



Kinship Konnections

Volume 19, Issue 3
June 2012 Volunteers

Mentor Appreciation Dinner Riverside United Methodist Church



Kinship Celebrates 20 Years

In 1992 some folks in Park Rapids got together to talk about how to help prevent teen pregnancies. They decided a mentoring program was a great way to start, and soon realized that mentoring does much more. Since then, Kinship has matched 150 children and youth with volunteer mentors. Bravo for the 162 mentors! Good news for the kids and their families!

Summer Swim Parties

Monday, July 23rd 5:30 to 7 pm

Kinship Kids who completed grades 1-4 and mentors

Dave & Amy Andersen's on Fish Hook Lake

Bring: 1. Swim Suit
2. Towel
3. Signed permission form if one is included in this newsletter

Enjoy: Dinner, Lawn Games
Swimming, Campfire & S'mores!

Kinship Kids completed grades 5+ & their mentors

Fred & Karen Lundstrom's on Lake Belle Taine

Bring: 1. Swim Suit
2. Towel
3. Life jacket optional
4. Signed permission form if one is included in this newsletter

Enjoy: Dinner, Pontoon Rides & Swimming!

The Sound of Music

The Northern Lite Opera Company is offering FREE admission for Kinship kids when accompanied by their mentors for **Sunday, July 29, 3 pm matinee** performance. Adult tickets are \$20. RESERVATIONS required. Call Kinship at 732-0058 by Monday July

Kinship Day at Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park!

Thursday, August 9th

Kinship Kids 1-3:30 pm (finished grades 1-4)

Kinship Youth 5:30 to 7pm
(finished grades 5 and up)

If you cannot make your assigned time, it's ok to go the other time. FREE Wristbands for unlimited activities (some age and size limits for specific activities) including:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Batting Cages | Extreme Air Jump | Power Wheels |
| Climbing Wall | Bumper Boats | Train Ride |
| Go Carts | Water Wars | Laser Maze |
| Outdoor Maze | Super Bounce | Miniature Golf |

Welcome New Mentors!

Olga & Jeff Mosner retired to Peyzinski Lake a couple of years ago and have gotten involved in Reading Buddies, the library, Food Shelf and other volunteer opportunities. They enjoy the outdoors—canoeing, kayaking, biking, hiking, swimming, fishing, hunting, camping, tennis, gardening, reading, cooking, quilting, etc. Olga was matched with Haley a few weeks ago and Jeff will be matched with Cody this Friday.

Pam and Jim Heeren were matched this Monday evening with Natalie. Pam is the county auditor and Jim is a VP at State Bank. They also enjoy the outdoors—golf, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, gardening, reading and crafts.

Bob & Linda Schissel will be matched Friday with Linda's Reading Buddy, Marcus. They were teachers and coaches in Park Rapids and Nevis for many years. Both have been Kinship Reading Buddies all six years. They especially enjoy golf, reading, sports, travel, gardening and cooking.

Jim Lifgren and his Kinship youth, Josiah, are transferring "their membership" from Kinship of Todd-Wadena Counties because their program closed. Jim lives in Menahga, is retired, and has been matched with Josiah for a number of years. He has vast volunteer experiences including cub scouts, church, senior citizens, American Legion, VFW, Wadena County Crisis & Referral, and Menahga Caring & Sharing Support Group.

Mentor Farewells

Thank you, Janelle Siekaniec

After mentoring Arianna for only three months, Janelle's husband got a new job that will take them to Winnipeg. Arianna is spending the summer with her grandparents, softening the blow.

Thank you, Edie Evarts!

For 6 years, Edie and Viv have been together weekly and to almost every Kinship group activity. This last winter Edie was promoted and moved to Tower. She continued mentoring Viv on weekends through the school year. The time has come to close their match. Their friendship will undoubtedly continue for a long time! Many thanks, Edie!

Training Resources:

The book, *NurtureShock*, by PO Bronson & Ashley Merryman is available for checking out from the Kinship office. It contains the chapter, "Why Kids Lie" and host of other fascinating topics on child rearing.

Copies of the powerpoint on Ellie Anderson's presentation, "When Kids Lie" are available in hard copy at the Kinship office, or as a power point attachment to an email request to Kinship. Just ask.

Comments from parent/guardians:

(I had hoped to have time to share some of these comments from family surveys with you at the Mentor Appreciation Dinner. There are many more—you are appreciated!)

As a parent or guardian, do you feel you or your family have benefited from your child having a Kinship mentor?

Kinship Kid (KK) has become more trusting and independent.

It gives KK a break from stress at home which allows us all to regroup.

KK has someone that is just for her, that she can confide in and spend one-on-one time with.

The mentor has expanded KK's interests and supports him regularly in his sporting endeavors.

KK has someone to do the things he loves with him. His mentor makes sure he has the things needed to do those things. He loves his mentor.

KK is more enjoyable when he returns home and looks forward to their next visit.

The mentor gets my daughter into the public to help with her shyness.

If another parent would ask your advice on enrolling their child in Kinship, what might you say to encourage them?

By all means. Get it started now! Absolutely yes! Good program. Just do it, it will be good for everyone. It was a great choice for us—it helped out daughter so much. It would be one of the best things you could ever do for your child. It's good for the kids. Go for it!

Save the Dates:

Thursday, Sept 6 ~ Dorset House Ice Cream Social
Friday, Sept 21 ~ Kinship Spaghetti Dinner