

## Kinship of Morrison County & greater Long Prairie

**WHO are we?** A non-profit, youth mentoring agency.

**WHAT do we do?** Match kids age 6-17 not living with both parents with adult mentors; provide monthly activities for kids in the program.

**WHAT is a mentor?** Someone older who offers friendship, advice & opportunities to grow and learn.

**WHO can be a Kinkid?** Youth between the ages of 6-17 who live in Morrison County or greater Long Prairie & do not live with both parents for whatever rea-

son; and complete the application process and want to be matched with a mentor.

**WHO can become a Kinship mentor?** Adults (or married couples) over 18 who qualify by completing the application process (includes background check & screening); cares about kids; are willing to share at least 4 hours a month with a kid.

**WHAT'S the cost?** A little time.

**WHAT'S the catch?** A new friend!

### Why Mentoring?

We all need older, wiser influences in our lives whether we are 6 or 60. This role is often filled by parents, pastors, teachers, & extended family, but not always. In single parent homes kids often spend much of their time with just one parent who may be juggling school, work, relationships, & all of the adult household responsibilities. This means the kids, despite the best efforts of the parent, often end up fending for themselves.



Enter, Kinship & its mentors.

**Mentoring can help improve a young person's attitude, encourage them to be motivated, provide a positive way to spend their free time, help them face social & academic challenges at school, & offer opportunities to consider different career paths as well.** As we hear over & over here at Kinship, mentors grow & benefit from mentoring as much as the youth they mentor. Please consider taking the little bit of time it takes to mentor a child. YOU will make a difference!

## Kinship in the Community



**Kinship Train:** Kinship gives free train rides and participates in several local events including the Pierz Octoberfest parade shown here.



**Kids Day:** Fun morning of activities led by local groups & held at the fairgrounds each September.



**Veterans Program:** Program honoring Veterans through shared stories & experience. Held each November.



**Firearms Safety Training:** Kinship hosts an excellent Firearms Safety Training each Aug & Sept. See inside for details.



### Kinship's Soup & Chili Cook-off for Kids

**"Mark it down..."**

March 25, 2014  
LF Falls Ballroom  
5-7 pm

The public is invited to attend this fun competition by **tasting the cooker's great soups & chili's**, enjoying musical entertainment, breadsticks, milk, ice cream & fellowship. Help support Kinship through a silent auction & raffle while you vote for your favorite recipes!



\$7 adults, \$4 (age 5-17), under 5 & over 80 FREE



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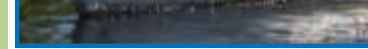
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Kinship of Morrison County  
(also serving Long Prairie)

107 2nd St SE  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
Phone: (320) 632-8806  
Toll Free: (800) 563-7206  
Fax: (320) 632-1914  
[www.kinshipofmc.org](http://www.kinshipofmc.org)  
[info@kinshipofmc.org](mailto:info@kinshipofmc.org)



# Kids in Kinship

## 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 woman to be an example for your daughter? These are all examples of situations where Kinship youth mentoring can help.



Kinship is open to youth age 6-17 who reside in Morrison County or Long Prairie but do not live with both parents. Kinship recruits, screens, trains and motivates caring adults who would like to serve as positive adult role models for these youth.



Kinship youth are encouraged to participate in group mentoring activities like those highlighted in this flyer. There is no cost to Kinship participants to attend any activity.

Please call or e-mail with any questions you have.

## What do you like about Kinship?

"I can open up to my mentor and share things..."

"Because I don't spent time with my dad or see him."

"I think I am more aware of what my decisions do and to not be afraid to speak up because I have a mentor."

"I love spending time with my mentor!"

# Kinship Activities

Kinship offers monthly activities which provide an opportunity for hands-on, side-by-side growth of friendships between kids & mentors. The activities are either fun, educational, service oriented or a combination.

Examples include: making snow shoes, attending a baseball game, baking Christmas goodies, building a wooden squirrel feeder and canoeing, just to name a few.

Activities provide kids & volunteers who aren't matched time to

share & grow. They also give current matches an option for something to do together. Activities are open to all screened volunteers & Kinship kids free of charge. Attendance isn't required but is highly encouraged.

*"When at these activities, you can just see the enjoyment in the kids' eyes being able to have the one-on-one time with an adult "*

*- Volunteer Mentor*



## Firearms Safety

Kinship offers a DNR Certified Firearms Safety course in late summer. The course combines excellent hands-on safety training in the field with classroom teaching.

Kinship's small group philosophy continues with this course, which has a maximum of 12 participants. Youth must be at least 11 to sign up. Non-Kinship youth are eligible to register for a small cost.

# Become a Mentor...

## Can I be a Mentor?

Mentoring comes down to making a decision to "make a difference" by simply sharing your life's experiences, your family and time with a youth. That's it. Kinship's mentors are caring adults who chose to give four hours a month to the next generation. Kinship staff provides training, networking, support and motivational opportunities for its volunteers and matches.



So what is holding you back? There are youth in Kinship waiting for a mentor, a mentor just like you...

## Time & Money for Mentoring

You need as much time in a month for mentoring as you need to:

- Watch a weekly tv show
- Play a game of golf
- Walk 5 miles a week
- Play a board game
- Surf the net an hour a week

You need as much money in a month for mentoring as you need to:

- Go for a walk
- Weed a garden
- Bake cookies
- Climb a tree
- Catch a fish

## Mentors are saying...

"I learned that it doesn't matter what we do with our time together, no matter how big or small our plans are, he always has fun." - Eric, a 2 year Kinship mentor

"It is very rewarding, my house is alive again and I truly love having my Kinkid." - Mary, a 1 year Kinship mentor

"I think Kinship is a great opportunity for youth to not only connect with a caring loving adult, but to also make new friends and lasting connections." - Anonymous