



Kinship

Kids 'n Kinship

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January is National Mentoring Month!

January 2011 is the tenth annual National Mentoring Month, a time each year when our nation spotlights the importance of mentors and the need for every child to have a caring adult in his or her life.

Thank you for all you do to enrich a child's life!

Kids 'n Kinship's outcomes from 2010 show:

-99% of matched youth experienced a reduction of isolation through consistent mentor visits, learning new skills, activities, and hobbies.

-100% of the youth have established a positive relationship with their adult mentor.

-97% of the youth experienced a reduction or absence of at risk behavior while matched with a mentor.

Scrap booking

Want to keep a scrapbook of your time with your mentee and need a little help getting started? Or maybe you've already got a scrapbook and just want to work on it with your mentee & meet other matches too. Come to our scrap booking session at the Galaxie Library in Apple Valley on Thursday January 27, from 6-8 pm, in the large meeting room. Former mentor Patty Perfetti will lead us in scrap booking, providing basic supplies and instruction as needed. Christmas and Valentine's Day themed materials will be available as well as general use items. Bring your photos, ticket stubs, etc.

Mail Pack & Ship – Apple Valley

952-432-4880

Special thanks to MPS for donating the printing of this newsletter – and try them out:

Mention Kids 'n Kinship for a 10% discount on printing

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Kids 'n Kinship Skateville Winter Outing

WHO: Volunteers/children who are matched and their families, waiting list children and their parent and siblings who live in the household.



WHAT: Roller skating, crafts, refreshments, fun! We will have a book giveaway thanks to Barnes and Noble!

WHY: To give Kids 'n Kinship participants the opportunity to have fun together.

WHEN: Thursday February 3rd, 2011
6-8 p.m.
Skateville Roller Rink
201 S. River Ridge Circle
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-890-0988

You must register each attendee online at <http://kidsnkinshipskateville.eventbrite.com/>
Please RSVP by January 27th.

The Winter Outing is sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1776.

Skateville is in Burnsville, at the northwest of the corner of Nicollet and Highway 13. Take Nicollet Avenue north to South River Ridge Circle, west to Skateville.

Thank You Financial Donors

Kinship of Greater Minneapolis COP
Bank of the West
Kopp Family Foundation
Eagan Rotary
Burnsville Rotary Breakfast Club
The Nash Foundation
Northern Dakota Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Vikings Children's Fund
Catholic Community Foundation
Eagan Foundation
TORO % Mike Zenner
Ameriprise % Mike Pelzel
Blue Cross Blue Shield % Barb Anderson
Homes that Work % Lisa Wendt

Thank You to all Food Perspective Donors!

Successful Bowlathon

On November 7th Kids 'n Kinship celebrated our 11th annual bowlathon at Cedarvale Lanes, where we bowled and raised money for the program! Our thanks to all of our donors and sponsors who made this day a success. Volunteers from Thrivent, Best Buy Lakeville, and the Burnsville and Shakopee Jaycees helped run the event along with Kids 'n Kinship Board members.

A special thanks to all the individuals who generously pledged support and purchased auction items.

Thank You Bowlathon Donors

Warners' Stellan, Pinnacle Properties, Foley and Mansfield P.L.L.P., Goodrich Sensor and Integrated Systems, Applewood Orchards, Ratzlaff Homes, Stockman Financial Services Inc, Northern Dakota Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Shakopee Jaycees and Dakota Electric.

Thank You In Kind Bowlathon Donors

Walmart Apple Valley, Abdallah Candy, Roasted Pear, ,Byerly's, Sams Club Eagan, Fitness 19, MN Timberwolves, Dog Day Get Away, Lakeville 21 Theatre Mueller family theatres, Ace Hardware, Gail Weinholzer, Burnsville Jaycees, Dairy Queen, Cornerstone Copy Center, AAA Minnesota / Iowa, Brunswick Bowl, Cedarvale Lanes, Valley Natural Foods, Jan Menne. Lise Anderson, ,J.J. Taylor, Don Stevens Company, Best Buy Apple Valley, MN Vikings, MN Gophers, MN Twins, Toro Foundation, Media Relations, Inc., Davanni's Pizza, GR Promotions, Papa Murphy's, Heather Kantrud and Janet Lekson.

Thank Your Mentor Day is January 22nd
Kids! Fill out for your mentor!

To My Mentor

Dear _____,

I would like to tell you that I have had so much fun with you, especially when we

_____.

You've helped me _____

and I just want to say my relationship with you has been _____.

I am looking forward to when we

Thank you for being _____

Your friend, _____

Dental Care – Give Kids a Smile Day

In 2011, free care will be offered on Friday, Feb. 4, and Saturday, Feb. 5, to children whose families cannot afford to pay for dental care. Please go to this website to find a location near you and to make an appointment. You may also call your Kids' n Kinship coordinator for assistance.

http://www.mndental.org/public_home/about_us/give_kids_a_smile/

If your child attends school in District 191 – contact the Diamondhead clinic for more information 612-746-1530 for dental questions, 952-707-4171 for an appointment.

There is also a low or no cost dental clinic at the Western Service Center or Northern Service Center. Call 612-746 1530 for details and appointment.

MATCH HIGHLIGHT Families and Changes

A special anniversary will be celebrated this spring – 5 years of a wonderful relationship with lots of changes and still going strong.

In 2005 five year-old Isaiah's mom, Kakie, heard about Kids 'n Kinship. She knew her son could benefit from a responsible male influence in his life. She LOVED the idea of a traditional family mentoring, especially a family with a boy her sons' age. Kim and Dan and their sons Dakota, age five and Derek, a newborn at the time, became a mentor family and a wonderful match evolved.

In between Twins games, swimming, visits to parks, monster truck rallies, Home Depot workshops and sports – the match enjoys hanging out, playing games and sharing meals together. They also like the quarterly Kids 'n Kinship events and special tickets. Isaiah and Dakota have become great friends. Isaiah' mom loves that he now calls them his family.

A few months in to the match, Kakie told Kids 'n Kinship – “this is a great family and just what I was looking for to support Isaiah! I cannot even describe how good this is for Isaiah. They are impacting our lives profoundly!” In fact, in looking through our Kids 'n Kinship outreach notes over the last five years – there are no notes from Isaiah's mom without a mention such as: “they are a wonderful family”, “great role models” or “we are beyond blessed to have them in our lives. They offer steadiness, gentle guidance and healthy family relationships”.

One of our very favorite stories Kakie shared with us: Isaiah brought a flyer home - for a 'Dad's day' at school - mom did



not know how to handle this as her son had never met his father and he was so excited about the 'Dad's day' – shortly after, Dan came by to pick up Isaiah and he saw the flyer in the front hall – he said “could I go to this?” Mom was overwhelmed with appreciation, awe and gratitude. Isaiah felt inclusion with his classmates in a way he would not have otherwise.

The match took a break – Kim had a mission trip to Belize, the family welcomed the delightful addition of two daughters adopted from the Ukraine, Dan was deployed to Afghanistan. We are happy to report, he came home safely and the match resumed – bigger and better.

Kim and Dan report that Isaiah is a joy – he has lots in common with their oldest son Dakota. "It is great to have Isaiah a part of our family, we are so grateful to be able to mentor such a wonderful boy!" Being matched with Isaiah is a “great experience for our whole family”.

Happy 5 year Anniversary!

Winter Mentor Chat Group

Join us for a Mentors only chat group: Tuesday February 8, 5:30-7 pm. Connect with other mentors facing the same issues you are, share upcoming Spring activity ideas and discuss an excellent presentation: Shannon Bailey, Adolescent Health Coordinator, Dakota County Public Health Department, is back, by popular demand, presenting: *Local trends in adolescent risk taking behaviors*. Participants will learn about the myths and realities of being a teen in Dakota County. This session will highlight issues currently impacting young people.

Chat Group for Mentors only
Tuesday February 8, 5:30-7 pm
Wescott library in Eagan – Dakota Room

Don't miss it! To R.S.V.P. email rykinship@aol.com or call Rita at 651-686-0990
Reminder: the programs expectation is attendance at two chats per year.

Wizard of Oz Play

Wednesday, April 6th at 7:30 pm at Burnsville High School – registration details will be on our website.

Barnes and Noble Apple Valley

Special thanks for the very generous donation of wonderful books! Children will receive books at the Winter Outing on February 3!



Barnes and Noble and Kids 'n Kinship staff receiving the wonderful donation.

Congratulations

To Lia and Joseph Quinn, mentors, on the birth of their daughter Makenna Grace Quinn, on Dec 25, 2010!

Thank You In-Kind Donors

Cornerstone Copy Dan Benson
Shrine Circus Burnsville PAC
Roger Martin Tix for Tots
Jim Barber AAA Minnesota/Iowa
Mail Pack and Ship – Apple Valley

Thank You for Donor Designated funds

Kirsten Storlie, Sarah Gerber, Scott Berres, Wendy Haroldson, and Cheri Fox

Thank You Individual Donors

Tristan and Tara Brownlee Geri Hess
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Cheri Fox Mary Hagerman
Cheryl Bielke Karen Anderson
Patty Perfetti

Thank You GIVE TO THE MAX donors

Mary Haupt Janice Kehnemann
Deborah Kieschnick Janet Lekson
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Karen Anderson Mike Milligan
Roxanne Tolle Brian O'Rourke
Pennie Bucilla Dawn Kalb

Welcome New Matches

Jason Jaynes and Josh
Brian O'Rourke and James
Pennie Bucilla and Sophia
Mary Hagerman and Allyssa
Michelle Barrett and Giselle
Sandy and Gary Inselman and Madison
Julie and Ken Heckman and Joshua & Bryan
Kenya Czerwinski and Lily
Jerod Lass and Joshua
Bob and Shelley Ward and Jakaar

**We're being green and frugal. Our newsletter is being abbreviated – keep checking our website, facebook and your emails for additional information.




Birthday Bag Blitz-” Kids Helping Kids”

On Sat. Oct. 23rd, 55 children, their mentors and community volunteers gathered and assembled 1,870 toy-filled birthday gift bags for local food shelves and shelters so that less fortunate families can recognize their child's birthday with a gift.

“THANKS to all who participated!”



BULLETIN BOARD (community activities for you to consider ~ we recommend you call ahead for date/time/cost changes)

WHAT	DATE	WHERE	TIME/COST	CONTACT
 Scrap booking Event for matched Mentors & Mentees! Kinship 952-892-6368	Jan 27	Apple Valley library	6-8 pm free!	
 Kids `n Kinship Winter Outing Kinship	Thursday Feb 3	Skateville in Burnsville	6-8 pm free!	952-892-6368
 Chat Group for Mentors only Kinship	Tuesday Feb 8	Wescott library in Eagan	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	651-686-0990
Mill City Museum Mill tours, Pillsbury bake off, Big River and more	January – May	Minneapolis	\$4-\$8 www.millcitymuseum.org	612-341-7555

Check city park and recreation websites for Winter activities, all city garage sales, skating, art, treasure hunts, ice fishing and more www.cityofeagan.com, www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us, www.ci.farmington.mn.us, www.ci.rosemount.mn.us, www.ci.burnsville.mn.us, www.ci.lakeville.mn.us

2011 Saint Paul Winter Carnival	Jan 27-Feb 6	varies	varies www.winter-carnival.com	651-223-4700
Public Ice Skating indoors	Rosemount Ice Arena	www.ci.rosemount.mn.us	cost \$1.50 -\$3	651-322-6000
Minnesota Sportsmen's Show	Jan 13-16	St Paul RiverCentre	\$2-\$7 www.rivercentre.org	
Boat Show	Jan 20-23	Minneapolis Convention Center	free - \$10 www.minneapolisboatshow.com	612-332-8330
Arts & Crafts Show	Feb 11-13	Burnsville Center	www.gingerbreadshows.com varies/free	952-435-8181
Snow Tubing	ongoing	Trapp Farm Park, Eagan	varies \$2	651-675-5500 ext 2

Check for fun events at various Dakota County Libraries
www.co.dakota.mn.us/LeisureRecreation/CountyLibraries/default.htm

*First Friday Family Nights at Dakota County Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan. Mentor matches report that the First Friday Nights events are great fun. Snow shoe, kick sled and other rentals are also available at various other times, for details www.co.dakota.mn.us/LeisureRecreation/CountyParks/Locations/LebanonHills/VisitorCenter 651-554-6530

*Como Zoo	ongoing	Saint Paul	daytime comozooconservatory.org	651-645-1014
**Minnesota Zoo	daily 9-4	Apple Valley	varies mnzoo.com	952.431.9500
**Science Museum	ongoing	Saint Paul	varies smm.org	651-221-9444
**Children's Museum	ongoing	Saint Paul	ongoing mcm.org	651-225-6000
** SW YMCA	Eagan	call for open times	ymcatwincities.org/programs	651-456-9622
** MN Valley YMCA	Burnsville	call for open times	ymcatwincities.org/programs	952-898-9622

 Kids `n Kinship sponsored event

 ***Free Events**

- **YMCA Passes: free passes for mentor matches to use at any open gym / pool times at the Eagan SW YMCA and the Burnsville MN Valley YMCA! Call Kids `n Kinship for pass information (volunteers must also bring a photo ID).
- **Walker Museum, call Kids `n Kinship to reserve your free passes (at least three days in advance).
- **Science Museum, call Kids `n Kinship to reserve your \$3.00 passes (at least three days in advance).
- **Children's Museum, show your Kids `n Kinship Membership card for free adult admission (one per child) and \$2.25 child admission rates, call if you need a new Membership card.
- **Minnesota Zoo Passes, call Kids `n Kinship – passes are for children only and we have a very limited number!

Sign up with Kids `n Kinship now for Scrap booking 952-891-3885 and on <http://kidsnkinshipskateville.eventbrite.com/> for the Skateville Winter Outing