



Spring 2017 Newsletter



18th Annual Bowlathon!

Sunday, April 23rd

At Cedarvale Lanes
3883 Cedar Grove Parkway Eagan

(651-452-7520)

3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

or

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Volunteers, matched children and their families, waiting list children/parents and siblings who live in the household; corporate, school and community groups are all welcome to attend. The annual Bowlathon gathers program participants and community together to have fun while raising funds to support Kids 'n Kinship. We'll have shoes, balls, bumper lanes if you desire, all you can drink pop and all you can eat chips.

Register online by April 15th

Mentors, youth and families register at:

<https://knkbowlathon2017.eventbrite.com>

Community or business sponsors register at:

<https://knkbowlfundraiser2017.eventbrite.com>

This is a great opportunity to support your Kids 'n Kinship program! Kids 'n Kinship participants are encouraged to collect donations, however, children are not permitted to go door to door to collect pledges unless accompanied by an adult. YOU can help us reach our goal of \$10,000! Bring in at least \$25 in pledges and you will receive a gift!! We invite corporate, school and group bowlers, Kids 'n Kinship alumni, and community to bring in pledges to support Kids 'n Kinship!

Bring your pledges or share this link so your friends and family can donate online:

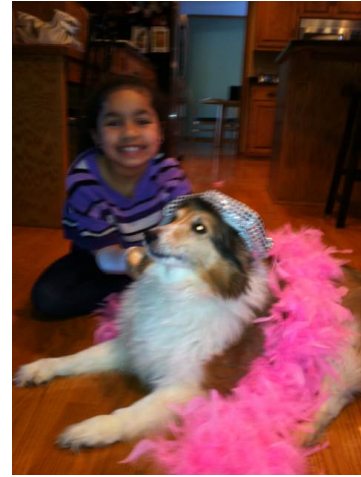
<https://www.razoo.com/story/Kidsnkinshipbowlathon>

Directions to Cedarvale: Take Hwy 13 North from Cedar Ave. Take a right at Silverbell Road. Go to stoplight; stay straight on Cedar Grove Parkway. Cedarvale Lanes is a block ahead on the right side.

The Bowlathon is sponsored by:

Match Highlight

Seven years ago Mark and Holly applied to be mentors - they were matched with an 11 year old girl and had a great mentor relationship. After the mentee moved out of state, the mentor couple took a break as their daughters were experiencing college and first job excitement! They were ready to mentor again and 2017 will mark the five year anniversary of their 'new' match. Kiki loves to do ANYTHING with her mentors.



She has invited them to school events too. You might find this match hiking, playing games, doing summersaults at Cascade Bay, at the movies, skiing, at the Kids 'n Kinship bowlathon or playing tennis - that is if you can keep up with them! The match describes some of their highlights: Kiki learning to ride a bike, playing ping pong, theater productions, the state fair and lots of games! Kiki says "It's fun because I learn new things and I also like our mystery trips where I don't know where we are going and I guess while we are driving there from clues I get. It's also fun when they pick me up and we sing our song in the car called "tell me something I do not know" and we take turns telling each other something new since the last time we were together. I look forward to all our future adventures together!"

In addition to describing Kiki as "sweet and a joy to be with - we get along so great - She is respectful, smart, fun and always appreciative of our time together." Mark and Holly say " we are so lucky to have such great communication and Stephanie (Kiki's mom) is great at that and having Kiki ready, she is a great mom - she does a lot to hold everything together."



Kiki enjoys every minute with her mentors according to mom "Over the years she has matured so well and they are such a great positive consistent force in her life. Mark and Holly have been great. We have built a really good relationship - I don't know what I would do without them."

Our first ever Game Night was FUN!

We had a blast playing games, getting new games, making cards and scrapbook pages and sharing a pizza supper! Special thanks to Patty and Gabbie Perfetti, Papa John's Pizza Eagan, Shepherd of the Valley Church, Thrivent, Eagan Moms Bible Study and to the Apple Valley American Legion Auxiliary!



SAVE THE DATE!

Rick's Community Bike Sale – Saturday, May 13

Over 300 bikes will be available with all proceeds supporting Kids 'n Kinship. Volunteer mentor Rick Anderson's annual sale will be Saturday, May 13th from 9 am to 1 pm at a new location: Goodyear Superior Service Center 14580 Glenda Drive in Apple Valley.

The Red Line stops 5 steps from the bike sale. People in Minneapolis can take the light rail and bus and end up right at the sale.



Kids 'n Kinship participants are also invited to a pre-sale on Friday evening, May 12th from 5 pm - 8 pm. Bike prices range from \$25 to \$300, with many under \$100. Don't miss it!

If you have a gently used bike to donate or would like more information you can get details at:

www.ricksbikesale.com



2017 CEM 900 Celebration Save the Date!

Friday, June 9th at Merchants Bank Apple Valley - Welcome Home Celebration for CEM 900 bike ride fundraiser for Kids 'n Kinship. Join us for a fun free event welcoming back John Elder, Dennis Hill, and their crew from touring Minnesota by bike. We will have music and food to celebrate and present the riders with recognition awards! To donate or follow their adventures, go to www.cem900.com

Dakota County Library 3D printer... from mentee Rachel age 11

"It was a fun experience! We made a snowflake on the 3d printer. It's a fun activity. There is also a paper cutter [in the iLAB] that cuts out awesome designs like a boom box and a bind."

For more information on 3D printers at the libraries, check out:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Using/iLab/Pages/learn-to-use-equipment.aspx>

Thank You Expo and Eagan Community Connections Volunteers!

Thank you Lauren, Sean, Stephanie, Marty, Lisa, Karla, Nancy, Chris, Brad, and mentees for attending and staffing the booth during the Volunteer Expo at MOA! A thank you shout out also goes to Lauren, Bettina, Barb, Brad, and mentees for attending and staffing the booth during the Eagan Community Connections event! We so appreciate each of you sharing your story as a mentor and mentee as well as promoting Kids 'n Kinship!

Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all of our fabulous donors!

You can [click here](#) to see a listing.

Welcome New Matches!

Moira and mentee

Williams Family and Daniel

Ellie Jacobson and Shawntasia

MacFarland/Slattery Family and Halina

Chat Group for Mentors

We are gearing up for the Spring Chat Group - a reminder all mentors are required to attend two Chat Groups each year - details on the presenter, date and location coming soon!

Ambassadors and Mentors are Needed:

We are seeking motivated and outgoing individuals to be on our Ambassador Team. Ambassadors help promote the mission of Kids 'n Kinship's by helping at Volunteer Fair booths, posting Kid's 'n Kinship information on Community Boards, sharing upcoming Information Session dates, assisting with presentations, and more. If you want to learn more about being an Ambassador, please contact Debbie Andrews at: dakinship@aol.com. Help us spread the word - mentors are needed to provide friendships to children ages 5-16 who are in need of a positive role model!

Contact us:

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Employees:

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

- John F. Kennedy

