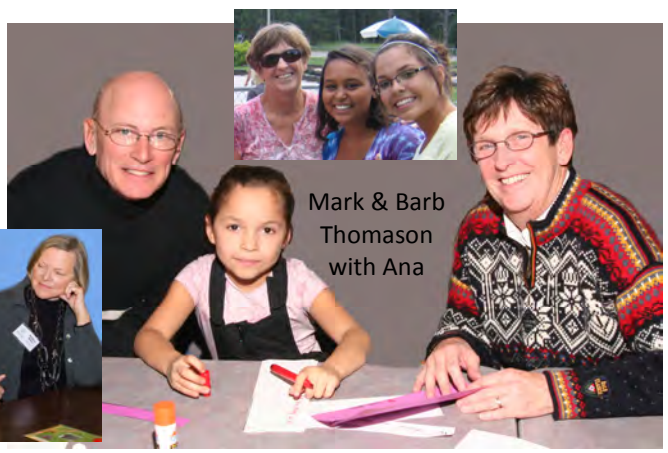
Worried about dinner? You're in luck! It's Burger Night at the Legion! Come to find a treasure, get a good deal, give a great deal and support a terrific cause. See you at the auction!

Kevin Brauer & Eddie



Bonnie Miller & Karina





Mark & Barb Thomason with Ana

Kinship

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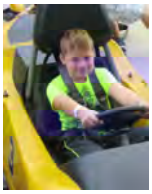
Linda Schissel and others



Want to be removed from the mailing list? Call 732-0058. Prefer to receive this newsletter via email? Email kinship@unitelc.com Thank you!

Wanted: Mentors for Kinship Kids

Sometimes we can see the difference overnight. More often it takes several months or even longer.

We are not always sure of the long term impact. But we do know that Kinship mentors bring positive experiences and influences into the lives of the children and youth they mentor. And the mentors' lives are enriched through the process. That's why so many mentors stay matched far beyond the one year required and choose to be rematched when their Kinship kid graduates or moves away.

Even so, there are always kids waiting for mentors. Kids like "Robin", an energetic first grader who likes apples and bananas, Spongebob and dinosaurs. He would like to learn to cook and to hook a worm. His grandmother/guardian would like him to learn to read. Robin especially likes rest time, lunch, snack, music and library at school; he doesn't like time out. His favorite subject is numbers. Seems to have lots of friends and has trouble with just one boy. He enjoys fishing, swimming, riding bike, playing games and playing with dinosaurs. He will benefit from a mentor who is steady, ready to change activities quickly, engaging, and willing to expose him to lots of experiences. He will be delightful if you can keep up with him!

There are nine more equally delightful boys and several middle-school girls waiting for mentors as well.

What does it take to be a mentor?

A little time (averaging 1 to 4 hours per week), some discipline (to get together most weeks of the year), a car (transportation for your outings), a phone and/or computer (to stay in touch with Kinship staff), and a heart for kids.

What is the first step to becoming a mentor?

Application forms are available at the Kinship office and online at www.kinshipparkrapids.org / volunteer. Volunteers mentor as individuals, couples or as a family.

What kind of training and support is there for mentors?

New mentors attend an orientation and training session with Kinship staff and an experienced mentor. They receive a training manual and have access to further training resources online. In addition, Kinship provides semi-annual mentor training sessions on a variety of pertinent topics. Staff support the match with contacts to both the mentor and the family throughout the match and are always available for ideas, questions or concerns.

The Kinship Board provides Group Activities—opportunities for mentors and kids to get together and share in fun activities like swimming, sledding, skating, retreats, volunteering at Kinship fundraising dinners and more!

Ready to learn more? Call 732-0058 or visit the website.