



# Kinship

Kids 'n Kinship

14870 Granada Ave. #127  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

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

Jan Belmore – Director  
Email: [jbkinship@aol.com](mailto:jbkinship@aol.com)  
Phone: 952-892-6368

Rita Younger – Program Coordinator  
Email: [rykinship@aol.com](mailto:rykinship@aol.com)  
Phone: 651-686-0990

Dawn Scouton – Kinship Coordinator  
Email: [dscouton@aol.com](mailto:dscouton@aol.com)  
Phone: 952-892-1172

Susie Truax – Kinship Coordinator/  
Recruitment Specialist  
Email: [susietruax@comcast.net](mailto:susietruax@comcast.net)  
Phone: 763-473-0995

## Regular Columns

Letter from the Director – Page 2  
Match Highlight – Page 3  
Donors Column – Page 4  
Bulletin Board – Page 6

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*From the Staff and Board Members at Kids 'n Kinship, we wish all of our friends, funders, and participants the best of the Holiday Season. We look forward to a New Year of building and sustaining friendships!*

# Winter 2006 Newsletter

## Kids 'n Kinship Winter Outing

**WHO:** Kids 'n Kinship participants (volunteer/child matches, families of those involved, and everyone currently on the waitlist)



**WHAT:** Games, Roberto the Magician (who will teach magic tricks to us!), Valentine craft and lunch !



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

**Saturday, February 11th, 2006**  
**10:00 – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Apple Valley American Legion**  
**14521 Granada Drive**  
**952-431-1776**

Please let us know if you can join us by calling Kids 'n Kinship at 952-892-6368. Leave your name, and the number of people attending. Please RSVP by February 3.

We look forward to seeing you on February 11th!

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

The Apple Valley American Legion is located between Pennock and Cedar, just off of 145th Street in Apple Valley

## From the Director

Greetings! I hope the new year is going to be a great one for you. 2005 brought many new mentoring relationships to those youth who were waiting for a special person to befriend them. That is going to make their new year a spectacular one!

2006 starts out with a bang, with January designated as National Mentoring Month. Many of our local cities have announced proclamations celebrating National Mentoring Month in an effort to bring awareness to the many youth who are in need of a mentor. See the article in this newsletter on National Mentoring Month for more information.

This year the nationwide drive to recruit volunteer mentors for young people will target America's 77 million baby boomers with the message, "Share What You Know. Mentor A Child." Watch the national and local media for PSA's, articles and commercials promoting mentoring.

The website: **[www.WhoMentoredYou.org](http://www.WhoMentoredYou.org)** contains essays and video clips of many prominent citizens, actors, and others who speak to the power that mentoring has had in their life. You can also search for an electronic card to thank your mentor on January 25<sup>th</sup> (Thank Your Mentor Day)

All of this effort will support local organizations like Kids 'n Kinship, where we currently have 70 youth on a waiting list for a mentor. We are requesting all of you who believe in the power of mentoring to either mentor a child yourself, or actively search out friends to ask them to consider mentoring. If you have opportunities during January (or any time) at your employer or place of worship to help us spread the word, please contact Susie Truax, Recruitment Specialist with your contacts.  
#763-474-0995

Thank You to all of our great mentors! You make a world of a difference to your mentee!

**Jan Belmore**

## Good Bye Cori

Cori Struzyk, Kinship Coordinator has finished her work with Kids 'n Kinship. Cori thoroughly enjoyed working for the program, but her time constraints with her other job and child-care prevented her from being able to continue. Cori brought her warm, comfortable personality to the program and she is missed!

## Online Auction off to a Great Start

We would like to say thanks to the community of generous contributors of items, and to those who bid on items in our first month of our online auction. We are off to a fantastic start, with over \$700 of bids for the month of November. A great item that got us off to such a good start was a snowblower donated by TORO. There was action on the bids down to the last minute over this popular item!! Be sure to check out the site. There is a new auction beginning each month. A special thanks to Bid 4 Funds organizer, Dave Majzner and to the volunteers who are making it happen, Kelli Fleetham and Pamela Finley.

Check out all the fun items at [www.bid4funds.com](http://www.bid4funds.com)

## Donors of auction items

Anchor Bank  
Apple Valley Tire & Auto Services  
Byerly's  
Jensen's Supper Club  
Joeys Seafood  
Kowlaskis Market  
Midwest of Cannon Falls  
MN Timberwolves  
MN Vikings  
Roasted Pear Restaurant  
Scruples  
Target - Eagan  
Toro  
Firehouse Art and quilt  
Walker Art Gallery  
MN Roller Girls  
Apple Lake Animal Hospital  
Starbucks Kenrick Ave, LK  
Prickly Pear-LK  
The Yoga Path -LK  
Fongs Restaurant – Prior Lake  
Timbercrest Great Clips- LK  
Axel's Restaurant  
Walker Art Center  
Anchor Bank –AV  
Scruples  
Fitness 19

## **MATCH HIGHLIGHT** A parent point of view

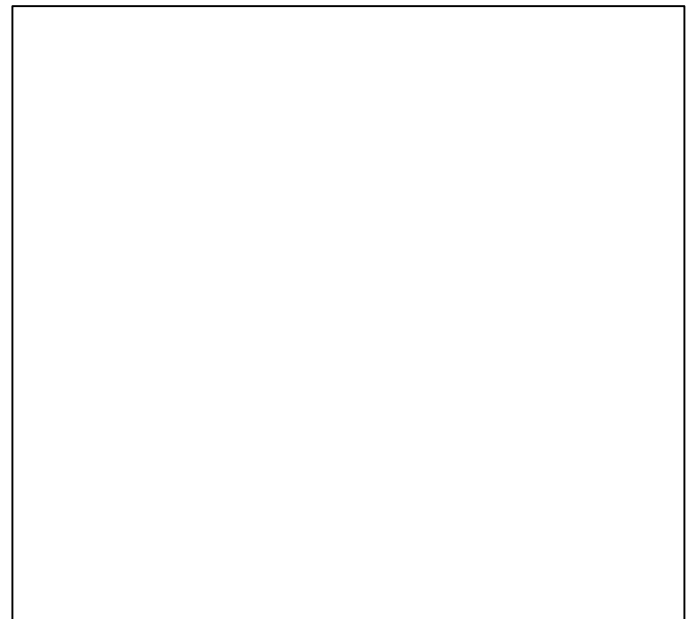
Jan wanted a male role model for her son Matthew because she saw there was a tremendous void after the death of his father. Matthews's grandparents do not live in the area and there were no other males in Matthews's life. Jan saw a notice about Kids 'n Kinship at Matthews school, then someone at her work talked about Kids 'n Kinship and later Jan saw an add in the newspaper. She was thinking about her options and decided to call Kids 'n Kinship, as we are a smaller, unique mentoring group with good values that matched hers. As Jan signed Matthew up, she had many feelings; some of them made her nervous. Her comfort zone was improved when she met staff and worked with us. After she met Mike, Matthews' mentor, she was comfortable right away and now has a very high trust level with Mike. When Mike first walked into their home (Mike is a big guy!) Jan's first instinct was that Mike and his wife Mary were really great people who liked kids, very down to earth, and were involved in their community. Although Mike immediately took an interest in helping Matthew, the match started out slowly as they all built their trust levels. When Jan thinks back to how hesitant she and Matthew were at first, she laughs when she sees Mike get a big hug as Matthew now runs over to him to jump up into his arms. Matthew always looks forward to going with Mike.

Mike decided to become a mentor as he had been noticing there were kids who could use some support and he liked being around and helping kids. The process for becoming a mentor was good for Mike – he knows that careful screening is important. Mike was given a few choices of children to consider mentoring. Mike chose Matthew because he felt Matthew was at a good age to start mentoring and develop a good relationship. Also, Matthew was interested in sports and games and Mike was too. Coming in the door to meet Jan and Matthew for the first time, Mike was nervous too – probably more nervous than they were. Matthew jumped up on the couch next to Mike right away and he thought it was cool that Mike had a truck. They made plans to get together in a few days and since then things have been going real well. They try to get together every week. They went to a football game recently and sure enough, Matthew came running right up to Mike, very excited to be together. Mike says they have lots of fun and mentoring has fit in his life well. Sometimes his workdays go longer so weekends are when they see one another. Mike feels

mentoring is a very worthwhile experience and is looking forward to his two-year anniversary with Matthew in June.

Jan concurs that Matthew looks forward to Mike coming over. They do lots of things together but favorites are chess, sledding, catch with the football and going to the parks. Jan sees Matthew bonding with Mike, which makes her feel good as a parent. Mike is kind, honest, gentle, responsible, and he treats Matthew very well, always shows up when he says he will and calls Matthew. He has never let Matthew down! Matthew always has a lot of fun with Mike.

Special Note – Happy 10<sup>th</sup> birthday to Matthew on January 20<sup>th</sup>!



Mike and Matthews' most recent project was this great guitar!

## **Welcome New Matches**

Jessie Barghultz and Amanda  
Kymm and Craig Glenzer and Eli  
Angela Keys and Cherie  
John Mott and Joey  
Nichole Castona and Ashley  
Matt Mosteiko and Blake  
Betsy Wood and Alisa  
Traci and Brian Sorenson and Tanyi  
Val Cover and Katie Jo

## January is National Mentoring Month!

As we bring in the New Year and reflect upon future goals and past accomplishments. I think it is appropriate that we celebrate January as the Fifth National Mentoring Month. For many – you are proud in knowing that through your time and gifts you have made a difference in improving and enhancing the life of the child you mentor. You know that your friendship has been a positive and worthwhile volunteer experience, and something you wish to continue to be engaged in in 2006. For many others, National Mentoring Month provides awareness nationwide of the need for mentors in our communities. Many more volunteers will come forward to learn of the rewards becoming involved as a mentor provides. We encourage you to share your volunteer experience with friends, colleagues and neighbors who also may wish to enrich the life of a youth in the same way all of you have and continue to do!

Mentors and mentees, as you reflect upon your special friendship this past year, we encourage you to share with each other what has been most important to you. What was your favorite thing you did together this year? Did you go somewhere you have never been before or learn something new? What are two things about your mentor or mentee that makes him/her special or that you are proud of him or her for? Is there something special you wish to do in 2006?

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> is the third annual “Thank Your Mentor Day.” Mentees and parents, please drop you mentor a note, call or email them, letting them know how much you appreciate them and why.

As a staff, we continue to be grateful for our volunteers, kids and parents who work hard at supporting an on-going, successful mentoring relationship. We continue to hear from you, first hand, how much your mentors and mentees mean to you! Thank you for being the best group of people our organization could ask for!

This weekend I ran across a quote I would like to share with you, “Each of us can look back upon someone who made a difference in our lives. Someone whose wisdom or simple acts of kindness made an impression on us. In all likelihood, it was someone who sought no recognition for their deed, other than the joy of knowing that, by their hand, another’s life had been made better.”

Keep up the great work – all the best in 2006!

## Kids! Fill this out and send or give to 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, \_\_\_\_\_.

## Mentor John Elder leads Charity Ride for Kids as fundraiser for Kids ‘n Kinship!

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Kinship mentor John Elder and friends will do the Big Sky 900 Charity Ride for Kids to raise money for Kids ‘n Kinship. They will ride from Montana to Minnesota in the course of two weeks, and will end in Apple Valley, presenting a check to Kids ‘n Kinship. Visit their website and watch for more info to come! [www.bigsky900.com](http://www.bigsky900.com) Corporate and individual donations will be raised to support Kids ‘n Kinship directly! Merchants Bank, Apple Valley has already signed on as a sponsor!

## Bowlathon A Striking Success!

On November 20th, 115 participants came to Cedarvale Lanes, bowled and raised money for the Kids 'n Kinship program! Our thanks to all of our donors and sponsors who made this day a success. Special thanks to our Bowlathon Promotional Sponsor, Ratzlaff Homes, Major Sponsor, Northern Dakota chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Event Sponsor, Prince of Peace Women's Ministries.

Individual sponsors did a terrific job at raising funds this year. In addition to Kinship participants, the LINC students from Eastview High School and NHS students from Apple Valley High School raised significant money to support the program THANKS!



## Thank You Bowlathon Donors

Northern Dakota Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Ratzlaff Homes

Prince of Peace Women's Ministries

Stockman Financial

Dakota Electric Association

Duplication Factory

Foley and Mansfield LLLP

Attorneys at Law

Media Relations, Inc

Performance Office Papers

Cabinets Etc

MN Roller Girls

Cedarvale Lanes – Fritz's Grill

Grand Slam

Wells Fargo AV

**“I've learned that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to be goofy with”** Andy Rooney

Walker Art Center

MN Twins

Scruples for Hair

MN Roller Girls

Buck Hill

Eagan Art House

GR Promotions

Abdallah Candies

Great Clips for Hair, LV

Alcorn Beverages

Super Target AV

Eastview Linc Students

Apple Valley High School NHS

Phil Smith

Page 5

## Thank You Financial Donors

3M  
SKB Environmental Trust  
Christus Victor Church  
Hearth and Home  
ISD #191 LCTS funds  
ISD #194 LCTS funds  
Blue Cross Blue Shield in honor  
Of Kathy Wilken  
Community Solutions Fund/Thompson West  
Toro, in honor of Mike Zenner  
GMAC RFC in honor of Dick Swedean  
American Express in honor of  
Mike Pelzel  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
on behalf of Jeff Little  
Gannet Foundation grant as recommended  
by KARE 11  
Touchstone Energy Community Award



Jan Belmore, Director, receives a grant from Hearth and Home Technologies' representatives.

## Thank You Individual Donors

Jeff and Caroline Riegel  
Wayne Larson  
John Elder  
Jill Smith/Leon Green in honor of Mark Carter  
and Danny's friendship  
Patti Perfetti, in memory of Marilyn Hessler  
Carol Frick, in memory of Rutherford Arvis

**We make a living by what we get, we  
make a life by what we give.**

~ Winston Churchill

## Thank You In-Kind Donors

Thompson West  
Moms Network Connecting Magazine  
Cenex Harvest States Cooperative  
Christian Chronicle  
Ordway Theatre  
Twin Cities Kids Directory  
Tix for Tots  
Shurgard Storage  
Abdallah Chocolate Shoppes  
Advantage Performance Network  
Alcorn Beverages  
Buck Hill  
Cub Foods Apple Valley  
Fitz's Grill  
Minnesota Vikings  
Rainbow (Eagan)  
Target Burnsville  
SuperTarget Apple Valley  
Eagan Rotary  
Thomson West  
Health Partners on behalf of Jan Menne  
Target

## Chat Group

We need your feedback!

Chat group has been offered to our mentors throughout the years as a place for mentors to gather together and share stories, experiences and get ideas from other mentors. We have also structured some of those groups to be focused on topics that mentors have requested more information on such as mental health issues. We have had feedback from those that have attended past Chat groups that it has been beneficial for them to meet other mentors and talk about the challenges and joys of mentoring the children that they are matched with. However, the last few Chat groups have been cancelled due to lack of interest. We are looking for your feedback on how we can make this group more accessible for our mentors. The group currently meets every 3 months on a weekday at 6:00 PM at Davannis in Burnsville. Are there better times, more structured content, etc. that you would like to see at these groups? We will also be getting feedback from mentors at our Winter outing regarding Chat groups. Please contact us and let us know what you think, your input is very valuable in making this group successful. Thanks!

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

WHAT	DATE	WHERE	TIME/COST	CONTACT
Kids 'n Kinship Winter Outing	Feb 11	Apple Valley Am Legion	10-1	952-892-6368
Railroads and the Marketing of the Northwest	through April	Mill City Museum, Minneapolis	varies/free	651-296-6126
Eagan City Garage Sale	Jan 28	Eagan Community Center	10-3, cost \$1	651-675-5500
Family Skating Extravaganza	Jan 22	Clearwater Park Eagan	1-4	651-675-5511
Outdoor Skating Rinks		city of Eagan	varies	651-675-5511
**Science Museum	ongoing	Saint Paul	varies	651-221-9444
Snowshoeing	varies	Lebanon Hills Park	varies(\$3-7)	651-438-4737
**Children's Museum	ongoing	Saint Paul	varies	651-225-6000
Snow Tubing	ongoing	Trapp Farm Park, Eagan	varies \$2	651-675-5500 ex2
Black History Month special activities around Black History	February	Dakota County Libraries	varies/free	952-891-7045
**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

\*Free Events

\*\*YMCA Passes: We have free passes for volunteers / youth to use at any open gym / pool times at the Eagan Southwest YMCA and the Minnesota Valley YMCA! Both facilities are fantastic. To use, call 952-892-6368 to have the passes mailed to you or for instructions on picking them up (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 free passes (at least three days in advance).

\*\*Children's Museum, show your Kids 'n Kinship Membership card for free adult admission and \$2.00 child admission rates, call if you need a new Membership card.

\*\*Zoo Passes: Please call to have passes mailed to you. Kids 'n Kinship 952-892-6368

Check out **Explore Minnesota** on their website: [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) or phone 1-800-657-3700

Thanks to Kathy K, Kids 'n Kinship volunteer, for gathering information for the Bulletin Board page

