

Kinship

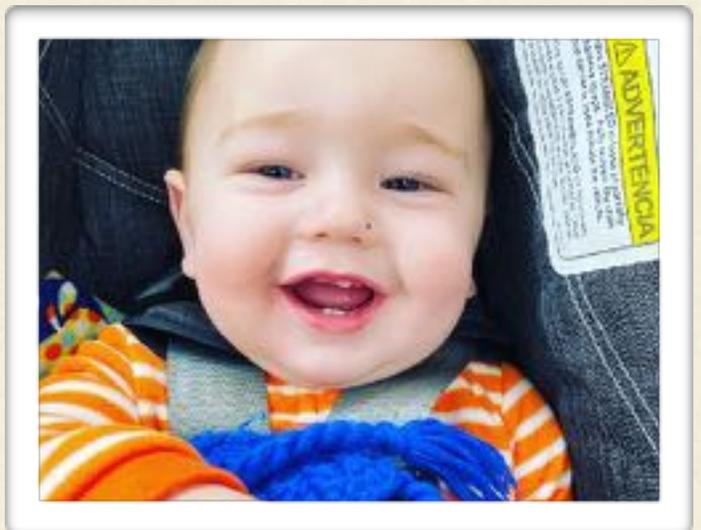
Of Martin County



October-December 2019

FALL-ING INTO PLACE

Summer is wonderful, but I always look forward to fall by the end of it. It feels like a chance to start over and try new things. The coolness in the air (finally) is refreshing, and I don't know if it's just digging out the clothes you haven't had a chance to wear in a while or what, but things just feel new again.



Baby Ezra Kahler - already 8 months old!



Baby Micah Gonzalez, already 4 months old!

Speaking of new - Katy is back from maternity leave and little Micah is already three months old, and Jen's little boy Ezra is already eight months old! Time flies. In addition to that, both of Greg's girls are getting married in the next few months - never a dull moment! It's been a busy time at Kinship, and lots has been shifting and changing. Even so, we are still excited to be serving this community, and we feel fortunate to be able to do this awesome work!

UPCOMING KINSHIP ACTIVITIES

*****All mentees must have their program forms updated and handed in to come to Kinship activities! Please let us know if you need another copy!*****

HAPPY MATCHIVERSARY!

Congratulations to all of the matches that started in the months of October-December!!

Jorgia and Ronda - 10/4
Chloe and Laurie - 10/9
Loriah and Vicki - 10/12
Rylee and Katie - 10/31
Michael and Daryl - 11/1
Taylin and Sarah - 11/3
Kira and Terri - 11/12
Jordan and Anna - 11/14
Hannah and Hailey - 11/30
Peyton and Stacy - 11/30
Landon and Adam - 12/7
Paige and Tina - 12/14
Anna and Renetta - 12/14
Preston and Roger - 12/18
Bella and Nancy 12/28

If you see your name here - please join us for our next Matchiversary event on Friday November 15 at Pizza Ranch! We will enjoy dinner together and share stories about our time together as mentors and mentees, and maybe even play some games! The meal is on us!

COSMIC COSTUME BOWLING PARTY

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 4 - 6 PM
BOWLMOR LANES
617 SOUTH STATE ST., FAIRMONT**

Time to get creative, warm up those bowling skills and start looking for a costume! Our annual bowling party will be here in no time. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to wear a costume! We will have food, prizes, and lots of fun! Please RSVP to let us know if you can come or not!

FRIENDSGIVING MEAL

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 5-7PM
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 SOUTH GRANT ST, FAIRMONT**

Come on over for a home cooked meal of ham, turkey, potatoes, and lots more! We have had so much fun sharing this time with the youth and families in our community. It's free - so come on out, share a meal, and take some time to remember all we can be thankful for!

Contact us!

Katy Gonzalez - katy@kinshipofmartincounty.com, 507-848-0955

Jen Kahler - jen@kinshipofmartincounty.com, 507-320-9377

Greg Brotsma - greg@kinshipofmartincounty.com, 507-236-9620

Sarah Caballero - sarah@kinshipofmartincounty.com 507-238-4440

kinship@kinshipofmartincounty.com - 507-238-4440 - 206 W. 3rd St., Fairmont, MN 56031

SEASONS OF CHANGE

I have a confession. If you didn't know, I have a mentee of my own. I met her at a Kinship event, and was instantly drawn to her because while we were out at Cedar Creek park for a snowmobiling event, I saw her chasing after a field mouse that was running through the snow - something I had been doing myself moments before. 'I thought, 'I could get along with someone like her.' True story. A few weeks later, I met her family and the two of us were matched.

It's been fun - she and I get along well, but between being a director who is busy at the events that the rest of you come to just to hang out and having a new baby this past February, it's not always been easy to get in my two times a month - and sometimes I don't. So here's where the confession comes in.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW
KINSHIP MATCHES!**

MARK AND TYLAN

ABBY AND BAILEY

SARAH AND DEEANN

I felt horrible because my mentee deserves a mentor who upholds her end of the bargain. I knew what I needed to do, even though I knew it was going to be hard. I contacted my mentee - and I apologized. I told her I was sorry for not getting together as often as I promised to when we were matched, and then...I contacted her mom and apologized to her as well. I told her how much I valued her daughter and the time I do get to spend with her - and asked her forgiveness and told her my intention to do

MENTORS – A Note!

Quarterly Activity Reports for Quarter 3 (July – September 2019) will be emailed or mailed out to you by October 20. Please submit them by October 31. The feedback you give us helps us know how to make our program the best it can be.

Thanks for all your great work! **If you have not filled out a QAR for Quarter 1 (Jan–Mar 2019) or Quarter 2 (Apr–Jun 2019) you can use the same link to fill that one out as well – just be sure to tick the proper box at the top of the form.**



Getting ready to taste elderberry jam!

better going forward. I felt so much better after.

When we match a mentor with a mentee, each of them makes promises to the other about making time for each other, being on time, being dependable, being open and honest to the family, and letting the other know if there are changes in their own lives that will affect the relationship. It's why we have monthly or quarterly check ins , and

it's why we have closure meetings - because life happens.

Those changes come in many forms - sometimes a move to a new area, sometimes the birth of a child, sometimes needs in our own family that mean we no longer have extra time to offer. Over the course of the summer, we had several matches that ended because of the reasons listed above. Saying goodbye is hard, but when it is done well, it can be beautiful too. In fact - it is necessary - there is a lot of research that suggests that



Learning about wilderness first aid

if a match ends without a good closure, much if not all of the progress made could be lost.

We want to serve our families as well as possible, so if you ever have ideas, thoughts, concerns, or just need to talk over something with one of us, please don't hesitate to do so...it's our job...and our pleasure to help!

Mentors - thank you for serving. Thank you for giving a part of yourself to someone else.

Mentees - thank you for allowing us to serve you. Thank you for sharing your life and yourself with your mentor and with us.

Parents - thank you for trusting us to become a part of your extended family and for offering them the opportunity to be a part of Kinship.

We are all in this together.



Making survival bracelets - complete with a compass!

BETTER TOGETHER

We mentioned in the newsletter from last quarter that we have around 30 kids on our waiting list. This is one of the less fun parts about mentoring - the fact that we always have students in need and cannot always match them with a mentor quickly.

The process itself takes time, and on top of that, we are always in need of mentors.

Addressing the waiting list was a goal of ours this year, and we have been spending a lot of time brainstorming ways to reach out to those youth more effectively.

One idea that seems to be popping up all over for us at Kinship is the idea of group mentoring. Now don't worry - the program that we already have isn't going anywhere. This would be in addition to the one on one mentoring we already do.

The thought is that we could accomplish



Learning about plant identification

two things by starting mentoring groups. The first is giving those that enter our program immediate service. Once a student has applied and been interviewed, they would be placed in a group with up to 8 other students. Then, over the course of the next twelve months, they would meet each month with their group for activities, mentee training, social learning opportunities, and other awesome chances to learn and grow together. If they are matched during that time, that is fine as well. We have been discussing as directors that one thing we feel like we are not doing well is addressing the immediate needs - though it is not always the case, some students apply to the program because they are already in a crisis situation. By the time we are able to match them, we may have missed out on some great opportunities to serve them.

Second, we are hoping to offer the option to our older students to be a part of a mentoring group instead of one on one mentoring. We know that sometimes (not always!) it can be difficult for older students to bond well with an adult. They already have a lot of responsibilities, some have jobs and are in sports, and other circumstances that mean spending time together regularly can be tough, not to mention that it can just sometimes be harder for older students to open up to an adult that is unfamiliar. We are in the process of figuring out exactly what this

will look like and exactly how we will do it. If you have any interest in working with us as we plan, please let us know!

A COUPLE MORE THINGS

We are getting ready to roll out a new website! Our awesome secretary (and jack of all trades) has been working on a website that will better meet the needs of our program. Keep an eye out for that announcement!

One way we can work to recruit new mentors is by sharing the stories of our current mentors and mentees. We know that not every part of mentoring is easy, but we also know that you guys have some amazing stories to share and have had some great experiences together. If you have a favorite story from your time together, please send us a message or an e-mail telling us about it so we can compile some great resources and find even more great mentors!

KINSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 3-5PM
LOCATION TBD

It's the most wonderful time! Come for a tasty meal, games, activities and fun with friends and with each other! Each child will even receive a gift thanks to to MN Trucker's Association. Please RSVP to let us know if you can make it or not!

