



Kinship

Kids 'n Kinship
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January is National Mentoring Month!

The overarching theme for National Mentoring Month is ***Mentor In Real Life***, which allows us to talk about relationships in real life. The messaging is to position mentoring as a critical component in young people's lives, helping them make the decisions that ultimately lead to improved opportunities and connections, which has an impact in real life.

This month we celebrate the benefits of quality youth mentoring across the country. Every day in communities across the country, our neighbors are volunteering their time with quality mentoring programs to be someone who matters to someone who matters – a consistent, supportive and guiding hand to our young people.

At its most basic level, mentoring is successful in real life because it guarantees a young person has an adult to turn to and that they have a guiding hand to help them in dealing with day-to-day challenges. At a more complex level, there is a powerful mentoring effect that ultimately makes our communities stronger.

This means 1 in 3 young people feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside their homes.

You can help close the mentoring gap by:

- Sharing your story to educate others on how mentoring impacts your life.
- Ending the mentoring crisis & recruit friends to be a mentor.
- Make a donation to an organization supporting mentoring to help youth connect to mentors.



WINTER 2017 Newsletter

Winter Outing Game Night for Kids 'n Kinship!

WHO: Mentors, matched and waiting children, and their family members who live in the household.

WHAT: Enjoy a great night of board games & scrapbook

WHY: January is National Mentoring Month. January 19th is "Thank Your Mentor Day," so let's play games and do scrapbooking with our mentors and personally thank them.

WHEN: Thursday, January 19, 2017
6:00-8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Shepherd of the Valley Church (SOTV)
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-432-6351

SOTV is located on the northeast corner of Johnny Cake Road and McAndrews in Apple Valley.

To receive a **FREE FAMILY GAME:**
You must register **each attendee** online by Jan. 16th at
<https://kinshipgame2017.eventbrite.com>

The Winter Outing is sponsored by Apple Valley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1776, Eagan Moms' Bible Study and Thrivent.

Please note: we take photos to use for publicity: online and printing. Please inform us if you do not want your or your child's photo used.



Printing donated by Mail Pack and Ship,
14870 Granada Ave, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Match Highlight:

It all started with Quishaun who is now 10, almost 3 years ago. The Frick family again wanted to welcome another child into their family. They have spent countless Sundays together, time at church and playing sports outside! The whole family loves to be involved. After about a year, it became evident that Quishaun's older brother Cam'ron could benefit from having a mentor as well. The family and mom talked it over with Quishaun whose response was "Yes, Yes, a thousand times Yes! ... He'll be a part of the Frick family like I am, right mom?" Lucky Cam'ron, now 11, was matched with the Frick family in January of 2015- almost 2 years ago – Jeff and Dianne along with their children have shared in many activities and have had a lot of fun together over the years.



The Frick's have enjoyed watching the boys grow and mature. They fit right in with their family activities, and they enjoy their time with him. Any bumps in the road have been met with patience and compassion as they try

to help the boys navigate the preteen years! Dianne says "We just love on them and treat them like family and they feel like they belong here". The boy's mom, Jenn, says she could not have asked for a better family to be



matched with her boys. They have helped them tremendously with social skills and interacting with others. "They are the nicest people! I think it's the time being spent and the routine."

The Fricks hope to continue to guide and support them through the years ahead.

*Note. Jeff Frick is the son of the founders of Kids 'n Kinship, Dick and Carol Frick. Jeff grew up within a family that mentored other youth and now he and his family carry on their legacy.

Thanks to all our ambassadors and supporters

for a great year encouraging people to step up as mentors! 18 waiting youth were matched with new mentors this year! Are you interested in sharing about the power of mentoring with others? Please call Jan at 952-892-6368 if you're willing to be a spokesperson for Kids 'n Kinship.

Welcome New Matches

Steve and Jonathan
Sandy and Alexis

Mentor Reminder:

2 Chat Group Trainings Required Per Year!

Ongoing training directly impacts the quality and outcomes of mentoring relationships. It motivates you as a mentor, helps you handle the challenges that arise in your mentor relationship, lets you know you have support from staff, and allows you to talk with other mentors To this end, all mentors are required to attend a minimum of 2 chat sessions over the course of a calendar year. This is not optional. You need to document your chat attendance using your mentor portal.

February Chat Group - Mark Your Calendars

Topic: Truancy

When: Thursday, February 9th

When: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Over the last 6 months, we have had several mentors concerned over their mentee not attending school. We will learn from a school counselor about truancy: school avoidance, how it is handled, when the county is called in and ways to keep a student in school.

We have a Blog!!

<http://mentoringinreallife.blogspot.com/>

Please check it out!! Once you have looked it, please feel free to add a comment to the page about what you think or what you learned so we know you have visited!

Fun at the YMCA Pool Party & Craft Day!

We had 74 Kids 'n Kinship youth, mentors, and their families attended the annual Pool Party in November. We enjoyed swimming, crafts, and games!! Youth picked out personal care and school supplies from a generous donation by Lauren L! Many thanks to our sponsors: Vibrant Reality, Thrivent and Patti Perfetti for providing a fun and successful event!



Parent Reminder: It is that time of year again for the annual YIPA survey. As part of Kids 'n Kinship receiving funding to provide services to youth from out State Grand, we are required to ask each of our mentees ages 12 and up to complete a survey.

Here is the survey link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YIP_EXIT_SURVEY

Your child will need a number to enter: Kids 'n Kinship number for the survey is 65.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To receive our next newsletter:

We need you to provide us with your preferred email address now, as the next newsletter will arrive electronically. Send to Rita at rykinship@aol.com. We appreciate your support and patience as we begin this new venture.

Thank You Donors

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Jill Woodruff



Thank you Thrivent Action Teams

Jan & Dave Belmore
Grace Brown
Dawn Kalb
Karla Kosel
Darren Kress

Are **YOU** a Thrivent Member? If so, contact your Thrivent representative to learn more about how to support Kids 'n Kinship. You can apply for a Thrivent Action Box Team Visa card (\$250 value) to support our events and ongoing needs of the program, or you can donate your Thrivent Choice dollars to Kids 'n Kinship.

Thank you GiveMN Donors

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REMINDER!

January is National Mentoring Month!

- Thank Your Mentor!
- Share your story on your social media
- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter
- Advocate for us - We NEED Mentors!
- 51 Youth waiting for a Mentor!
- Mentoring Works!
- Mentoring Matters!
- Support Kids 'n Kinship as a volunteer, ambassador or donor

Thanks For All You Do!!