



# Kinship Konnections

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September 2013 Volunteers

## Mentor Training Opportunities

Free workshop: **Understanding the Framework of Poverty**, Saturday, September 21, 9:00 to 1:30 (freewill offering for lunch) at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church in Akeley. If you missed the workshop Kinship offered in June on this same topic, here is a chance to attend a less abbreviated session. Cindy Pic will also lead this training.

## Maximize Your Impact: How to Build Positive Mentoring Relationships with Youth

Save the date! **Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**, location to be determined. **5:45 Pizza served, 6-8 pm Training** led by Jen Lindwall of **Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota**. (No, it's not deer hunting yet.) **RSVP for Pizza and/or a chair!**

Through interactive exercises and discussion, mentors will address their expectations and concerns, learn the roles and responsibilities of successful mentors, tackle real-life scenarios from adult/youth mentoring relationships and prepare for the different stages of mentoring relationships. Led by a well-trained trainer!

The workshop shows new and experienced mentors how they can maximize their impact as a mentor by:

- Focusing on what is strong, not what is wrong
- Paying attention to what mentees would like for themselves – not just what we think they need
- Teaching and modeling skills to help young people carry their baggage better
- Building longer, stronger relationships.

Great for new and veteran mentors as it encourages mentors to maximize their impact despite limitations and in the face of challenges.

## Kinship Spaghetti Dinner

**Friday, Sept 27, 5:30—7:30 Century School**  
**\$9 Adults, \$5 Kids 10 /under; Free if you volunteer!**  
**Give your Kinship Kid the opportunity to Give Back.**  
**Volunteering is empowering.**  
**Sign up with event Chair, Amy Andersen at**  
**superdav566@gmail.com**

## Shared Mentoring

It's happening already.

Dennis Mackedanz shares mentoring Caiden with Phil & Jolly Stuemke. Each month they decide who can spend time with Caiden which weeks.

Bob & Linda Schissel share mentoring Marcus with Terry Morris when they are gone for a few months in the winter. They stay in touch with Marcus from Florida via mail, phone and Skype, while Terry spends time with him as he can until they return.

The program committee of the board has agreed to approve shared matches on an individual basis so long as all mentors go through the application process successfully and the mentors pair up on their own. For example, Kinship will not get involved in finding someone to share mentoring with a mentor prospect who plans to be gone for five months. However, if that same person has a friend, family member or other acquaintance who will stay in the area when they are gone, and is interested in sharing the mentoring experience with them, they can apply together. At the same time, current mentors whose life schedules have changed, can seek out someone to share mentoring.

We hope and expect that these cases will be few in number because the one-to-one relationship is the foundation of the program; however, we also appreciate that both mentors and kids benefit from knowing that the Kinship youth will have someone to spend time with regularly throughout the year.

## Free Online Course Helps Youth Reach Goals

The curriculum, called *Discovering the Possibilities*, is designed for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their mentors. You can download it for free from the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island (MPLI) website. It includes a series of 12 modules that fall into three sections: Exploring Careers – I “C” My Future; Preparing for College – I “C” My Options; and Building Character – I “C” Myself. Each module follows a similar format with background information, activities for mentors and mentees to do together and tips for mentors to keep in mind.

“Many young people being mentored need help in figuring out their skills, what they want to do in life and what to do to get there,” said MPLI Executive Director, Jean Cohen. “*Discovering the Possibilities* gives them a step-by-step way to chart their own course through information sharing and activities with their mentors so they have the tools to make their dreams come true.”

To access this curriculum, go to [www.mentorkids.org](http://www.mentorkids.org)

## Upcoming Group Activities

**October 24th, 5:30 to 7:00 pm** a Thursday

Pumpkin Carving & Hot Dog Roast at St. John’s Lutheran Church. Encourage warm dress as we will be outside (weather permitting) for part of the evening. [RSVP for a pumpkin!](#)

(St. John’s is on the west end of PR and the north side of 34)

**November likely Tuesday, the 19th, from 6:00-7:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church in Nevis.**

Dinner followed by group service project: packaging food for Kids Against Hunger. (From 34, turn onto the main street in Nevis, heading north. Follow the signs the Bethany Lutheran & Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church. Bethany is on the left.) [RSVP for Dinner & Packaging!](#)

**December 5, 6:00 to 7:30 pm Christmas Party** with Sons of Norway (& Daughters of Denmark) at Riverside United Methodist Church on north 71.

Potluck Scandinavian Dinner, Entertainment, Caroling around the Christmas Tree, Gift Bags for Kinship Kids. Mentors must [RSVP for a Gift Bag](#)

The **Rent A Mentor Program** may help when a mentor cannot attend a group activity and their Kinship kid doesn’t want to miss it. This, too, is already happening and we hope to expand it.

Because mentor and dairy farmer, Josh Carpenter is busy milking cows from 5-8 each morning and evening, he is not available to take Nic to many group activities. Former mentors, Del & Peg Odegaard, on call for Josh and Nic, have taken Nic to several group activities. Josh continues his regular meeting times with Nic and doesn’t have to feel badly that he can’t provide the opportunities for socialization that group activities offer. Del and Peg stay somewhat connected to Kinship and Nic has a blast.

Mentors whose matches closed in the previous 12 months are being invited to consider joining the Rent-A-Mentor roster. They all have had background checks, will likely be familiar with many Kinship kids, have an understanding of what to expect at group activities, etc. Watch for further developments in upcoming weeks.

## Thank you to Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park!

If you and your Kinship Kid had a good time on August 7th at Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park, and you haven’t yet sent a thank you note to the generous owners, Tom & Barb Atwood, please do so. You can mail it to:

Tom & Barb Atwood  
Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park  
26468 US 71  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Or email: [tom.atwood@q.com](mailto:tom.atwood@q.com)

## Remember to check the website for:

Group Activities—on the home page

Upcoming Events—on the home page

Mentor Newsletters—in Publications

Radio Interviews or Newspaper articles—in About Us

Forms & Applications—in Volunteer

[www.kinshiprapids.org](http://www.kinshiprapids.org)