

Our Team:

Brandon Mustful
Executive Director

Erika Randall - President
Amy Trottier - Vice President
Taylor Hansen - Treasurer
Joanna Wallenberg - Secretary
Dawn Penning - Member at Large
Mark Andersen - Board Member
Nikki Torkelson - Board Member
Mike Carroll - Board Member



By the Numbers:

- 14** current matches
- 2** closures
- 3** new matches
- 2** new mentors
- 5** new mentees
- 5** kids on the waiting list
- 6** Home Visits
- 83** volunteers contributing **645** hours
- 88** donors contributing **\$35,762**
- 8** Pathfinder Donors
- 15** Annual Sponsors
- 3** Grants Received
- 3** Group Activities
- 3** Mentor Events
- 3** Staff Development Events



Thank you Kinship Sponsors!

Gold



Silver



Bronze



Thank you Delahunt Media for all the air time on your stations!

Kinship at the Twins Game!



On June 3rd, a joyful group of 26 mentors, mentees, waiting list kids, and community members loaded up for an unforgettable trip to Minneapolis to see the Minnesota Twins play.

For many of the kids in our program, this wasn't just another game—it was their very first time stepping inside a Major League Baseball stadium. The sheer scale of Target Field, the energy of the crowd, and, of course, the ballpark snacks made for an incredible experience right from the start.

While the final score on the scoreboard read a tough 8-0 loss for the Twins, the day was an absolute win for Kinship. The scoreboard couldn't dim the excitement in our section. More importantly, the trip gave our matches and community members a wonderful opportunity to step outside their usual routines, talk, laugh, and truly get to know each other better. It's these shared adventures that allow our matches to grow deeper, more meaningful relationships.

This unforgettable day was made possible thanks to a generous TwinsCare ticket donation, support from the Essentia Health Community Grant, and the incredible backing we receive from our local community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped step up to the plate for our kids!

Change a Life: Become a Mentor Today

While we had an amazing turnout for the game, we still have children on our waiting list who are hoping for a mentor to share these kinds of experiences with. You don't need to be a baseball expert or have a ton of free time to make a difference—you just need a willingness to show up and be a consistent, caring friend.

Ready to step into the game and change a local youth's life? Visit kinshipparkrapids.org to learn more and sign up today!

[CLICK HERE](http://kinshipparkrapids.org)



Heartwarming Connections: Our Newest Matches



Creating Connections: Tracy & Jaeden Matched in February 2026

For Jaeden, who is the oldest of eight children, her new match with Tracy offers something incredibly special: a little quiet time just for her and a chance to get out of a busy house. Since matching in February, the duo has been connecting deeply through a shared love of arts and crafts.

While Jaeden is naturally a little shy, she has been opening up more and more each week as her comfort with Tracy grows. Tracy brings a wealth of experience to this new bond. After her previous match sadly closed because her mentee moved out of state, Tracy was eager to jump right back into mentoring. We are so glad she did!



Hearts and Cones: Terri & Payton Matched in February 2026

A sweet new friendship is blooming at Kinship! Terri and Payton were matched this past February, and they have already discovered a few favorite traditions—namely, getting ice cream together and playing games at the Fun Zone.

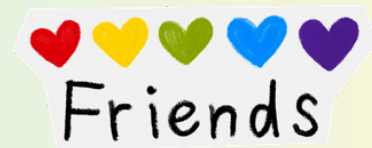
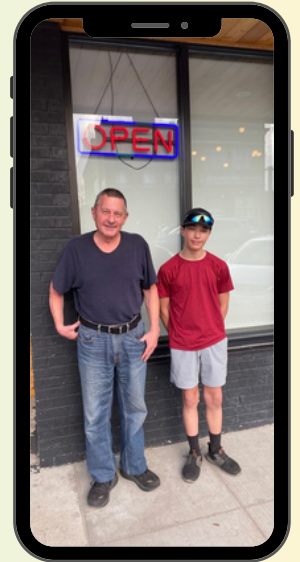
For Terri, becoming a mentor was a natural fit. As a grandmother whose own grandkids live out of state, she deeply missed that close connection and welcomed the chance to step into a grandma role for Payton. The two are quickly becoming great friends, proving that mentorship is a gift that fills a heart at both ends of the match.

Built for the Outdoors: Mike & AJ Matched in April 2026

Though they were just matched this past April, Mike and AJ are already firing on all cylinders. It's no surprise, considering both share a massive love for the great outdoors and a strong mechanical mindset.

AJ had been matched previously but spent many months back on our waiting list, hoping for a new mentor. He is thrilled to finally have a partner to explore with and learn from this summer.

Mike, who lives alone, is equally excited to share his knowledge. This match is a perfect example of what Kinship is all about: two people teaching, learning, and tackling new adventures together.



Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Kinship Fundraisers!

We have some exciting events lined up for the coming months. Your participation directly supports our mentoring programs and helps us connect more local youth with positive adult role models. Save these dates!

Annual Pulled Pork Dinner – September 25

Get ready for a delicious meal for a great cause! Join us at the Park Rapids American Legion on Thursday, September 25, for our annual Pulled Pork Dinner. Bring your appetite and your family to enjoy some fantastic food while supporting Kinship.

Purse Bingo is Back! – November 9

Our ever-popular Purse Bingo night returns on Sunday, November 9, at Clancy's Restaurant at Vacationnaire Resort. This event is always a community favorite and tends to fill up fast. Keep an eye out for reservation details, which will be released in late summer or early fall!

Give to the Max Day – November 19

Thursday, November 19, is Give to the Max Day—Minnesota's biggest day of statewide online giving. It sets the standard for supporting local nonprofits, and we need your help to make it a success.

Matching Gift Opportunity:

Matching gifts drastically enhance the success of online giving days by doubling the impact of every donation. We are actively looking for a generous supporter or business to step up and offer a matching gift challenge for this year's campaign.

If you are interested in sponsoring our match, please contact Brandon at 218-732-0058.

Steady Support: Become a Kinship Pathfinder!

Every great mentorship journey relies on a steady foundation. That is exactly what our Kinship Pathfinder Recurring Donor Program provides.

We want to extend a massive thank you to our 9 current recurring donors! Your monthly commitment ensures that we have a predictable, reliable cash flow. This steady financial ground means we can keep our mentoring programs running strong month after month, without worrying about seasonal dips.

Help Us Reach Our Goal: "20 by '26"

While we are incredibly grateful for our current Pathfinders, our goal is to grow this circle to 20 recurring monthly donors by the end of 2026.

Choosing to give monthly is one of the most powerful ways to support local youth. No matter the size, your recurring gift provides the lasting stability our matches need to thrive.

Find Your Path of Impact:

- \$10/mo – Helps cover the "icebreakers" (snacks, board games, or craft supplies) that help a new mentor and mentee bond.
- \$25/mo – Supports our outreach efforts to recruit and vet the high-quality volunteers our kids deserve.
- \$50/mo – Funds the professional introduction and "Meet and Greet" managed by our staff to ensure a safe, positive start.
- \$100/mo – Covers comprehensive professional screening, background checks, and ongoing training to keep matches strong and safe for years to come.

Ready to make a lasting difference? Head over to the [Recurring Donations](#) page on our website to sign up and join the circle!

From the Director - Brandon Mustful

Hello Friends! It is a great honor and privilege to work in this role as Executive Director of Kinship of the Park Rapids Area. I have spent my first several months learning so much about this organization, and this community. I am humbled by the support this community gives Kinship, and the dedication of its mentors, board members, and other volunteers.

While I have been slowly learning about the history and mission of Kinship, I have also begun looking forward. I see a great need for the mentorship services Kinship provides, and great potential for increasing impact on youth in the community. In fact, the Board of Directors and I are regularly considering strategic moves that will not only keep Kinship healthy but help us grow.

With that in mind, I recognize how important you are. As a community nonprofit agency, we can't achieve anything without you. We need you to step up as mentors, volunteers, board members, committee members, donors, advocates, and champions for local youth. I believe you are ready, eager, and willing to do that. It is my job to make it easy for you to do that.

I would love to get to know YOU better. I want to help you contribute in a way that is significant and meaningful to you. The only way I can do that is by learning more about you. I ask that you get to know us better by visiting our website, checking out our social media sites, coming to our community events, or just calling or emailing me. You can reach me at 218-732-0058 or kinshipparkrapids@gmail.com. I would love the opportunity to chat with you and see how you could best contribute your skills, abilities, interests, and other resources to further the mission of Kinship.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. Thank you for all you do for youth in your life. They matter – and you show them that they matter through your support.

Reading Buddies - Making a Difference, One Page at a Time!

Our Reading Buddies program recently wrapped up an incredible school year, and we couldn't be prouder of the impact made on our local youth. From October through April, an amazing team of 42 total volunteers (including our dedicated regulars and reliable substitutes) stepped up to make a difference.

Every single week, these volunteers showed up at Century School in Park Rapids and Nevis Public School to read one-on-one with enthusiastic first graders.

But they did so much more than just help kids improve their reading skills. Over those seven months, our Reading Buddies helped students:

- Build critical literacy skills * Grow their classroom confidence
- Develop a meaningful, trusted relationship with a caring adult

Join Us for the 2026-2027 School Year!

We are already looking ahead to the next school year and will be seeking new volunteers to keep this vital program growing. If you have an hour a week to spare and want to help a child succeed, we would love to have you join our team!

Get Involved: To learn more or sign up, visit our website at kinshipparkrapids.org and click on the "Become a Reading Buddy" tab.



Shape the Future: Join Kinship's Board

At Kinship of the Park Rapids Area, we are looking forward to a bright future. We see an incredible need for youth mentorship in our community, and with that need comes a great potential to expand our impact.

To continue to grow, thrive, and remain a healthy, vibrant nonprofit, we need passionate leaders to step up and join our Board of Directors.

As a board member, you won't just be attending meetings—you will be actively shaping the strategic direction of Kinship. This is a unique opportunity to bring your personal experiences, diverse perspectives, and professional skills to the table to directly benefit local youth. Whether your background is in business, education, organizing, or simply a deep care for our community, your voice matters.

Why Apply?

- **Make a Strategic Impact:** Help guide our organization as we plan exciting next steps for growth.
- **Champion Local Youth:** Ensure that every child who needs a mentor has the support they deserve.
- **Share Your Unique Skills:** Use your talents in a deeply meaningful and rewarding way.

Ready to learn more? > Filling out an application is simply an expression of interest—there is absolutely no obligation to join. It just lets us know that you care about our mission and want to start a conversation about how you can best contribute.

How to Take the Next Step

The board application is available online right now. To view the details and submit your application, please visit the [Kinship Staff and Board Members Page](#).

We are excited to hear from you and discover how we can work together to build a stronger community for our youth!



Celebrating 8 Years of Connection: Ann & Alicia's Match Closure

After an incredible eight years together, we are celebrating the official match closure of mentor Ann and her mentee, Alicia. Over nearly a decade, Ann and Alicia have shared countless laughs, navigated life's transitions, and built a bond rooted in mutual support. Looking back on their time together, both have reflected on a treasure trove of shared memories and noted just how much they have grown alongside one another.

While saying goodbye to this chapter brings a natural touch of sadness, both are stepping into the future with immense excitement.

Alicia has some wonderful plans on the horizon—she is diving into the workforce, focusing on saving her money, and getting ready to start traveling the world! Most inspiring of all, Alicia shared that her experience has come full circle: someday, she wants to become a mentor herself to support the next generation of youth.

Thank you, Ann, for your dedicated years of mentorship, and congratulations, Alicia, on your bright future ahead! We are so proud of you both.

Coffee with

Kinship
of the Park Rapids Area



4th Thursday of the Month

3rd Thursday in Nov & Dec

Starting at 8 am

Bella Caffé

116 3rd St W, Park Rapids



- Meet Executive Director Brandon Mustful
- Learn about Kinship's mission and community impact
- Discover how easy and rewarding it is to be a mentor
- Get details on how to enroll a child in our program
- Chat about youth mentorship over a great cup of coffee

We look forward to meeting you!

Kinship of the Park Rapids Area | kinshipparkrapids.org | 218-732-0058 | Schedule subject to change