

# 2010



## Kids 'n Kinship



**Kinship**

Mentoring Youth  
in Dakota County

[www.kidsnkinship.org](http://www.kidsnkinship.org)  
952-892-6368

## Contributors

### Corporate

Bank of the West  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield  
 Elder-Jones, Inc.  
 Foley and Mansfield  
 Goodrich Sensor Systems  
 Kopp Family  
 Merchants Bank  
 Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
 Minnesota Vikings  
 Single Ply Systems  
 SKB Rosemount Community Trust  
 Wal-Mart

### Fundraising

Christian Elder Memorial 900  
 Annual Bowlathon  
 Kids Day America  
 Rick Anderson Fundraiser

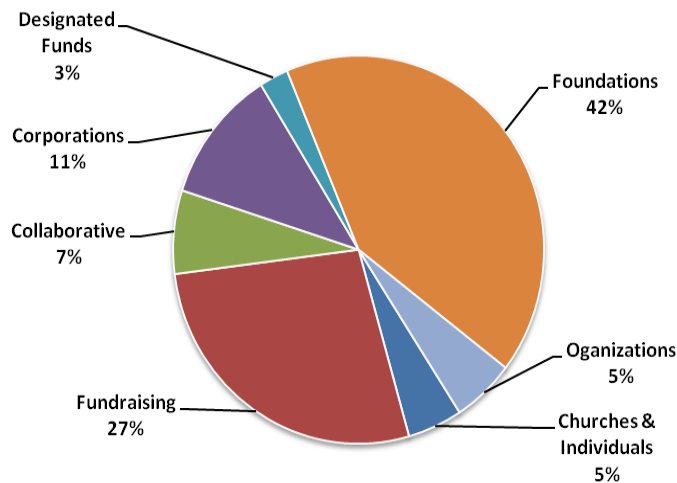
### Foundations

3M  
 Catholic Community  
 Carlson Family  
 Eagan  
 Malt-O-Meal  
 McKnight  
 Nash  
 Steve Leuthold Family  
 Toro

### Organizations

Burnsville Rotary  
 Burnsville Women of Today  
 Eagan Rotary  
 Family Service Collaborative 196  
 Lakeville Lions  
 Minnesota Community Foundation  
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapters-  
 North and South Dakota County

## Kinship 2010 Income



## What is a Mentor Worth?

A Social Return on Investment for Youth mentoring programs study was completed. The study was an effort through the Wilder Foundation and the University of Minnesota. What they found was an investment in mentoring programs pays off. For every dollar invested in mentoring youth, the social return was estimated to be \$2.72.

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Kids 'n Kinship, a 39-year-old mentoring program, the only program of its kind in Dakota County, works to recruit, screen, train, match, supervise and support adult individuals, couples and families to befriend youth.

## Mission

Kids 'n Kinship's mission is to provide friendships to children ages 5-16 in need of a positive adult role model.



## Our Focus

We assist children in forming long-term friendships with responsible, consistent adult role models. Through their Kids 'n Kinship relationships, children receive positive attention, experience a variety of activities and develop a sense of self-worth essential to successfully functioning in school, in healthy relationships and eventually on a job. Kids 'n Kinship empowers volunteers, families and youth to maximize skills and resources to build a stronger community. We serve the following Dakota County communities: Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville and Rosemount.

## Who do we serve?

38% of our mentees are Caucasian, 39% are African American/multi-racial, 9% are Hispanic, 3% are Asian, 1% are Native American and 10% are of other unknown ethnicities.

Over 75% of the children have experienced or witnessed abuse and or neglect and others have multiple mental health diagnoses. 16% of our program participants are children of prisoners.

The level of need that we see in families is very high, and issues such as transportation, communication, language barriers, and resources for additional support other than what our program can provide are present. Kids 'n Kinship is well connected with Dakota County and other service providers and can help families get the specific support they need in addition to providing mentorships.

## Successful program with a proven model of mentoring

2010 outcome measurements conducted on the youth in the Kids 'n Kinship program indicate that 99% of the youth are reducing their experience of isolation through consistent visits with their volunteer mentor, with whom they are learning new skills, physical activities, and hobbies.

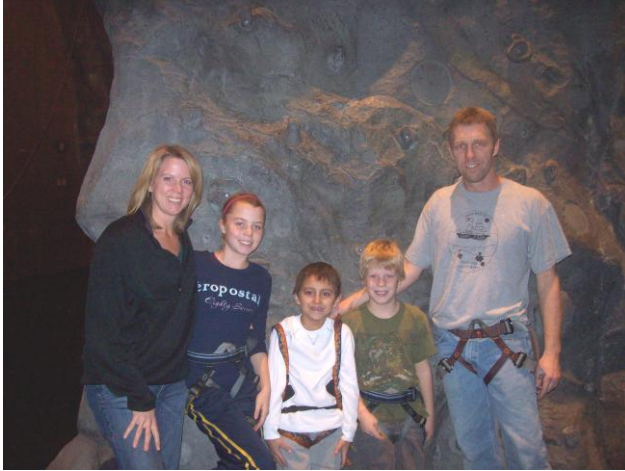
100% of the youth have established a positive relationship with their adult mentor. Among the youth surveyed, 97% also reported a reduction in serious incidents or behavior during the time they were matched with a mentor.

Kids 'n Kinship is a 501(c)3 organization relying solely on contributions from the public.

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## A Match Highlight!

Since meeting Trevor, our family's friendship with him has grown to be very comfortable. We like that we can include Trevor in our regular activities – we do not have to go out of the way to find different things to do. He fits into our life and we love having him around. We have found that he and our son Mason have become close friends as well.



Some of our favorite things we've done with Trevor are rock climbing at REI, ice skating at our house and just hanging out and having fun at home. My husband Jerry has also been able to enjoy some one-on-one guy time with Trevor, fishing and just hanging out. I know Trevor enjoys spending time with our whole family but I think he also enjoys the times when he has Jerry to himself.

When others ask us how we know Trevor, we let them know that we met him through Kids 'n Kinship and explain that it is a great mentoring program. We let them know that

Trevor has become an important part of our family and a friend to our children. Mason says that he tells others that Trevor is his friend. It's that simple. Being a part of Kids 'n Kinship and mentoring has helped our family by keeping us focused on others and not thinking only of ourselves.

One thing we've learned about Trevor is that he really enjoys BMX biking. He's always up for trying something new and willing to take on a challenge. Also, we've found that he's a very polite and respectful young man who wants to do well. He's a fun person to get to know! In the future, we'd like to do more outdoor activities with Trevor such as camping, fishing and maybe see a Twins game.

## What do we hear from our people?

<i>Mentors say....</i>	<i>Parents/Guardians say...</i>
"If I ever have a question, I get it answered quickly."	"He likes school better with (mentor) there." – Guardian of school-based match.
"Sometimes it is hard to get her to laugh. Stress in her family is very high."	"My daughter has been taken off her medications for anxiety. I think this is due to being with her mentor, it makes a huge difference." - Mother of a 6-year-old girl.
"It is challenging, educational and rewarding."	"His mentor is a real positive influence, it is really good for him and he has better behavior and more respect." - Grandmother of a 7-year-old.
"It's hard to explain poverty until you actually see it."	"He will give up anything to be with them." – Parent.
"Fulfilling experience to make a difference."	"He's starting to grow up - taking on more responsibility with schoolwork." - Parent
"Your mentee knows you are always available to them by phone and you always accept them."	

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## 2010 Accomplishments

### Touchstone Award

In January, the Dakota Electric Association named Kids 'n Kinship as the local Touchstone Energy Community Award winner. On March 1, Kids 'n Kinship accepted the 2010 Minnesota Statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in St. Paul



### Kids 'n Kinship is on Facebook!

Mentors and Mentees can now find information, events and announcements on our new page. Facebook provides links to recent stories in newspaper and television. Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kids-n-Kinship/111538578889292?ref=ts>.

### Ambassador Program

In 2010, our ambassador program remained strong in its second year. Our 12 dedicated ambassadors presented to five community groups, organized three successful fundraisers, were interviewed for several TV & newspaper spots and attended the HandsOn Twin Cities Volunteer Expo at the Mall of America. In addition, one ambassador purchased & decorated a brand new display board for us.



### New Matches Formed

36 new matches of youth with mentors were made in 2010, an increase from the 23 matches made the previous year. Kids 'n Kinship values longevity in our relationships: Our average length for a match is nearly 3 years.

#### Board of Directors

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President, Drasin Law Office

**Janet Lekson**

Vice President, Dakota Electric Board

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Treasurer, Elder Jones, Inc.

**Karen Anderson**

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Kocina Branding & Marketing Companies

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Stockman Financial

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3M - Retiree

**Diane Tran**

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#### Staff

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Program Coordinator

**Ingrid Henry**

Kinship Coordinator

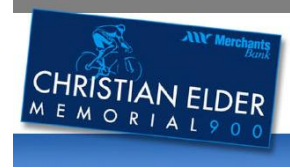
**Dawn Scouton**

Kinship Trainer

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## Program Highlights

The 5th annual **Christian Elder Memorial 900** bike ride was a hugely successful ride that raised \$26,215. This year the CEM Riders rode through Iowa and Nebraska visiting local baseball parks on the way, and finished in Apple Valley on June 12th. During the ride, a Road Diary was written filled with colorful stories and photos of the riders' progress (see [www.CEM900.com](http://www.CEM900.com)). This year's team included their first woman rider. The Christian Elder Memorial 900 is named in memory of John and Sherry's son, Christian.



*Elder, who has mentored 17-year-old Dante for six years, says, "You don't need a lot of experience to have a significant impact on a young person's life." John Elder, president of Elder-Jones, Inc., a Minneapolis based retail and restaurant construction company.*

**Match Boxes:** This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year the Berean Baptist Youth Group made another wonderful donation of Match Boxes! Match Boxes are a plastic keepsake box containing a notebook/diary, calendar, pencil, note cards, a toy or card game, as well as information on seatbelt safety and handouts for mentors and parents. A box is given to each child when they meet their mentor. Children often keep ticket stubs, cards and other remembrances of times with their mentors in the box. We love to see all the items they collect over the months and years that they are matched. The Berean Youth Group does a terrific job in purchasing and assembling the Match Boxes – this project is very important to Kids 'n Kinship.

**Fun Opportunities:** Kids 'n Kinship continued to collaborate with community resources to provide additional opportunities for our matches. The program received tickets from the local YMCA's, the Children's Museum, Science Museum of Minnesota, Walker Art Center, Tix for Tots, Minnesota Zoo, Children's Theatre, Minnesota Orchestra and the Twins.



**Bowlathon Fundraiser:** In November, Kids 'n Kinship celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Bowlathon at Cedarvale Lanes, bowling to raise money for the program! Volunteers from Thrivent, and the Burnsville and Shakopee Jaycees helped run the event including a silent auction, alongside the Kids 'n Kinship Board members.

**Office Depot Back to School Supplies:** Thanks to a generous donation from the newly opened Burnsville Office Depot, Kids 'n Kinship had backpacks to distribute to children in need at the beginning of the school year.

**School-Based Mentoring:** Kids 'n Kinship operates a school-based mentoring program in two Eagan schools. This offers mentors the opportunity to have fun getting to know a child and helping them be successful in school.