

Kids 'n Kinship



2013

**Continuing 40+
years of
Mentoring Youth
in Dakota
County**



Kinship

**Kids 'n Kinship provides friendships to youth ages 5-16
in need of a positive adult role model.**

www.kidsnkinship.org
952-892-6368

Match Highlights and Testimonials



Gopher Game

From mentee to mentor, paraphrased:

I just want to say thanks for everything you taught me. You helped me grow as a person so I'm not that shy person. I'm more outgoing and I'm a bubblier person. I love to talk to people and I have a lot of friends. I'm going into the 8th grade and I can't wait. Thanks for everything and p.s. I love u and thanks!

From parent of teen mentee after he was matched: He has never been one to look to the future but he is now.

From mentor couple: It has been a blessing being involved in Kids 'n Kinship and we are thankful for the events offered, support given and educational programs provided so that it can be the best experience for both us and our mentee!

After 10 years together, the mentor says that mentoring has really given him insight into some of the struggles of a growing child. Mentoring has made him more aware of the strong need for this type of relationship in our community and what a difference we can make.

What is your favorite part of being a mentor?

Seeing my mentee grow into herself, and change all the time. She is a caring, thoughtful person who believes that her word means something (she does what she says she will) and has great dreams for the future. She knows what she wants to stand for too, and doesn't participate in activities that don't fit into that mold, which is really mature. It's amazing to get to share in all of that!



Working on Scrapbook pages for a Memory Book

School-based Mentoring: A mentor and her matched student get together in a third grade classroom. They work on reading, journaling and other assignments. Outside of school they enjoy ice skating and walking the mentor's dog. The grandmother says, "My granddaughter's mentor is outstanding! My granddaughter looks forward to every get-together and talks so much about her; this is so wonderful — I am so grateful."

2013 Accomplishments

Media Attention Expands: The program had a large amount of print and television media attention for National Mentoring Month, the Annual Gala and the CEM 900 Bike Ride thanks to our media partner, Media Relations, Inc. We had ongoing articles and photos of our waiting youth in the St. Paul Pioneer Press and regular descriptions of waiting youth on numerous local "Patch.com" online news websites. The program grew its reach through social media even more this past year by expanding our blog as well as our presence on Twitter and Facebook.

Increased Matches: We were able to form 32 new mentoring relationships during 2013.

Parent Training: Kids 'n Kinship parents participated in a class on the topic, "When to Worry About Your Child's Worries", presented by Dr. Andrea Singh.

Chat Groups: Mentors are asked to attend two or more of our Chat groups per year as a part of our system of ongoing mentor training. The spring Chat covered "Bridges Out of Poverty," training in collaboration with another local non-profit. Another one covered "Going Deeper in Your Relationship," encouraging mentors to help their mentees to thrive. At the fall Chat, the topic was "Why and When to make a call to Child Protection and What happens when a call is made?" Dakota County social service staff led the training, offering resources to deal with many difficult family situations. At all Chat group trainings, there is time for mentors to share what works and what hasn't worked with parent/guardian communication and mentee activities, etc.

2013 Events

Winter Outing: Mentees and adventurous mentors had a great time roller skating at Skateville in Burnsville. Funding support and wonderful volunteers came from the Apple Valley American Legion Women's Auxiliary. It is always fun to see youth take their first trip around the rink on skates.



Volunteer Bike Sale: Mentor Rick Anderson presented Kids 'n Kinship with \$11,546 in proceeds from his bike sale. Rick uses his skill and time to refurbish bikes into great condition. Over the past 5 years Rick has raised \$33,560 to ensure that more kids will receive mentors.

This year's 8th Annual CEM 900 raised \$35,000 – a great success! Led by John Elder, past mentor; Dennis Hill, board member; and Larry Koehler, mentor, six riders logged 900 miles over three weeks during late May and early June through a sometimes rainy Wisconsin. Merchants Bank of Apple Valley was the primary sponsor along with support from other community groups and businesses.





The 5th Annual Make a Difference Day: Birthday Bag Blitz was another successful partnership with Cheerful Givers and Thomson Reuters. This year 3,000 birthday bags were packed for local food shelves by children, mentors and community volunteers.

The Spring Outing and Volunteer Recognition Event at the Burnsville

YMCA found mentees and mentors enjoying an afternoon of swimming, basketball, games, activities and a great lunch provided by Noodles & Co. This year mentor families were encouraged to bring in gently used clothing to donate or trade for other clothing.



Kids 'n Kinship Ambassadors and their mentees participated in the Mall of America HandsOn Twin Cities Volunteer Expo in February. They took a shift talking about mentoring to passersby and explored the mall with Nickelodeon Universe passes.



Annual Gala: Our 2nd Annual Kids 'n Kinship Gala was held Sunday evening, October 6, 2013 at the Crystal Lake Golf Club in Lakeville. We were able to increase the number of guests over the prior year's event. Everyone was served a wonderful dinner along with a delicious dessert from Buca di Beppo. Guests participated in a silent auction, wine pull, purse pull and enjoyed the wit of our emcee Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom, a dedicated

supporter of youth. Drew Hendrickson, a former mentee of the program, gave a very moving testimonial on his experience of mentoring. The evening closed with the incredible music of Tim Mahoney, a Twin Cities Favorite from "The Voice".

Our 14th Annual Bowlathon and Basket Raffle was a great success because of a hard working committee, terrific sponsors and great participants. One mentee worked super hard and brought in over \$300 to help match more kids with mentors! It was held at Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan. Peeps volunteers from the MOA store greeted out guests.



Learning new things: Many of our longer term mentees have become teens and we wanted to provide some significant programming for them. We partnered with Best Buy and a former mentee, who was matched for 10 years in our program and works for Best Buy. Through the Teen Tech Mentor Program, our teens learned to use digital cameras and how to upload and edit photos and video. They earned their own camera and completed the course by providing a selection of photos or video describing their mentoring relationship.

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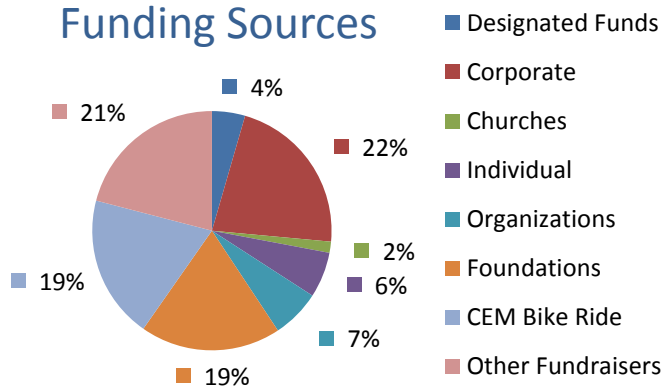
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Funding Sources

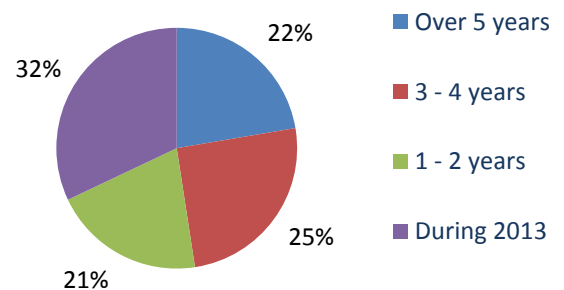


- Kids 'n Kinship receives no government funding but benefits from a variety of funding sources to provide financial stability.
- Kids 'n Kinship raises 30% of its revenue through fundraisers.

2013 Mentor Match Outcomes

- 96% of youth are reducing their experience of isolation by consistent visits with their volunteer with whom they are learning new skills, physical activities and hobbies.
- 97% of youth have established a positive relationship with their adult mentor.
- 96% of youth reported no serious incidences or a reduction of risky behavior during the time they were matched with a mentor.

Match Length



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Our Focus

We match youth in need of support, with screened and trained adult volunteer mentors in the communities of: Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville and Rosemount. Through their Kids 'n Kinship relationships, youth receive positive attention, experience a variety of activities and develop a sense of self-worth essential to successfully functioning in healthy relationships.

You can find us at:

www.kidsnkinship.org

@kidsnkinship

www.facebook.com/kidsnkinship

Read our blog for thoughts on mentoring and upcoming news:

<http://mentoringinsights.blogspot.com/>

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