

Spreading the Word... about Kinship



Kinship

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KINSHIP (YOUTH MENTORING) OF MORRISON COUNTY

Togetherness Times

Here at Kinship we are just now on the heels of the Soup & Chili Cook-off! The "doubly-rescheduled cook-off" was a success, albeit a bit less than last year, the most successful to date. Over 315 folks turned out to support Kinship, eat a big variety of **soups & chili's and also to have fun** with families and friends.

"Stirrin' Up Mentors" was the theme for the cook-off this year, and it did! We are currently working with the potential volunteers who stepped forward as a direct result of the cook-off!

A secondary goal was obviously to **raise needed funds to run Kinship's** mentoring programs. Just under \$5000 was brought in through ticket sales, silent auction bids, raffle tickets, donations and sponsorships. On the flip side, \$3260 was spent to make it possible. The bottom line profit of \$1700 was \$2000 less than 2008.

While the results weren't as great as hoped, the public support of time, money and goods that Kinship continues to receive is greatly appreciated and needed.

Sincerely,

Aaron Olson
Kinship Director



Pete & Joy's Bakery owner Joyce Kamrowski & the "Potato Soup" chef Melissa Meyer, pose with Kinship director Aaron Olson as they receive their 1st Place Soup certificate and cash award.

Official Judges Placing

Soups:

1. **"Potato Soup"** Pete & Joy's Bakery, Melissa Meyer
2. **"Bangin' Broccoli Soup"** Perkin's, Scott Drong & Bart Schultz
3. **"Creamy Chicken Wild Rice Soup"** MCH Eagles 4-H Club

Chilies:

1. **"What a Rush Chili"** Falls Ballroom, Anne Rush
2. **"White Turkey Chili"** Pete & Joy's Bakery, Melissa Meyer
3. **"Cabin Chili"** Cabin Fever, Eric Kuehne



Kinship

Making a Difference... One Friendship at a Time



What is Kinship

Kinship of Morrison County is a non-profit mentoring organization whose mission is to match kids from single parent families with a caring volunteer mentor, at no cost to the family.

Kinship began in Little Falls in the 1970's and has been serving families in the area ever since. Currently forty families from throughout Morrison County benefit from Kinship.

Volunteer... Why Me?

Finding the time and energy within your heart to volunteer is a big step, and also a wonderful opportunity to grow, whether you are 18 or 80. Each and every Kinship volunteer is essential to the program and its mission to help bring about a positive change in those children involved.

If you want to make a BIG difference in the life of a kid in Kinship, then read on... take the big step... and become a Kinship volunteer.

Supportive Volunteers

The mentors in Kinship are not professionals. They are volunteers who have a sincere interest and concern for youth, and spend time with the kids because they want to, not because they are paid to. These volunteers go through an initial training with Kinship staff and attend periodic refresher trainings to help them be as supportive as possible to their match. Call Kinship at 632-8806 or email us at info@kinshipofmc.org to find out more on becoming a mentor.

Kinship Makes Matches... ...and Friendships

Pictured below are James Strom, Dave Cina, Seth Kaiser, Colt Litzau, Linda Kaiser and Becky Olson (left to right) enjoying a campfire during Kinship's recent Explore Minnesota camping trip.

James and Seth live near Little Falls and are waiting for a male mentor. Both like sports of many kinds and really enjoyed the camping experience with Kinship. If you are interested in giving a part of your heart and life as a mentor to one of these young men, or any of the other 17 waiting Kinkids, please contact Kinship at 632-8806 or at www.kinshipofmc.org.



**Be a friend
Be a mentor**

Kinship in Pictures

Kinship had a great turn-out at its Explore Minnesota, "Near Home Adventure" trip in June. Fifteen youth, eight adults and two guests focused a Friday and Saturday at the Lindbergh State Park and the historic Lindbergh Museum. Camp was set up, the museum was toured, "airplanes" were flown, campfires were started, songs were sung, moccasins were made and many games were played.

All in all it was a swell time. Check out these photo highlights of the trip.



Upcoming Activities



MN TWINS
VS.
New York Yankees
Thursday, July 9th
9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

REGISTRATION IS FULL... Thirty-two Kinship youth, mentors and volunteers have the opportunity to travel to the Metrodome one last time on Thursday, July 9th, to watch the Minnesota Twins as they take on the New York Yankees. Game time is 12:10.

Tickets, transportation and a ballpark snack will be provided. Any additional snacks and souvenirs are on your own. The bus will leave the Morrison County Courthouse at 9:30 AM sharp, on July 9th, and will return at approximately 6:00 PM.

Please be on time, for the bus will not wait past 9:30 AM. Also, arrive early to pickup your kids in case the game finishes early. Stay tuned to your local television and radio stations during the game to judge when we will return.

Down The River We Go
Tuesday, August 4th
Morning - Afternoon



There is nothing quite like the enjoyment and thrill of canoeing and boating down a river with friends. This is a chance for Kinkids, volunteers and mentors to learn a skill, see wildlife, marvel at the **outdoors, have fun and enjoy each other's company.** Canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided. For this trip we will be canoeing on the Mississippi River near Royalton. Total canoeing/boating time will be approximately 2-3 hours. This is a **fun and leisurely trip, and will be "do-able" for any experience level.** There will be a boat and/

or pontoon used during the trip as well. An outdoor lunch will be provided during the trip.

If you are interested, please contact the Kinship office ASAP. **We are in need of adults for this trip. You don't need to have** any canoeing experience for this activity. Come and learn together.



Firearms Safety Course

Kinkids age 11 and over



Kinship is offering the MN DNR's Firearm Safety Course with a kick again this year in August & September. This is an excellent way to learn more about guns in a small group setting. You will have a great deal of hands on **training and shooting of .22's, shotguns, handguns, bow & arrow and muzzleloaders.**

This course is first and foremost a SAFETY course, but our secondary goal is to pass on a passion for the lifelong sports of hunting and target shooting. Please contact the office today to reserve your spot or for more information. A maximum of 12 youth are enrolled in the course, with Kinkids having priority. Any vacancies after July 1st will be opened up to the general public.

Match Blast!

The annual Match Blast celebration for Kinship's matches is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, September 1st. Without letting the cat out of the bag, the event will be held outdoors near Little Falls, complete with cool yard games, a great pig roast style dinner and a **speaker and program you're sure not to forget.**

Invitations with further information will be sent **out to Kinship's matches in the near future, in the meantime, please mark September 1st off for Kinship on your calendar!**



Snow Shoe Day Camp

Construction & Lessons
October 15 & 16 (MEA break)
Kinkids age 11 or over



Kinship is working with Old Man Winter on an authentic Minnesota winter activity, snow shoeing! This original form of winter transportation is great way to see the great outdoors regardless of the amount of snowfall and also to get exercise. Yes, I know blustery winter days are a long ways off, but planning ahead takes time.

What I need to know is if you are age 11 or over and interested in making your own snow shoes from a kit (with help from Kinship volunteers) and also in having a few lessons in using them. While there will be no cost for Kinship youth, this will be a very expensive activity to host, and will take work on your part! If this sounds cool, please contact the Kinship office to register. I will need to know your height, weight and shoe size. We will need volunteers to help make the snowshoes too. (For volunteers wishing to make a pair - **we'll see how the financial details shake out. There may have to be a fee to make it work out.**) Please contact the office to reserve your spot today.

"Cook-off for Kids"

People's Choice Awards

Everyone who attends the Cook-Off is encouraged to vote for their favorite soup and chili. This **People's Choice** award consists of a custom made traveling trophy, and is highly sought after by the **cookers**. The **People's Choice** award winners are as follows:

People's Choice Soup "Pheasant Wild Rice Soup"

Donna Kapus
(Rice Creek Hunting)

People's Choice Chili "What a Rush"

Anne Rush, (Falls Ballroom)



The Cook-Off was judged by five pre-selected individuals. The volunteer judges were Carmen Myer, Chief of Police Mike Pender, Randy Pankonen, Renee Neiman and County Attorney Brian Middendorf. Thank you all for your time, energy and spent taste buds.

Beyond the great soup, chili, and conversation, a returning highlight was the **musical entertainment** provided by "**Diane Saumer & the Friends of Kinship**," a six-piece "**big band**" style band from the **Brainerd Lakes area**. The band has played the past five years and was asked back by popular demand.

Kinship greatly appreciates the tremendous support we received from the entire Morrison County community and beyond. If any volunteer or sponsor was missed in our list, please accept our sincere apology and gratitude for your time and efforts. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to know more about Kinship of Morrison County, please call us at 632-8806.



"Cook-off for Kids" - Thank you's

First of all, I would like to thank God for bringing all of the tremendously generous volunteers, donors, patrons and logistics of the cook-off together. This year, eight different soups and five different chilies were entered by nine cookers, many with a business or agency sponsorship. Each of these entrants spent a considerable amount of time and money preparing the required four to five gallons of soup for the event. Cookers and sponsors included: Janelle Fitch, Bart Schulti & Scott Drong (Perkins), Anne Rush (Falls Ballroom), Mark Larson (Creative Catering), MCH Eagles 4-H Club, Eric Kuehne & Zach Barthel (Cabin Fever), Greg Rutten (Share Bears Kids Cloths / Hilmerson Collision Center), Donna Kapus (Rice Creek Hunting), Chris Grams (Little Falls Radio). Other individuals may have helped to serve the soup or chili, but these were the registered cookers. Thank you all.

Many thanks need to be given to the volunteers who helped made the Cook-Off a success. They include the Kinship Board of Directors, youth & adult volunteers from Kinship, Morrison County Dairy Princesses, guest volunteers representing Thrivent Financial for Lutherans along with the staff at the Little Falls Ballroom.

Community donors and sponsors included Al Olson Express, AmeriCinn of Toftte, Ann Sahr Woltman, **Anytime Fitness, Archer Building Supply, Bev Gold, Bieganek Insurance, Cabin Fever, Capt. Ron's, Carl Rydeen, Charlie's Pizza, Christina Johnson Photography, Craft's by Carol, Creative Catering, Curves, Custom Printing, Denny's Floor Covering, Dominos, Falls Ballroom, Falls Furniture, Fitness Connection, Goldsmith Jewelers, Grand Casino, Gumdrop Tree, Hardware Hank, Hilmerson Collision, Kelly Schomer, Kim Liebel Insurance, Rice Creek, Lin Furniture, LF Bowling Center, LF Country Club, LF Fleet Supply, LF Radio, Lutzen Mountains, MCH Eagle's 4-H Club, MMFCU, MN Twins, MN Vikings, MN Wild, Lakeside Resort, Pampered Pooch, Paramount Theatre, Paula Marcy, Perkins, Pete & Joy's Bakery, Peter Vogel, Pizza Ranch, ShareBear Kids Clothing, Schomer Insurance, Shelly Funeral Chapels, SC Riverbats, St. Francis Health & Rec., Subway, The MC Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Timber Lodge and Wiczek's Floors & More, Kinship volunteers.**



The Morrison County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will supplement funds at a 3 to 1 ratio providing up to \$500 in supplemental funds.

Kim Liebel, your
Farm Bureau Agent



Howie Schomer, agent
PO Box 458 - Pierz, MN 56364-0458
320-468-2525 - SchomerIns@centurytel.net





Kinship

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Making a Difference...
One Friendship at a Time

MISSION STATEMENT

FOR
KINSHIP
OF
MORRISON COUNTY

Kinship of Morrison County is dedicated to the premise that children need, and can benefit from the guidance and companionship of a mature adult friend.

Our purpose is to provide this one-to-one friendship in the most wholesome way possible with the intention that the child could show noticeable improvement in personal development.

Kinship's Annual Report

Each year Kinship staff produce a summary of the prior year's accomplishments, successes and challenges. This Annual Report includes a variety of great pictures, stories, facts and figures and is a great snapshot of Kinship's youth mentoring program.

If you would like to view the report online, please go to www.kinshipofmc.org and follow the instructions. If you would prefer a printed copy of the report, call the Kinship office at (320) 632-8806 and one will be sent to you.