



Mentoring Youth in Dakota County



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

Our Focus

We match youth in need of support, with screened and trained adult volunteer mentors in the communities of: Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville, and Rosemount. Through their Kids 'n Kinship relationships, youth receive positive attention, experience a variety of activities, and develop a sense of self-worth essential to successfully functioning in healthy relationships.

2021 Highlights

- 20 new matches and 91 matches were supported!
- Our mentors and general volunteers donated 5,622 hours for a combined value of \$160,451!
- A Pen Pal Program was begun to reduce isolation!
- The program offered Ice Fishing, Bowling, Camp Streefland and Apple Orchard activities.

Match Story – Celebrating 5 Years

We love the time we get to spend with our mentee. We leave each gathering feeling happy and positive about the week ahead. It doesn't seem to matter so much what activity we are doing as much as that we enjoy each other's company. We were looking for a way to become more involved in the community, and I've always believed

in the power of a mentor/mentee relationship - the way it transforms both lives in such a positive way. The past four years that our family has spent with our mentee have been transformative. It has helped us be intentional about community and spending time together. Our mentee is a friend and role model to our three young boys who experience kindness, fun, attention, and respect each time we are together. It's an honor to be a part of our mentee's life, and we're grateful for the relationship. During the pandemic, we've found joy in outdoor experiences; picnics, basketball games, playing catch, playgrounds, sledding. We've also recently started to reconnect inside doing things like dinners, board games, and Legos.

2021 Fund Raising

Christian Elder Memorial Ride

For 16 years, John Elder and his cyclist team have been riding and raising funds for Kinship. They rode individually and in groups raising over \$36,629! We thank the Christian Elder Memorial donors, riders, drivers, Merchants Bank of Apple Valley and Media Relations for their contributions!

Rick's Bike Sale - July

Families with kids came to try out and buy bikes at Superior Service in Apple Valley. The sale benefited DARTS and Kinship of which Kinship received

over \$50,000. Re-furbished bikes ranged in price from \$30 to \$500.

Annual Fall Fund Raiser

The 10th Fall Fundraiser was held at the Buck Hill Event Center. The event raised over \$47,000. Our theme was "Mentoring Amplifies" with a testimonial by Scott Moss. Music was provided by Burnsville High School instrumentalists. We had food trucks outside and seating indoors. Retired Dakota County Attorney, Jim Backstrom, emceed our evening. Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz gave opening remarks. Awards were given

to: **Nick Varien** for the **Heart of Kinship**, **Monica Jensen** for the **Friend of Kinship**, **Dakota County Healthy Communities Collaborative** (Shannon Bailey) for our **Community Partner**, and the **Janet Lekson Award** to **Brad Gluth**.

22nd Bowlathon

We had 31 teams and 6 community teams either bowling in-person at Bogarts in Apple Valley or virtually to raise \$9,331 through generous sponsorships, pledges, in-kind donations and a silent auction.

Thank You 2021 Donors

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Organizations

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Dakota Co. Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lions: Burnsville, Eagan, Lakeville
Rotaries: Apple Valley, Burnsville & Lunch Club, Eagan, Kickstart, Lakeville

Other

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Mentor Minnesota
Office of Justice YIP Grant
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Tickets for Kids

Fundraising

Amazon Smiles
Annual Bowlathon
Annual Gala & Silent Auction
Better Than Donating
Christian Elder
Memorial Ride
Hy-Vee Bags 4 My Cause
Next Door
Rick's Bike Sale

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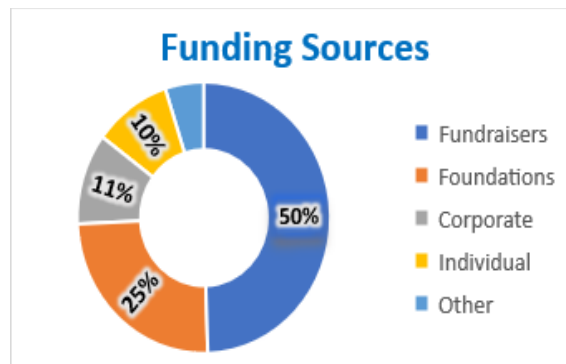
Kids 'n Kinship benefits from a variety of sources for support for mentoring (see chart):

50% of our revenue was through fundraisers

25% from Foundations

11% provided by Corporations

10% given by Individuals



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