



# Kinship

Kids 'n Kinship

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# SUMMER 2006 Newsletter

## SUMMER OUTING

Kids 'n Kinship participants (volunteer/child matches, families of those involved, and anyone currently on the wait-list) are invited to have loads of fun hiking, canoeing, swimming, crafting, wall climbing and having lunch together too!



*Children must be with an adult at all times.*

Saturday, August 19  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm

Camp Streefland  
11490 Klamath Trail,  
Lakeville, MN 55044

Bring Swimsuits, Towels, Lifejackets, Sun block, and Bug Spray

RSVP to Kids 'n Kinship by Monday, August 14, 2006. Leave your name, phone number, and number of people attending with your party 952-892-6368

**Burnsville Target** Volunteers will be there to help and provide a craft for participants.

**CLOTHING SWAP:** Do you have children's clothing that you no longer use? Bring it to the summer outing. Do you need children's clothing for school this fall? Come and pick up items you may need. We expect to have a nice assortment to choose from for children who need items for going back to school this fall. We are focusing on clothing; however items such as backpacks, gloves or other accessories and shoes in good condition are also accepted. Anyone who has some time to assist with the clothes swap, prior to, during or following the summer outing, please contact the program. Thanks!

## **Letter from the Director**

Sunny Greetings to all!

I hope that your summer is going wonderfully and that you are taking time to slow down and enjoy the outdoors, read a good book or do something kind for someone. There are so many summer activities available to you that I hope you can take advantage of the opportunities and have fun! Here at Kinship we just celebrated the return of the Big Sky 900 Charity Ride team back to Minnesota. (See article in this newsletter) We biked the last two miles with the team. It was great fun and many Kinship participants got out and enjoyed a ride on their bikes (for some of us staff it had been awhile and we were feeling kind of rusty!) We have many Twins tickets available to you, passes to the zoo, Science Museum, Walker Art Center, etc. And of course we have the upcoming summer outing where you will have chance to get out in a canoe, do a wall climb, swim in the pool, make a craft and of course eat! Check out the back page "Bulletin Board" for many activity ideas. Please think about finding an opportunity to do something for someone else in the community. A meaningful activity is to volunteer together with your mentor / mentee. You can introduce a child to the joy and fulfillment that comes from giving of yourself.

Summer – it is a time to stretch and grow, slow down and share time with others. I hope your summer is wonderful and I look forward to sharing some time with you at the summer outing!

Sincerely,  
Jan Belmore

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful people can make a difference, in fact, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Meade

## **Advertising Donations**

Next Media Advertising Group has donated 21 venues of pro-bono advertising to our organization for an entire year. They have highlighted our poster in 15 different dining establishments in Dakota County as well as the Metrodome. We are extremely grateful for the wonderful and generous support this business has provided to increase awareness of our quality volunteer opportunity.

Twin Cities Kids Directory has included a pro-bono ad in the last several publications of their magazine. Not only do they provide a wonderful resource of helpful things in the community for parents, but they contribute to "making a difference in the lives of children" through the awareness of this ad.

## **Board of Directors**

Behind the scenes, but a very important part of Kids 'n Kinship is the Board of Directors. The board functions as a governance vehicle that sets standards, monitors program accomplishments, works towards financial stability and searches for ways to improve how we make our mission of befriending children happen. The board provides a voice from the community about the service available to youth in need of role models. Members of the board have backgrounds in finances, legal issues, business, community and non-profits. Who is the Board?

John Drasin, President Drasin Law Office  
Janet Lekson, Vice President, Dakota County Technical College

Karen Anderson, Secretary, Fair Issac Corporation  
Wayne Stockman, Treasurer, Stockman Financial  
Kari Davis, The Peace Foundation  
Kristine Nogosek, Severson Sheldon, Dougherty and Molenda

Look for the Board members at our events and get to know them!

## **United Way Donor Choice**

Watch your employee news for upcoming United Way Pledge drives this summer and fall. Kids 'n Kinship does not receive United Way grants, but is eligible to be written in as "Donor or Designated Choice." Please be sure to write "Kids 'n Kinship", not just Kinship, on your donation card or online contribution form. Thank you to all United Way designated donors. Your contribution is very much appreciated and used directly to match children and support mentor matches!

## **StringWerks**

This wonderful group performed at the Big Sky 900 reception on June 25. They were great! StringWerks is an orchestra program for youth through adult through Burnsville Community Education and offers lessons, rehearsals and performances. Musicians are placed in groups based on ability. For more information call Carolyn Axt at 952-890-1284. Upcoming free performances at 3:00 pm at Burnsville High School's Mraz Performing Arts Center are November 18, 2006, March 17, and June 2, 2007

## **Panera Bread and Café**

The Apple Valley store donated the wonderful cookies for our Big Sky Welcome Reception. Watch for their gift card donation on our On-Line Auction as well. Panera is committed to giving back to the community, and we are extremely grateful for their generous support.

## Match Highlight

Family Shares their Time and Friendship over the years.....

Lucky Dalton was matched with the Dorman family in May of 2001- over 5 years ago! All of the Dorman family has shared their time and friendship with Dalton – MaBeth and Joe along with their children – Seth and Paige. Seth and Dalton are very close in age, and the two of them have shared in many activities and have had a lot of fun together over the years.

The Dorman’s met Dalton when he was 7 years old. He is now 13, and they have enjoyed watching him grow and mature. The Dorman’s have enjoyed their special friendship with Dalton and say that he is a great kid! He fits right in with their family and their family activities, and they enjoy their time with him. The Dorman’s plan on staying in Dalton’s life through high school and into adult years, and hope to continue to guide him and support him through the many important decisions and years ahead.

Dalton says that the Dorman’s are really fun and really nice! Because he lives in a rural area with not many kids around his age, Dalton has not been able to get out and do a lot of fun things. He is grateful for his time with Dormans because he has been able to experience so many neat and fun things. Dalton says his time with them “has been a blast!” Some of Dalton’s favorite activities have been going with them to their cabin, and shooting the air gun with Seth. He had fun when Dorman’s celebrated the last day of school by hooking up a big screen on their back of their house and watching movies and having a sleep over.

One of the best highlights was Dorman’s signing Dalton up for baseball. Joe and MaBeth picked Dalton up for practices and games, and Dalton and Seth were on the same team. Dalton loved playing, and practiced hard at being a good player. This year, Dalton was excited to participate again, but hurt his hand before the season and has been unable to play. However, he does attend the games with Dorman’s and helps to cheer Seth and his team on.

Dalton’s mom, Jenny, says she could not have asked for more special people to be matched with Dalton. They have helped him tremendously with his social skills and interacting with others. Jenny said that Seth and Paige are positive role models for Dalton, and he has learned how kids should act and his behavior has improved by spending time with

them. She said this match has been perfect all the way through and the Dorman’s have been a major plus in Dalton’s life. Jenny also shared that when Dalton can’t talk to her about something, he is able to talk to MaBeth and Joe. Jenny is very grateful to this family for the time and support they have provided to Dalton over the years, and says, “They are the nicest people she has ever met!”



Left to right: Mabeth, Seth, Joe, Dalton, Paige

## New Chat Group Approach

We value you as a mentor in our program and want to make sure you are feeling a part of Kids ‘n Kinship and have all the tools to make the most of your mentoring relationship. Each of you is assigned to a specific staff person who provides supervision and support to you. Twice a year you will be asked to attend a “Chat Group” with your staff contact. The Chat group is formatted to discuss what is important to you and get support/ideas from other mentors. In addition, we would like to get to know you more and inform you about ways you can interact and support our mission.

Upcoming topics will be:

Your relationship joys/ challenges and activities/ passes available to you through the program. Feedback to us on how you experience our procedures, etc. Your community connections such as church, employer and civic groups and any opportunities to interact with them for recruitment / funding. Look for more information to be coming from your “outreach worker” staff contact.

**Please check our website [www.kidsnkinship.org](http://www.kidsnkinship.org) for great photos and articles. Click on Kids ‘n Kinship Participants in the News!**

# Big Sky 900 Charity Ride Raises \$16,000!



Big Sky 900 riders, friends, family and Kids 'n Kinship children and mentors prepare to ride the last mile together.



From left: Jan Belmore Kids 'n Kinship Executive Director, John Elder rider and Kids 'n Kinship mentor, Ken Dean rider, Tom Behan rider, Gordy Clough driver, Pat Farrington of Merchants Bank, sponsor.

Thanks to the efforts of Kids 'n Kinship mentor, John Elder and team mates, Ken Dean, Tom Behan, and support driver Gordy Clough, funds were raised to support Kids 'n Kinship's efforts in matching more youth with mentors. From June 10<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, the team biked from Montana to Minnesota, covering on average 70 miles a day. You can still read their Road

Diary if you go to the website: [www.bigsky900.com](http://www.bigsky900.com). John Elder first came up with the idea as a way to raise much-needed funds for the program. John has been a mentor in the program for several years. John is an outstanding guy, a kind and loyal person, an engaging and sensitive mentor and a successful businessman. We truly appreciate the generosity of this effort, the energy day to day on the trip, the sacrifices and inconveniences they faced to complete their mission. Merchants Bank president Pat Farrington said of their major sponsorship: "We know of the quality of the Kids'n Kinship program here in our community and when John approached us, we wanted to be a part of supporting that." Many supporters gave very generously and we are so thankful. We had a great time welcoming the team back into Apple Valley, starting at Greenleaf School with bike checks performed by the Bike Depot, and ending with a celebration hosted at Merchants bank on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Treats from Panera, a live orchestra (StringWerks), donated items for giveaways and many friends, family and supporters made it a memorable day. Thanks to all who supported this effort.

Thanks to the following in-kind donors who contributed to the event on June 25<sup>th</sup>

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Dakota Electric  | Merchants Bank   |
| Denny's          | Greenleaf School |
| Erik's Bike Shop | Big Sky 900      |
| Penn Cycle       | StringWerks      |
| Buffets Inc      | Panera           |
| Bike Depot       | Target           |
| Health Partners  |                  |



Sherry Elder, major supporter of the Big Sky 900 Charity Ride for Kids (and John's wife!).

## Big Sky 900 Charity Ride (continued)

Dante, who has been matched with John for over two years, thinks John is awesome because of the great support he has provided and because of the Big Sky 900 ride. Dante says: I think that he is the most fun mentor I could possibly get and that he is one of the coolest too. I love going to his house and grilling and I also love playing home run derby, which is a game we made up with wiffle balls and plastic bats. When we go to movies, play pool, go bowling or just hang out together we always have fun. Most of all I love going biking with John. We also like going to Miesville and getting the best burgers in the world.

I think that John riding 900 miles to support Kids 'n Kinship was a generous and thoughtful thing for him to do and if anyone could do it, I knew it was him. Also the ride was long and it took a lot of training and he did really well with that too.

LaDawn, Dante's mom says the match is so happy when they get together. I could not have hoped or prayed for a better mentor for Dante. John is fun, full of energy, full of integrity and while our family is important to us, it is amazing to see another person take such an interest in and be an important model for my son. John sends a very strong message not only to Dante but to other mentors how important the commitment is. This shows in the Big Sky 900 ride. His message is not only creative and fun, it is a goal that he set and trained for and achieved. He is an inspiration.



John and Dante celebrating the Big Sky 900.

## Thank You Donors

United Way Donor Choice participants  
Ameriprise on behalf of Mike Pelzel  
Curtis Carlson Family Foundation  
Bid4Funds  
Community Solutions Funds  
Christus Victor Church  
Kowalski's Market  
ISD #194 LCTS Funds  
ISD #191 LCTS Funds  
SKB Rosemount Community Trust  
Burnsville Lions Club  
McKnight Foundation  
Lakeville Rotary  
TORO on behalf of Mike Zenner  
The Peace Foundation  
ECM Community Action Grant  
Kopp Foundation

## Thank You Individual donors

Carol Frick in memory of Lorraine Pauling  
Linda Harty  
Peggy and Steven Butler

## Thank You In-kind donors

Turning Leaf Chiropractic  
Family Times Magazine  
Next Media  
Stress Free Living  
Kids Directory  
Dick Hausten  
Chicago Floral  
Judy Nickell  
Papa Johns Pizza  
Minnesota Twins  
Mentoring Partnership MN  
Tix 4 Tots  
Cub Food  
3M  
Orthodontic Specialists

## Big Sky 900 In-kind Donors

Merchants Bank  
Dakota Electric  
Denny's  
Erik's Bike Shop  
Penn Cycle  
Buffets, Inc  
Bike Depot  
Greenleaf School  
StringWerks  
Panera  
Target  
Health Partners  
Elder Jones/ Big Sky 900

## Welcome New Matches

Jason Adelman and Trayonno and Elijah  
Deanna Guse and Larissa  
Beth Miller and Jasmine  
Tonya and Monty Montesino and Dominique  
Carrie Peterson and Alicia  
Melissa and Brad Dahlquist and Alana  
Sarah Knopp and Alexis  
Brian and Cheryl Johnson and Alex  
Valerie, Dominic Krebsbach and Deonte  
Joe Marzullo and Paul  
Bob Ward and Mitchell  
Rick and Lise Anderson and Jon  
Kerry Sobieck and Dylan  
Kim and Dan Rawley family and Isaiah  
Korrine, Ed, Morgan Speegle and Cordell  
Molly Northrop and Kaitlynn  
Dave Sabastina and Devin  
Laura Konop and Gaile  
Tracey Tomasetti and Myanna

## Online auction volunteer needed

We are need of some help to form a team to work with our online auction, [www.bid4funds.com](http://www.bid4funds.com). Items such as gift certificates to local establishments, restaurants, salons, service stations, etc are needed to be recruited. Forms and tracking systems are set up thanks to Kelli Fleetham, a Kinship mentor. Your job would be to ask area businesses to donate items and help with follow up. This can be done from home with a phone and/or fax. Contact Jan Belmore at 952-892-6368. Remember to check [www.bid4funds.com](http://www.bid4funds.com) each month for new items!

## Looking for a meaningful activity to do with your match?

Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children! This organization is committed to reducing hunger in the world. Volunteers help pack meals that get shipped to various countries around the world that are suffering from hunger. Since it began in 1994, FMSC has enrolled 250,000 volunteers to help pack more than 43 millions meals for hungry children in orphanages, schools, and clinics around the world! FMSC has locations around the Twin Cities, including one in Eagan at 990 Lone Oak Road.

It is a fun activity and only requires 2 hours of your time! You can watch a video and learn about hunger issues in the world, before packing. It is meaningful, educational, and fun! If you and your match are interested in volunteering at the Eagan location, call Deb Andrews a 651-379-2775 to schedule a time. FMSC also has walk-in nights

where you can just show up! To find out more about those walk-in nights, along with more information, check out their website at [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org).

## Bowlathon!

Save the date: Nov 5<sup>th</sup> is our date for this years' annual Bowlathon at Cedarvale Lanes. Start planning your teams now and begin raising pledges if you wish. As the date gets closer, details will be on our website and in the Fall Kids 'n Kinship newsletter.

## Spring Outing

The spring outing was a blast! Kids 'n Kinship children, mentors, staff, and volunteers all gathered at the Burnsville YMCA for an afternoon of swimming, crafts, basketball, games, and pizza! At the end of the outing, Kids 'n Kinship kids presented their mentors with flowers to say "Thank You" for all the support and encouragement they give to their matches. It was a great day filled with laughter, fun, and BIG smiles! We would like to extend our thanks to volunteers and donors that supported our outing: U of M volunteers, Paul McNamee, Cub Foods of Burnsville, Papa John's, and Chicago Floral. And, of course, thank you to all of our wonderful Kids 'n Kinship kids and mentors that made our outing a success.



Jasmine and Beth in the pool.



Mike and Damian in the gym.

# BULLETIN BOARD (we recommend you call ahead for date/time/cost changes)

| WHAT                                  | DATE                        | WHERE                    | TIME                | CONTACT        |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Dakota County Fair                    | August 7-13                 | Farmington               | 10:00 am-dusk       | 651-463-8818   |
| *Fire Muster                          | September 5-10              | Burnsville               | varies              | 952-898-5646   |
| Art and Jazz Festival                 | Aug 19                      | Nicollet Commons Park BV | 11am-10 pm          | 952-895-4500   |
| Minneapolis Mosaic Festivals          | through Aug 31              | locations/times vary     |                     | 612-673-3379   |
| *Midwest Open Ice Skate Championships | Aug 4-6                     | Augsburg Ice Arena       | varies              | 952-541-4878   |
| Lone Oak Days                         | Sept 30                     | Eagan, Holtz Farm        | varies              | 651-675-5500   |
| MN State Fair                         | Aug 24 – Sept 4             | Saint Paul               | \$9-free 6am-Mid    | 651-683-6806   |
| Renaissance Festival                  | weekends Aug 19-Oct 1       | Shakopee                 | \$9-18 9am – 7 pm   | 952-445-7361   |
| *National Night Out                   | Aug 2 and varies            | Community Block Parties  |                     | 1-800-NITE-OUT |
| Leprechaun Days                       | July 21-30                  | Rosemount                | varies              | 651-322-6000   |
|                                       | *Parade July 29 at 11:00 am |                          |                     |                |
| Loring Park Arts Festival             | Aug 5,6                     | Loring Park, Mpls        | varies              | 612-203-9911   |
| *Uptown Art Fair                      | Aug 4-6                     | Minneapolis              | 10:00 – varies      | 612-823-4581   |
| *Como Zoo                             | ongoing                     | Saint Paul               | daytime             | 651-645-1014   |
| **Science Museum                      | ongoing                     | Saint Paul               | varies              | 651-221-9444   |
| *Family fun days                      | Tuesdays                    | Mall of America          | day/eve             | 952-883-8800   |
| **Children's Museum                   |                             |                          |                     |                |
| *Also free third Sundays              | ongoing                     | Saint Paul               | ongoing             | 651-225-6000   |
| **Eagan YMCA Family Fun Nights        |                             | SW YMCA in Eagan         | Friday nights       | 651-456-9622   |
| **Burnsville YMCA                     | MN Valley                   | Burnsville               | call for open times | 952-898-9622   |

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## \*Free Events

- \*\***YMCA Passes:** Use at any open gym / pool times at the Eagan Southwest YMCA and the Minnesota Valley YMCA! Both facilities are fantastic. To use, mentors must bring a photo ID to the YMCA and identify themselves as Kids 'n Kinship mentors.
- \*\***Science Museum,** call Kids 'n Kinship to reserve your free passes (at least three days in advance).
- \*\***Children's Museum,** show your Kids 'n Kinship Membership card for free adult admission and \$2.25 child admission rates, call if you need a new Membership card.
- \*\***Zoo Passes:** call to have passes mailed to you. Kids 'n Kinship 952-892-6368

Thanks to Kathy K, Kids 'n Kinship volunteer, for gathering information for the Bulletin Board page! For additional events check out Explore Minnesota on their website: [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) or by phone 1-800-657-3700

