

2023 Annual Report



Mentoring Youth in Dakota County for 50+ years



Kids 'n Kinship provides friendships to youth ages 5-16 in need of a positive adult role model.

2023 Highlights

- ***NEW Director*** Alicia Crudup started in May after the retirement of Jan Belmore.
- We made 23 new matches, and 5 pen pal matches for a total of 99 matches served!
- Our mentors and volunteers donated 6,408 hours for a combined value of \$214,603.92!
- The first ever Mark Carter Scholarship was awarded to Ny'Eishiea Mathis, a mentee in the program. Mark Carter was a long-time mentor who left a bequest to Kids 'n Kinship.

Match Story

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of local youth like Jessika. Jessika's mom says "Ms. Lucita has become part of our family. Jessika has excelled in school. She no longer is in special education. She is in mainstream classes with an extra small group on the side for reading and writing. Prior to the match, Jessika had lots of physical and emotional behaviors at school. Those have all completely gone away. At conferences at the beginning of November she was described as 'Mature, model student, hardworking, caring, and empathetic' Jessika has always been a very emotional child. Those emotions are much more regulated and expressed in acceptable ways since the match.

2023 Fundraising

Loop the Lakes - April

More than 80 participants were in attendance for the walk. We raised more than \$10k. The Eagan Lions Club, Scott Nordeen, Dale & Bette Schenian, and Wings Financial were all promotional sponsors for the event.

Christian Elder Memorial Ride - June

It was the 18th year for John Elder and his cyclist team. The CEM has grown from three riders and one support driver in 2006 to 11 riders and four support drivers in 2023 raising \$37,000! We thank the donors, riders, drivers, Merchants Bank of Apple Valley and Media Relations for their contributions!

Rick Anderson's Bike Sale - July

Families came to shop 528 bikes. They purchased around 473 bikes at Superior Service in Apple Valley. The refurbished bikes ranged in price from \$30 to \$500. The sale benefited both DARTS and Kids 'n Kinship received more than **\$32,700**.

12th Gala – September

The Gala themed "Be A Part of Their Story" was held at Glenhaven Event Center, Farmington. WCCO TV's Reg Chapman returned to emcee. Awards given to: Stacey Rudoy for the Heart of Kinship, Naomi Kileen for the Friend of Kinship, Wings Credit Union for our Community Partner, and the traveling Janet Lekson Award was presented to Cheryl Spangler This year's Gala raised over **\$43,900**

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Fundraising

Amazon Smiles
Annual Bowlathon
Annual Gala & Silent Auction
Christian Elder Memorial Ride
Rick's Bike Sale

Foundations

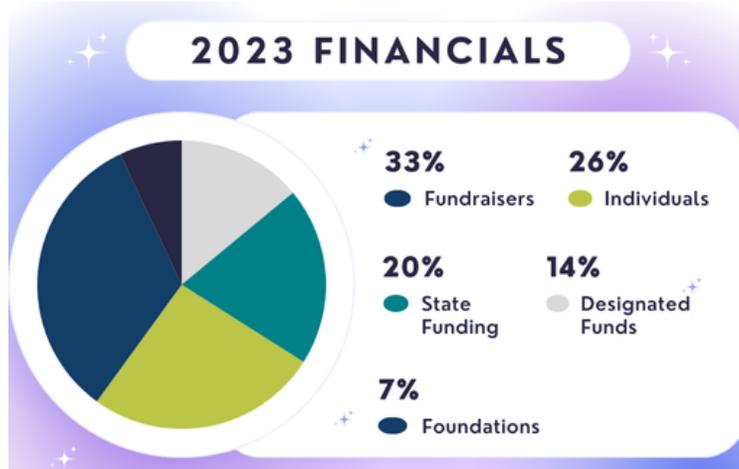
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