

Spreading the word... ...about MENTORING



Kinship

Volume 11 Issue 7

Dec 2011 - Jan 2012

KINSHIP (YOUTH MENTORING) OF MORRISON COUNTY

Togetherness Times

Passing on traditions (part 2)

So how did that "hunting adventure" turn out for the Olson's you might ask. Honestly it was a somewhat successful disappointment...

The alarm clock went off early on opening day. Layers of clothes were put on, despite the not terribly cold weather (30's) and then we headed to the kitchen for the traditional oatmeal breakfast. That warmth in the belly always feels good, especially when I head outside to bring in the cold "blaze orange" that had been sucking up the smells of nature instead of the smells of people. "They" say that deer have very sharp senses, so hunters need all the help they can get.

This year there were just three of us, my wife Becky, I and Axel, a teenage friend of the family whose own family doesn't hunt. He hunted with us last year with no luck, but was hopeful to have a different result this time!

Opening morning is tough when three hunters must chose between 12 stands for reasons ranging from the wind, deer sign, logistics of getting there, where the other hunters may be and even just a gut feeling. For me, the "Monster Buck Stand" called... You see, each stand is given a name on the Olson ranch.

Once darkness faded into dawn and the woods came alive, high hopes of a big buck began to slowly blow away (literally). Squirrels and wild turkeys

and the beauty of God's creation were in plenty, but deer weren't. In fact, fast forward a day and a half and only one deer had been seen by our hunting party. Sunday afternoon I was in the "Hunting Shack" with our youngest son and we heard a few shots nearby that could have been either Becky or Axel, but surely weren't from us...

Hunting hours ended so we drove to Becky's stand and found out she had seen two deer (including the monster buck), but had only poor, brush-filled shots. We then drove to Axel's stand. "Hey, what is that in the tall grass by Axel, no, it can't be..." It sure was, Axel had shot a nice buck, and had seen another one to boot!

That was the highlight for the 2011 hunting season as not another deer was seen, despite a lot of standing, swamp tromping and "which stand next" debates.

So see, the season was successful for Axel, for shooting (and butchering) his first deer. That experience is one he is sure to remember, especially as he shares the bounty with his family. For Becky and I, the fresh air felt good, the woods walking was fun, the time in the stands with our boys was enjoyable, but the deerless season will bring about a forced change of diet for the year...



Sincerely,

Aaron Olson
Kinship Director



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**. Kinship began in Little Falls in the 1970's and has been serving families in the area ever since. Read below for information on how to enroll your son or daughter and also how to become a volunteer mentor.

Can Mentoring Help my Child?

Are you a single parent doing your best to raise your child(ren), but find that there just is not enough time or energy left at the end of the day. Do you long for a positive male role model for your son, or a married couple to be examples for your daughter? These are all examples of situations where Kinship youth mentoring can help.

Kinship is open to youth age 6-17 who live in a single parent home anywhere in Morrison County. Kinship recruits, screens, trains and motivates caring adults who would like to formally serve as positive adult role models for these youth.

All Kinship youth are encouraged to participate in group mentoring activities, like those highlighted in this newsletter. There is no cost to anyone to attend any activity.

Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions or to begin the process to have your son or daughter join Kinship's youth mentoring program.

Volunteer... Why Me?

Kinship's screened volunteers spend at least four hours per month together with a youth, doing everyday, low or no-cost activities. Men and women do this because they care and want to make a difference; not because they are paid, nor a professional.

Pictured below is Misty along with her mentor since August, Jackie Januschka. They both attended the **recent "Santa's Workshop" and are show mixing up a batch of Snickerdoodles!** Kinship matches are always welcome to attend Kinship sponsored activities like this baking night.



If you are interested in giving a part of your heart and a slice of your life as a mentor to one of the six waiting Kinkids, please contact Kinship at 632-8806 or go online at www.kinshipofmc.org.

Kinship in Pictures

Kinship held a Veterans Program, two Santa's Workshops, and a special "Mentor Night Out," for our volunteers. At right (and clockwise) are a couple of highlights from the Mentor Night Out at the LF Bowling Center and Pizza Ranch. Below that Kinship mentor Ty G., learns about the life of a Civil War soldier from Veterans Program speaker Charlie Pautler.

The other three pictures are of the Santa's Workshop held at Dave & Missy Bengtson's home where the participants made a variety of goodies to eat and also to give as Christmas gifts.



Upcoming Activities



Santa's "Post Christmas" Workshop

Squirrel Feed & Crafts

Date: Thursday, Dec. 29th (5:45 pm - 8:00 pm)

Location: **Ty & Jennifer Gangelhoff's Home**

Rideshare from Hist. Courthouse at 5:45.

Do you have an interest in learning about wood & tools while making a cool "post Christmas" gift. Would you like to learn about using a variety of hand tools including hammers, saws, drills, pliers, etc.? Maybe you would rather make a crafty item. On this night you can do both.

Kinship volunteers Ty & Jenn Gangelhoff have graciously opened up their home for us for this night. You **MUST CALL** by 4:30 on Wednesday, December 21st to **RESERVE A SPOT!**



DEEP PORTAGE WINTER RENDEZVOUS

January 28, 2012

Deep Portage Conservation Center



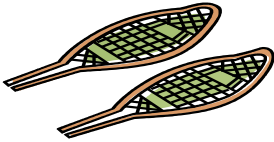
If you are a winter wonderland type person this is the activity for you. Deep Portage is hosting its annual Winter Rendezvous on Saturday, January 28th. A day of snowshoeing, log sawing, archery, fire building, snow games, contests and challenges to keep you going and maybe bring home the GOLD!

We will be leaving the Historic Courthouse parking lot at 7:15 AM on a bus (doughnuts & juice provided) and will return at approximately 5:00 PM. Lunch will be provided for Kinship participants. If folks would like to buy any souvenirs at the gift shop, that is on your own.

Dress warm - boots, hats, mittens, snowmobile suit (or snow pants and a warm jacket) ARE A MUST, as participants spend most of the day outdoors. Extra mittens/gloves are recommended, and some even bring a change of dry socks too.

This is a great day for both kids and adults so write it on the calendar now and plan on traveling to the Winter Rendezvous at Deep Portage! As this is a very expensive trip, **WE NEED A MINIMUM OF 20 FOLKS (KIDKIDS & VOLUNTEERS COMBINED)** in order to attend. You **MUST CALL** by 4:30 on Friday, January 20th to **RESERVE A SPOT!**

Upcoming Activities



Snowshoe Construction Night

Tuesday, January 10th, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Historic Courthouse

For those of you that registered to make snow shoes, the supplies are on order and the date has been set! We will meet in the Historic Courthouse Courtroom at 5:00 PM to begin the adventure of making your own snow shoes. A full supper will be provided for all participants, so no need to eat ahead of time. The snow shoes should be completely laced by the end of the night, but will need to be sealed with a special polyurethane which Kinship will take care of.

Registered folks include: Dave & Chris, Jackie & Misty, Patty & Caysi, Ty, Jon & Dakota, Steve & Nathan and Dave & Austin. **If your name isn't on the list, sorry but you will have to wait for the next time around with snow shoes.** Please call the office with any questions. This snowshoe activity was made possible in part by a generous donation from the...



Your chance to share...



At the end of the month, all Kinship youth, mentors and volunteers will be receiving a survey about the activities that Kinship hosts. Most of you attended one or more activities thus far this year, **and a few of you didn't attend any at all.** Kinship staff would really like your heart-felt opinions about the 16 different events that we hosted during 2011. These activities are no small investment of time or money by the Kinship program, and they are intended to be a great way for our matches and also our unmatched youth and volunteers to connect. In looking ahead to 2012, we want to do our very best to offer activities that folks want to attend & can grow from.

When you receive the survey, either by email or through the US mail, please take a few minutes to **complete it, and then send it back.** We really do value your opinions. **If you didn't attend a single activity this year yet, we want to know why not.** The results of the survey will be presented at the annual meeting, held this year on Monday, February 13th at Perkins Family Restaurant from 5:00 - 6:00.

Mentoring Makes a Difference!

"Our matches get together at least four hours per month and do everyday, low or no cost activities."

That is what we tell folks who are interested in become mentors with Kinship and that is what we continue to have as a goal for each and every one of our matches. The cool part is that the "hours per month" figure isn't quite accurate. In fact thus far this year our matches have averaged over 8 hours together per month, DOUBLE what has been asked. Thank you volunteers, you are all a real blessing to the youth you mentor and to the Kinship program in general.

I wanted to share a few ideas for winter activities, whether you are an outdoors or indoors kind of match. Use all, some or just let these ideas spark your own creative winter plans. The bottom line is to **spend some quality time together with your Kinkid this winter!** And, don't forget about Kinship activities, they are always options for you.

WINTER TIME ACTIVITIES TOGETHER

Sliding, skating or skiing.

Snowshoeing, ice fishing, snowmobiling or snow boarding.

Build a snowman or a snow fort.

Plan a building project.

Check out the library - they have a ton of books, magazines, games, movies & activities.

Learn a musical instrument together.

Play cards (learn a new card game each month).

Make Christmas decorations together.

Pop some corn and watch a movie at home.

Take a life-saving course.

Study the stars - cold winter nights are often very clear!

Woodwork - whittle, learn about tools, make a birdhouse or game

Repair a broken toy or bike together.

Bake a yummy batch or two of cookies together.

Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, coffee or cappuccino

Try making candles and other crafts.

Attend a school band concert or play.



Annual Kinship Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2012
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

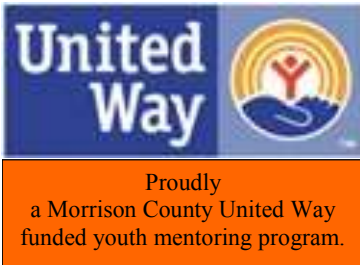
Location: Perkin's Family Restaurant



Kinship youth & families along with mentors & volunteers are invited to attend the annual Kinship meeting. This meeting is where the Kinship Board of Directors visits with and listens to comments, suggestions and thank-**you's from all in attendance.**

Supper will be provided. You **MUST CALL** by 4:30 on Friday, February 10th to **RESERVE A SPOT!** The regular board meeting, including elections and board training will follow from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Something to think about...



Kinship is a non-profit youth mentoring organization which relies on fundraisers, grants and donations (both cash and in-kind) to fund its services. The annual budget of \$77,000 (approximately) provides and **supports Kinship's one-to-one** mentoring, youth and volunteer recruitment, match making and support, administration along with month group mentoring activities. An individual is more than welcome to make a much appreciated donation directly to Kinship in person, through the mail or via www.razzo.com.

Another option that folks have to give to Kinship is through the United Way. The United Way works by collecting donations from people through direct donations and payroll deductions. These collected dollars are divided up between the agencies which have applied and are part of that United Way. **Donations can be "designated" to a specific program like Kinship as well. Kinship has been a long-time supported program of the Morrison County United Way.**

Kinship has also applied and is part of the United Way's Combined Federal Campaign. This donation program is an option for certain public employees. Donors to the CFC are able to designate a specific charity to give their donations to. Kinship is designate #72167.



The bottom line is that Kinship appreciates each and every donor who helps to support this youth mentoring program. As you look at the end of 2011 and with 2012 on the horizon, we encourage you to consider donating to Kinship directly or to look at the United Way as an option to facilitate your giving.



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 Veterans Program Contest Results

In conjunction with its annual Veterans Program, Kinship held patriotic coloring and photo contests. Tucker Olson, 10, of Little Falls won in the 10-12 year old category with the entry shown above. Sierra Wroolie, 9, of Little Falls won in the 6-9 year old category.

Dustin Wroolie, a retired member of the US Navy won the photo contest adult division with a photo taken while stationed on the USS Ranger CV-61 in 1992. In the photo, which was made into a Veterans Day greeting card, the formal red carpet was rolled out for a special guest, the then Vice President Dan Quayle.