

Kids 'n Kinship is celebrating 40 years!



Kinship

Kids 'n Kinship
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Apple Valley, MN 55124
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www.kidsnkinship.org

Jan Belmore – Director
Rita Younger – Program Coordinator
Ingrid Henry– Kinship Coordinator
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WINTER 2012 Newsletter

Kids 'n Kinship Winter Outing at Skateville!

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, refreshments, fun! We will have a book giveaway thanks to Barnes & Noble!

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

WHEN: **THANK YOUR MENTOR DAY**
Thursday January 26th, 2012

6:00-8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Skateville Roller Rink
201 S. River Ridge Circle
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-890-0988

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.

You must register each attendee online at
<http://kinshipskateville.eventbrite.com>

Please RSVP by January 20th.

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

Celebrating 40 years!

Kids 'n Kinship will be celebrating our 40th year of service to the community in 2012. The program began with local volunteer Directors, establishing and running the program for the first 20 years. Since that time, the program has operated with paid staff along with the support of many volunteers and donors. Kids 'n Kinship is looking for current and past volunteers and friends of the program to assist in planning for this significant milestone. Please contact Jan Belmore at 952-892-6368 / jbkinship@aol.com if interested.

January is National Mentoring Month!

January 2012 is the eleventh 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. This year's theme is "Invest in the Future: Mentor a Child" so thanks for investing in a child's life!

Join us for Scrapbooking!

Matches interested in scrapbooking or arts and crafts are invited to our next Scrapbooking session **Saturday Jan. 21st 10:30 am – 12 noon at the Heritage Library in Lakeville.** Bring photos and ticket stubs and a scrapbook if you'd like – all other supplies provided! Please let us know if you plan to come (RSVP to Ingrid Henry, ihkinship@aol.com, or 952-891-3885) but for this event it's ok to just show up too!

Chat Group on Bullying

Join us for our first Chat Group of 2012: Dealing with Bullying: How to support your mentee around this challenging issue. We will have Monica Jensen, community relations director at the county attorney's office, as a guest speaker. **Thursday Feb. 16, 6:00-7:30 pm.** Remember, the programs' expectation is attendance at two chats per year as these are ongoing training as well. RSVP to Ingrid, ihkinship@aol.com.

Kids 'n Kinship wishes to acknowledge the generous support of Mail Pack and Ship, Apple Valley and their wonderful donation of printing of our newsletter.

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Successful Bowlathon!

On November 6th Kids 'n Kinship celebrated our 12th 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, Think Bank, and the Burnsville Jaycees helped run the event along with Kids 'n Kinship Board members.

BOWLATHON DONORS

Financial Sponsors

Applewood Orchards, Bremer Bank Eagan, Geri Hess, Walsh Financial, Burnsville Women of Today, John and Sherri Elder, Performance Office Papers, Burnsville Lunch Rotary, Elder Jones, Goodrich Sensor Systems, Stockman Financial Services Inc, Gopher Resource Corp., AAA Minnesota/Iowa, Dakota Electric

In Kind Bowlathon Donors

Bowlathon Committee members, Board Members, Rascals, Dakota Electric Association, Jensen's Supper Club, Buffets, Inc, Dog Day Getaway, QCumbers, Lakeville 21 Theatre, Buck Hill Ski Area, Sonic, Maid Brigade, Crystal Lake Golf Course, LaBelle Boutique, Mediterranean Cruise Cafe, Abdallah Candy and Gift Shoppe, Byerly's Burnsville, Green Mill Eagan, Sams Club Apple Valley, Target - Eagan, Buca de Beppo, Super Target Lakeville, Don Stevens Inc., Embassy Suites Hotel, Curtis Granderson, Theresa Fraher Photography, MN Timberwolves, Minnesota Gophers, Cheerful Givers, Cedarvale Lanes, LA Fitness BV, Studio Bodair, Kathy Heisler and Ann Wheeler, Karen Anderson, Jacalyn Snell, Jamie Wratkowski, Deborah Kieschnick, Vicki Woelm, The Inn on Lake Superior, Old Country Buffet, Bloomingdales, Claudette Christianson, Panera Bread Company-, Jim Cooper's Goodyear, Valley Natural Foods, Media Relations, Inc., Think Mutual Bank Apple Valley, Chili's Bar and Grill, J.J. Taylor, Anytime Fitness Eagan, Lakeville Family Chiropractic, Toro Foundation, MN Vikings, MN Twins Baseball, Warners' Stellian, Citizens Bank Minnesota, Midwest CBK, Walgreens, LA Fitness AV, Hennepin Theatre Trust, Brunswick, Janet Lekson

Thank You Online Donors and ALL the participants who raised pledges!



Thank You Designated Funds Donors

Toro % Mike Zenner
Melinda Staff, Kirsten Storlie and Sarah Gerber
Susan Fagre
Food Perspective designations
Ameriprise % Mike Pelzel

Thank You Donors

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Thank You GIVE TO THE MAX donors

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Thank You In-Kind Donors

Bowlathon Committee members, Ambassadors, Lakeview Bank, Grace Lutheran Church, 3M Corporation, Roger Martin, Applewood Orchard, Severson Sheldon Law Firm Shrine Circus, Burnsville Performing Art Center, Tix for Tots

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Match Highlight: Just Do It!

Jasmine and Beth were matched through the program in May 2010. They wrote this story:



We quickly found, through our weekly meetings, we had a lot in common. We have a similar sense of humor, we like to try new things, and we recognize that our family and friends are very important in our lives. We both like swimming, hiking, playing board games, and picnics in the park. Interestingly enough, we found we were both the astrological sign of Bull, Taurus, explaining why we could each be stubborn at times. We also found we had differences; Jasmine is very outgoing while I am more laid back. Jasmine's favorite food is seafood and I am so allergic to it I cannot be in the same room. We have started some traditions such as carving a pumpkin and cooking the seeds at Halloween and scrapbooking. Our favorite outings are our trip to the zoo, making different kinds of salads, and playing games at the local coffee shop. Jasmine likes to play a "find it" game with my dog, Wilma, hiding her treats while I keep her occupied in another room. It has become tradition that Wilma rides in the car when I take Jasmine home. At times, there is a bit of power struggle in the car to see who should ride in the front seat but Jasmine usually wins out with the command "back seat missy".

I thought about mentoring for years and have found it to be both a humbling and rewarding experience. It is amazing how quickly your mentee and the weekly outings become a part of your life. Jasmine would like to be a mentor when she is older and is eager to help recruit others for the program. She wants to let others know it is fun and you both

get to do new things or things you have not done for a very long time. These activities don't have to cost any or much money to do. We had great opportunities to use donated tickets to see a Women's Gopher Gymnastics meet, see a local holiday play, a trip to the zoo and go through a local corn maze. Jasmine really likes the program because she has another adult to talk to, help her do things, and attend her choir concerts. Also when birthdays and other special events come around, it is great to have someone else to share these special times.

In closing, we both really enjoy our time in the program and would encourage anyone thinking about this to "just do it".

School Based Mentoring

Kids 'n Kinship operates a school-based mentoring program out of two Eagan area schools. If you are ready to have fun getting to know a child and helping them be successful at school – or would like more information, contact Rita at 651-686-0990 or: www.kidsnkinship.org, click on mentor, then school based mentoring.

Make money, give money

Sign up for Food Perspectives food tasting and you receive \$\$ and Kids 'n Kinship receives \$\$.
www.fpitesters.com

Welcome New Matches

Pam Garvey and Bryana
Johannah Lear and Lily
Michelle Barrett and Mikayla
Matt & Marnie Prochniak and Austin
Karen Kooda & Paul Anderson and Ashilah & Mark
Roxane & David Tolle and Grace

Dental Care – Give Kids a Smile Day

Free care for children will be offered on Friday & Saturday Feb. 3 & 4. To find locations and to make an appointment, go to www.mndental.org.

Thanks to all our ambassadors and supporters for a great year encouraging people to step up as mentors! We made 30 new matches this year!

Barnes and Noble Apple Valley





Special thanks for the very generous donation of wonderful books AGAIN this year!

**Our newsletter is abbreviated – See our online winter newsletter for more information and the Bulletin Board listing of upcoming events.

Kids 'n Kinship has been awarded one of the Dakota Electric Touchstone Energy Community Awards!

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

<i>WHAT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>WHERE</i>	<i>TIME/COST</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
 Scrapbooking Event for matched Mentors & Mentees!	Saturday Jan 21	Heritage library in Lakeville	10:30- noon pm free!	952-891-3885
 Kids 'n Kinship Winter Outing	Thursday Jan 26	Skateville in Burnsville	6-8 pm free!	952-892-6368
 Chat Group for Mentors only	Tuesday Feb 9	Galaxie library in Apple Valley	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	952-891-3885
 Mill City Museum Baking Events, tours, and many many events	January – May	Minneapolis	\$4-\$11 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 26-Feb 5	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 12-15	St Paul RiverCentre	\$2-\$7	www.rivercentre.org	
Boat Show	Jan 19-22	Minneapolis Convention Center	free - \$10	www.minneapolisboatshow.com	612-332-8330
Arts & Crafts Show	Feb 10-12	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 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
**Science Museum	ongoing	Saint Paul		varies smm.org	651-221-9444
**Children's Museum	ongoing	Saint Paul		ongoing mcm.org	651-225-6000
** YMCAs	See Kids 'n Kinship guidelines below!	Contact for open times		ymcatwincities.org/programs	

 Kids 'n Kinship sponsored event

- *Free Events
- **YMCA Passes: Kids 'n Kinship participants may utilize any of the YMCA's in the metro area (including our local Minnesota Valley YMCA and the Southwest Area YMCA). Children's use of fitness areas vary with each YMCA. There is a usage fee of \$5 per adult and \$5 per mentee each time you want to access the YMCA's. Families will pay \$5 per person or a max of \$20. If you already have a Y-membership, you only need to pay for the mentee. You will need to bring a photo id and your Kids 'n Kinship member card. If you are in need of an updated card, please contact your coordinator.
- **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.