



## **Spring 2018 Newsletter**



### **19th Annual Bowlathon! Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

At Cedarvale Lanes  
3883 Cedar Grove Parkway, Eagan  
651-452-7520

11:00 am - 12:30 pm  
or  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

The annual Bowlathon gathers program participants and community together to have fun while raising funds to support Kids 'n Kinship. 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. We'll have shoes, balls, and bumper lanes.

**Register online by April 15th:**

[Mentors, Youth and Families Registration Link](#)

[Community or Business Sponsors Registration Link](#)

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 pledges or share this link - your friends & family can

[Donate Online](#)

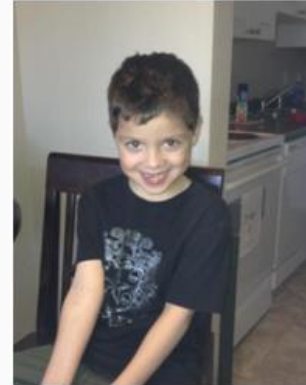
**The Bowlathon is sponsored by:**

Boeckermann Grafstrom Mayer CPAS, Home Federal, Eagan Foundation, Burnsville Lunch Rotary Club, Wings Financial Credit Union, Thrivent Action Team, Eagan Kick Start Rotary, Webb Financial Group, Dakota Electric Association, The Credit Department, Inc., Hackett Family, Klein Bank Savage, Media Relations Agency, Joel and Kris Carberry, Affinity Plus Lakeville and Eagan, Curlee State Farm, Judy Olhoff

**Thank you for your generosity!!**

## Match Highlight celebration of 5 years

When we first met Leo and his grandmother, Leo was 5 years old. He taught me about Angry Birds. He was charming then and still is. Leo was so excited to be matched with a great couple! Nanna says there are many wonderful things that stand out with the mentors and the mentor match, but one thing she loves to talk about is when Jason got a baseball glove for Leo, last spring. "Jason got him a glove and now they play catch all the time - it is all Leo talks about, he looks up to them so much and they are doing great, Leo is crazy about that glove and I didn't know he needed it - Jason knew."



And from the mentors: "My wife Christine and I have been mentors to Leo for five years. Since we met Leo, we had a daughter Harper (4) and a son Otto (2). Leo is not just a mentee, but he is more like an extended part of our family. Most nights when we see him, we eat together at the family dinner table, talk about school (if we can get Leo to talk about it!), and then play games after the younger kids have gone to bed. We sprinkle in other activities like Twins, Timberwolves, and Wild games, Nickelodeon Universe, and the local pool.

We have seen Leo grow up in many ways in five years - learn to read, write, dive, throw a baseball, etc. It's been so fun to watch him grow; to have him be a part of our lives and to be a part of his. We are excited for many more years of involvement in mentoring and being a part of Kids n Kinship!"



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## Winter Outing at Skateville!

We had a great time with all the matches who came out for a fun time at Skateville! Special thanks to the Apple Valley American Legion Auxiliary for sponsoring and volunteering at the event; Patty for great Valentine crafts, Sharon for knitting hats and mittens, Dan for video and Michael for photos!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Rick's Community Bike Sale**  
**Saturday, May 12 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Over 400 bikes will be available with all proceeds supporting Kids 'n Kinship and DARTS. Volunteer mentor Rick Anderson's annual sale will take place at: 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 11th from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Bike prices range from \$30 to \$500. 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](http://www.ricksbikesale.com)



**2018 CEM 900 Celebration Save the Date!**

Friday, June 8th 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](http://www.cem900.com)

**Thank You Eagan Community Connections Volunteers!**

Thank you Tim, Brad, Christine, Bettina, and Lauren for helping at our display booth during the Eagan Community Connections event! We so appreciate each of you sharing your story and promoting Kids 'n Kinship!



### Thank You to our Donors!

Thank you to all of our fabulous donors!  
You can [click here](#) to see a listing.

### Welcome New Matches!

Teagan / Jim & Nellie  
Omar / Janel & Todd  
Nasir / Patricia & Mark

### We had our first 2018 Chat Group!!

Our first Chat was on How to Prepare for College. Our presenter was one of our own mentors, Melody Geiger. She currently works at Augsburg as an Academic Advisor for the TRIO/Student Support Services and has mentored a young girl who is 15, for almost 7 years.



Topics included:

1. What to do in high school to prepare for college
2. How to get into college both financially and applying
3. How to stay in college and get support while there

There was a lot of dialogue back-and-forth with mentors asking questions about different kinds of financial aid, what about military service, and how to motivate your mentee to actually get to school. Great conversation about internal versus external motivation and lots was shared in a very friendly way. Thanks to all who attended!

### 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](mailto: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:

Kids 'n Kinship  
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#### Employees:

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Debbie Andrews - Project Manager - [dakinship@aol.com](mailto:dakinship@aol.com)



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