

## Kids 'n Kinship Winter Newsletter!

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### SKATEVILLE WINTER OUTING FOR KIDS 'N KINSHIP

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

**WHAT:** Roller skating, craft, hot dog meal, & fun!

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

**WHEN:** Thurs, February 8, 2018 from 6-8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Skateville Roller Rink

201 S. River Ridge Circle, Burnsville

952-890-0988

Skateville is located in Burnsville, at the northwest corner of Nicollet and Highway 13. Take Nicollet Avenue north to South River Ridge Circle, west to Skateville.

You must register each attendee online by February 5

at: <https://2018kidsnkinshipskatevillewinterouting.eventbrite.com>

Roller-skates rental included, rollerblade rental or walker for beginners available for additional cost.

The Skateville Winter Outing is sponsored by:

**Apple Valley American Legion  
Auxiliary Unit 1776**

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.

We look forward to seeing you there!





## JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH!!

This year's National Mentoring Month theme In Real Life focuses on the real-life benefits of mentoring to young people, as well as real-life benefits to mentors themselves.

For 16 years National Mentoring Month (NMM) has drawn attention to real-life mentoring relationships that have been formed and are thriving, and the incredible impact mentoring has had. Watch for these special dates to celebrate mentoring:

- 1/17/2018 - International Mentoring Day – a day of international conversations on social media where powerful mentoring stories are shared.
- 1/25/2018 - #ThankYourMentor Day – a special day to thank your mentor!

Quality mentoring programs, like Kids 'n Kinship, are proven to build relationships that help improve school attendance and academic achievement, promote responsible decision-making, and provide skills to better navigate relationships at school, socially and at home. Find out more about mentoring at an upcoming Kids 'n Kinship Information Session:

- **Sat, Feb. 3 from 10–11 a.m. at Merchants Bank in Apple Valley**
- **Tues, Feb. 20 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the Wescott Library in Eagan**

The Information Session is the place to hear about the children and teens waiting for mentors, the volunteer screening process, and activities and benefits provided by Kids 'n Kinship. For more information go to [www.kidsnkinship.org](http://www.kidsnkinship.org) or call 952-892-6368.

**See the Kids 'n Kinship NMM article in the SUN Thisweek paper:**

[Kids 'n Kinship celebrates National Mentoring Month](#)  
[A game of catch turned into seven years of mentorship](#)

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### MENTORING MATCH HIGHLIGHT

It is 5 year anniversary time for this wonderful match!  
"Over the years, I have watched her grow from a silly, fun loving young girl into a caring, responsible teenager." Says Deena



The match began in January 2013 through our school based mentor program. Deena visited Talia in her third grade classroom every Friday. They would occasionally read, work on a journal, play a game or visit the media center. Now that Talia is older, they get together outside of school and enjoy games and watching movies and in warmer weather, they do outdoor activities like bike riding, going to parks, and having water balloon fights. One of the things Deena says she enjoyed the most was making gifts with Talia for Talia's friends and family for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, and Christmas.

"The match is going great after all these years. The ladies still get together on Fridays during the school year and on summer break. They cook/bake and do crafts together...among other things. Talia is excited to get to know Deena's grandchildren." Says Talia's mom

Talia has become part of Deena's family, spending time with Deena and her husband, their children and grandchildren and helping with garage sales. And speaking of sales: Last summer Deena and Talia started collecting grocery store receipts. The receipts are from any Spartan Nash store through a program called Direct Your Dollars. Local Spartan Nash stores include Family Fresh in Farmington and Econofoods in Northfield. People mail their receipts in; Deena and Talia collect and organize them. They just accumulated \$150,000 in receipts earning \$1000 to support mentor matches in Kids 'n Kinship! Way to go ladies!!!

## **WELCOME NEW MENTOR MATCHES!**

Maurice / Jordan & Noelle

Aleigha / Kristy

Lleyton / Michael

Justine / Susan & Richard

Lucas / Marty

Caleb / Todd

Allison / Camilla

Grace Ann / Tracy

AJ / Jay

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## **CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES:**

[Facebook – Kids 'n Kinship](#)

Like our facebook page and share our posts!

[Twitter – @kidsnkinship](#)

Help promote mentoring – Follow us!

[Blog – http://mentoringinreallife.blogspot.com/](http://mentoringinreallife.blogspot.com/)

Check it out for news about mentoring!

[Instagram](#)

New – Follow us!

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***THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND ONGOING DONORS!!***

***Click here to see all our wonderful donors!!***

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## THANK YOU AMBASSADORS AND SUPPORTERS!!

Thanks for a great year encouraging people to become involved as mentors! 20 waiting youth were matched with new mentors in 2017!

Are you interested in sharing about the power of mentoring with others? Please contact Debbie at 651-456-8153 or [dakinship@aol.com](mailto:dakinship@aol.com) if you're willing to be a spokesperson for Kids 'n Kinship.

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## FUN AT YMCA POOL PARTY, GYM & CRAFT DAY!!



We had 45 Kids 'n Kinship youth, mentors, and their families attended the annual Pool Party in November. We enjoyed swimming, a rock painting craft and basketball in the gym!! Youth picked out personal care and school supplies from a generous donation by Lauren L.!

Many thanks to our sponsors: **Vibrant Reality and Thrivent** for providing a fun and successful event!

## BOWLATHON 2018 IS COMING!!

**Save the Date: April 22nd**

More details to come next month - if you have any questions or wish to be added to our email list please email Melynda at [mgkinship@aol.com](mailto:mgkinship@aol.com)

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## FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS IN OUR PROGRAM:

### YIPA Survey

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 our State Grant, we are required to ask each of our mentees ages 12 and up to complete a survey. It is a new format this year. Please use the following link and have your child over 12 complete it. Here is the survey link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YIP\\_outcomes](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YIP_outcomes)

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

### Give Kids a Smile program February 2nd and 3rd!

The purpose of this charitable outreach program is to provide free care to low-income children in need. Thousands of dental professionals volunteer their time to this program and each year thousands of children receive much-needed dental care. If your child could benefit from this program, please refer to the link: <https://www.mndental.org/events/give-kids-a-smile/patients/find-a-participating-clinic/>

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## FOR MENTORS IN OUR PROGRAM:

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.

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### Employees:

Jan Belmore - Executive Director - jbkinship@aol.com

Rita Younger - Program Coordinator - rykinship@aol.com

Melynda Galioto - Kinship Coordinator - mgkinship@aol.com

Debbie Andrews - Project Manager - dakinship@aol.com

*"Children are the world's most valuable resource and  
its best hope for the future."*

- John F. Kennedy



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