



# Kinship

## Kids 'n Kinship

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

### Regular Columns

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# SUMMER 2011 Newsletter

## SUMMER OUTING

*Join us for hiking, canoeing, swimming,  
archery,  
wall climbing and supper together!*

**Wednesday August 10th, 2011**  
**5:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**YMCA Camp Streefland**  
**11490 Klamath Trail**  
**Lakeville, MN 55044**  
952-435-2859



In order to be admitted, you **MUST pre-register** by Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at  
[www.kinshipsummerevent.eventbrite.com/](http://www.kinshipsummerevent.eventbrite.com/)

**Who can attend?** Volunteers/children who are matched and their families, waiting list children and their parent and siblings who live in the household.

**Bring:** Swimsuits, Towels, Lifejackets, etc. (no cutoffs or floatation devices allowed in the pool, life jackets are okay). *Children must be with an adult at all times.*

**Parents please note** – at our outings, we take photos for use in our newsletter, website and possibly other venues. Please inform us if you do not want your child's photo and first name used.

Mentors and families- may bring donations of new and used winter coats, hats and mittens to the Summer Outing. We will deliver them to the Salvation Army *Coats for Kids* program.

## **Christian Elder Memorial Ride for Kids**

**'n Kinship** raised \$29,000 for our organization! This year the CEM Riders rode a pinwheel pattern through Iowa and finished in Apple Valley on June 11th.

John Elder and Kids 'n Kinship Board treasurer, Dennis Hill, rode the entire 900 miles. This was Dennis's 5<sup>th</sup> year of participating. Kathy Kelley, Bob Benda, and Dennis Danielson each rode a 300 mile segment

John Elder mentored a young man, Dante, through Kids 'n Kinship for many years. This year Dante graduated from high school and goes to college in the fall.



Merchants Bank, Apple Valley was again the primary sponsor of the ride along with support from many other community groups and businesses. Kids 'n Kinship is grateful to be the recipient of the hard work and effort of the team.

The financial support directly helps Kids 'n Kinship match volunteer mentors, couples and families with children in need of support.

The Merchants Bank "Welcome Home" reception featured congratulations, refreshments, photos of the trip and a fun time with friends, supporters, family, and Kids 'n Kinship participants. For inspirational stories and fun photos, check out the Road Diary at [www.cem900.com](http://www.cem900.com)

Thank you to all the Christian Elder Memorial Donors! Special thanks to Merchants Bank, Elder Jones, and Media Relations for your extraordinary support!

## **United Way Donor Choice**

Watch your employee news for the United Way Pledge drive. 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. Thanks!

**Annual Evaluation forms** will be emailed this year to save costs. Please be prompt in returning them. We rely on your feedback to improve the program and to communicate to funders the value the program brings to our participants.

## **Welcome New Matches**

Mikayla and Kathy Heisler  
Isaiah and Mary Jo & Scott Hangge & family  
Ahren and Nancy & Tom Hemmah  
Nick and Christine & Paul Knirk  
Heidi and Janelle Anderson  
Kelly & Taylor and Rick & Charlotte Puelston family  
Alex and Tim & Oralia Beaudette & family  
Jazzlyn and Debra Johnson  
Cathy and Melody & Patrick Martagon-Geiger & family  
Emily and Connie Jaenicke & family

## **Backpacks and School Supplies**

The Salvation Army is sponsoring a Back to School event for those needing backpacks and other supplies – please call 952-898-2736 after July 18 to register for the event - appointments are required. The distribution is at Easter Lutheran Church at the corner of Cliff Road and Pilot Knob Road in Eagan on August 24 and 25 – when you register by phone, you will be given an appointment time for pick up.

## Match Highlight: Best Friends

Emilio and John have been matched for over 3 and a half years. Mentee Emilio says “It’s a really strong friendship. We hang out a lot and do a lot of fun things together. I’m not sure how to describe it, but he’s my best friend.” They enjoy tubing, fishing, hanging out with John’s dog, and going to demolition derbies, sports games, and other activities like car shows and to see a ventriloquist. Emilio’s favorites are tubing and fishing “I love to go tubing in the summer. It’s really fun and kind of scary. I really like screaming at the top of my lungs trying to get John to go faster and how he can’t get me off the tube. I tell him he can’t drive fast enough – that he drives like an old lady. I also like it when we go fishing. We usually have a fishing contest, and I’ve caught the biggest fish.” John responds “Ok, in terms of the fishing contest, Emilio will be fishing from the front of the boat and I’ll be in the back.

Every time I catch a fish, Emilio insists that we have to switch positions – so he gets the back and I move to the front. And when I catch another fish from the front, we have to switch back.” Emilio hopes to someday catch more fish than John. They also plan to go to the Twins new stadium this year since they missed it last summer.

John’s other favorite activity they’ve done together is going to demolition derbies. “We like picking which cars we think will win. The best part was when one car was pretending to be stalled and another car came charging at it. The first car went into reverse just in the nick of time and the second car went bashing into the wall breaking the wall and engine. Emilio laughed and laughed... Emilio is awesome and has taught me to laugh more. It’s funny, when we first started hanging out Emilio had a stern look on his face, but now whenever we’re together he’s constantly laughing and smiling... Now, he’s filled with smiles and has really allowed his caring side to show. He is fun loving and is really a great kid!” Emilio has also



noticed changes in himself: “I think about things more. Now, I’m more likely to think about something before I do it. John always teaches me new things, like sometimes he helps me with my math homework. I can tell him things I usually don’t tell other people. I act better now. I’m happier and I help out more at home.” He has also learned a lot too “I’ve learned you have to think more before you do something. Like if I talk back to my mom I have to think about what would happen if I do that. The more I hang out with John, the less angry I get and learn what one person can do in another person’s life.”

John says he has learned a lot from Emilio too. “Most of the time people talk about what I’m doing for Emilio, but I always turn it around and tell them how much I’m getting out of it. Emilio has taught me a lot and has

made me look at life differently. Emilio is an amazingly resilient kid. He’s taught me much more than I ever thought possible. He makes me a better person and I better understand the challenges kids face today. And I laugh waaaaaaay more... I’ve learned the importance of

patience, consistency, and trust. Given those three things, kids can really thrive. I’ve also learned how important a few hours a week can mean to somebody – and how much of a difference they can make in somebody’s life.”

Emilio wants people who are considering mentoring to know that “you can have a lot of fun and you can make a kid happy.” John says “If we ever have to miss a week, there’s a big hole in my weekend.” Really, Emilio sums it up best “We do the most fun things! I tell all my friends about it and that John is my best friend.”

## Thank You Individual Donors

Dale Schenian  
Keith and Mumtaz Walliware  
Jack and Chloe Solheid  
Michael and Therese Franklin  
Marvin and Kathy Olson  
*United Way Donor Designated funders:*  
Kirsten Storlie,  
Sarah Gerber  
David and Joyce Anderson  
Karen Anderson  
Mike Zenner  
Beth Wiese  
Janet Cady  
Taud Hoopingarner

## Thank You In-kind Donors

Scott Berres  
Lakeview Bank  
Tix for Tots  
Patty Perfetti  
Media Relations  
Sam's Club Apple Valley  
Shakopee Jaycees

## Thank You Donors

John Elder/ Christian Elder Memorial Team  
Rick Anderson Bike Project Fundraiser  
SKB Environmental Trust Fund  
Children of Prisoners grant  
Walmart Foundation  
Best Buy Tag Team Lakeville  
Jostens Foundation  
Think Mutual Bank  
Lakeville Rotary Foundation  
Burnsville Lions  
Carlson Family Foundation  
Turner Family Foundation  
ECM Publishers / This Week  
Food Perspectives donors  
Southern Dakota/ Scott County Thrivent  
Financial for Lutherans  
Ameriprise% Mike Pelzel  
3M % Sarah Gerber, Jon Gerber, Cheryl Spangler  
Thomson Reuters % Cheri Fox

## Rick Anderson Donates Proceeds of His Sale to Kids 'n Kinship!

Mentor Rick Anderson presented Kids 'n Kinship with \$6,284 in proceeds from a sale he held. Rick uses his skill and time to refurbish used bikes into great condition. He then has a sale and for the third year, has donated the funds he raised to Kids 'n Kinship. Rick sold 68 bikes and donated the remaining to other programs. The money that Rick raised will help ensure more kids will receive mentors this year. Thanks Rick! Ricks' neighbors had a lemon aid stand during the sale and donated the profits to Kids 'n Kinship too- way to go Jack and Chloe!



*Rick Anderson presents proceeds to Kids 'n Kinship Staff, Ingrid Henry, Left and Rita Younger, Right*


## Fall Chat Group (Mentors only)

Join us in October in the Dakota Room at the Wescott Library in Eagan for a mentors only chat group! We will have a presenter from Dakota County – to be announced. Remember, we ask mentors to attend 2 chat groups a year. Chat groups are a great way to learn more about mentoring and get support from other mentors as well as staff. Topic, date, time and presenter will be announced via email and on our website.

## Save the Date

4th Annual Make a Difference Day ~ October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Birthday Bag Blitz – in partnership with Cheerful Givers and Thomson Reuters.

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

WHAT	DATE	WHERE	TIME/COST	CONTACT
 *Kids `n Kinship Summer Outing August 10 <b>Kinship</b>		Camp Streefland	see front page for details 5:30 – 8:30 pm free	952-892-6368
Lebanon Hills Park	various activities	- lots of programs for free or low cost	Eagan	www.co.dakota.mn.us
The Bat Cage <i>NEW</i> run by the Stephenson mentor family –visit <a href="http://www.thebatcagefarmington.com">www.thebatcagefarmington.com</a> for times and directions				
*Caponi Art Park	Tues-Sun	Eagan	9 am to 8 pm donations	caponiartpark.org
Local Water Parks/pools : Apple Valley Family Aquatic, 952-953-2300, \$5-\$8 ~ Apple Valley Red Wood pool, 952-953-2300, \$3.50 ~ Cascade Bay, Eagan, 651-675-5577, \$4-\$10 ~ Highland Park, St Paul, 651-695-3773, \$3-\$7				
Minneapolis Aquatennial	July 15-23	various locations in Minneapolis	varies	aquatennial.org
Highland fest	July 15-17	Cleveland and Ford Pkwy St Paul	varies	www.highlandfest.com 651-633-9042
Dakota County Fair	August 8-14	Farmington	varies	dakotacountyfair.org 651-463-8818
*Fire Muster	Sept 7-11	Burnsville	varies	burnsvillefiremuster.com 952-898-5646
*Farmers Markets	Apple Valley, Rosemount, Lakeville, Burnsville	various days/locations/times	stpaulfarmersmarket.com	
*Eagan Market Fest	Wednesdays 4-8 pm	1501 Central Pkwy Eagan	cityofeagan.com	651-675-5550
MN State Fair	Aug 25 – Sept 5	Saint Paul	free - \$11.00 6:00 am – Mid	mnstatefair.org 651-683-6806
Renaissance Festival	Aug 20-Oct 2	Shakopee	\$10-20 9am – 7 pm	952-445-7361
*Leprechaun Days	July 22 - 31	Rosemount	varies	rosemountevents.com 952-985-1780
*Uptown Art Fair	Aug 5-7	Minneapolis	10 – varies	uptownartfair.com 612-823-4581
*Como Zoo	ongoing	Saint Paul	daytime	comozooconservatory.org 651-645-1014
Minnesota Zoo	daily 9-6	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		ymcatwincities.org/programs	651-456-9622
**Burnsville YMCA	MN Valley	Burnsville	call for open times	952-898-9622

Check city park and recreation websites for Spring and Summer activities [www.cityofeagan.com](http://www.cityofeagan.com), [www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us), [www.ci.farmington.mn.us](http://www.ci.farmington.mn.us), [www.ci.rosemount.mn.us](http://www.ci.rosemount.mn.us), [www.ci.burnsville.mn.us](http://www.ci.burnsville.mn.us), [www.ci.lakeville.mn.us](http://www.ci.lakeville.mn.us)

**\*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.

**Sign up with Kids `n Kinship now for the Summer Outing! <http://kinshipsummerevent.eventbrite.com/>**

