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The Kindred Spirit

Winter 2024-25

A Publication of Kinship of Polk County

Enjoying New Activities

John and Robert's match has been characterized by their mutual enjoyment of getting outside and doing active things. Robert and John had just come off the snowmobile trails in St. Croix Falls where they were putting up snowmobile trail signs when I sat down with them. They would have stayed out longer, but the early sunset meant they would have to continue their project another day. They are hopeful that this winter will prove to have the snow that last winter deprived them of. Robert has now put up trail signs twice but has yet to ride a snowmobile because of the lack of snow.



Robert is a senior at Unity High School and has been matched with John for 15 months. When Robert is asked what he would like others to know about Kinship he quips, "If you join Kinship you definitely won't be bored!" Among the new experiences that Robert has had since starting his match with John are golfing, snow tubing, waterskiing, many activities on the lake, ice fishing, an air-

show in Duluth, and wading in a "mildly frigid" Lake Superior. Because of John's influence, Robert has earned his boater safety and snowmobile safety certificates. This accomplishment has brought confidence and opened opportunities that would not otherwise exist. Together, John and Robert, work in the KAOS (Kids and Adults On Snowmobiles) Club and enjoy miles of trails and even a Challenge Course in Sterling, Wisconsin on UTVs. One particular day Robert drove 72 miles on trails while John "hung on for dear life." As an empty-nester himself, John enjoys having someone to do activities with. He reflects that it "has been a fun experience" and he encourages others that they also could "try to give a mentee an opportunity to try something new." Every Kinship match is so unique and it has been fun to see this match find activities they enjoy together.



Mission Statement:
Kinship of Polk County works to improve the quality of a child's life by establishing a relationship with a caring volunteer, for the purpose of promoting stability, support, friendship and community.

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SAM'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE AND LIGHT TOUR OPPORTUNITY

VISIT SAM'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE FOR 50% OFF!! THAT IS RIGHT.
IF YOU ARE A KINSHIP MENTOR, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR MENTEE
AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF LIGHTS FOR 1/2 PRICE.

Contact your Kinship Coordinator to get the discount code.

Then go online to purchase up to 4 tickets. Tickets will be good for a one time use anytime during the 2024 season.



For more information on hours/days of operation, visit Sam's Christmas Village website at: samschristmasvillage.com.



WINTER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

HOLIDAY CRAFT AND SWIM NIGHT

Tuesday, December 10th, 5:30-8pm

Osceola Middle School Cafeteria & Pool

5:30-6:30: Making Christmas Ornaments

PIZZA SERVED FROM 6:00-6:30

6:30-8:00: Swimming

Come for the whole evening or pick which part sounds fun to you and join us! Food and activities are FREE!

PLEASE RSVP BY 11.26.24



TROLLHAUGEN SNOW TUBING NIGHT

Friday, February 7th, 5-8pm

Come enjoy a night of **FUN & LAUGHTER** at the Trollhaugen Snow Tubing Hill.

When you RSVP, your Kinship Coordinator will give you a **DISCOUNT CODE** to use during your online registration. You will be refunded at the event.

Cost: FREE for all mentors/mentees

Snack shop is extra!

RSVP BY 2.3.25



PAINT AND SIP PARTY

AT 3 ARROWS COFFEE SHOP IN ST. CROIX FALLS

3 ARROWS

COFFEE CO.™

Tuesday, January 21st, 6-8 pm



RSVP BY 1.7.25

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF SIPPING 3 ARROWS HOT CHOCOLATE WHILE PAINTING WITH INSTRUCTOR, SUZANNE IMHOFF. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!!

WINTER ACTIVITY IDEAS

There are so many fun things to do in the winter. Here are a few to get you started....

- GO ON A WINTER PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT
- ENJOY A CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE
- GO ICE SKATING
- SHOVEL FOR SOMEONE IN NEED
- GO SLEDDING, SNOWSHOEING, OR SKIING
- TAKE A WINTER HIKE
- EXPLORE RECIPES AND MAKE SOMETHING NEW FOR DINNER
- GO ICE FISHING
- READ A BOOK TOGETHER AND DISCUSS
- GO SWIMMING AT A LOCAL INDOOR POOL
- TRY OUT A LOCAL EXERCISE CLASS OR AN ONLINE WORKOUT VIDEO
- GO TO A CONCERT OR PLAY- HIGH SCHOOL OR PROFESSIONAL
- GO CHEER ON YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL SPORTS TEAM
- LEARN HOW TO KNIT OR CROCHET



JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

PASSIONS TO AWAKEN. DREAMS TO ACHIEVE. AN ENDLESS SENSE OF POSSIBILITY EVERY NEW YEAR.

Imagine What's Possible When We Support Youth

National Mentoring Month is an excellent opportunity to spread the news about Kinship. If you are involved in a community service group, active in a church, or know friends who would make great mentors, please help us spread the word.

Contact Kinship at 715.405.3900 if you would like a staff member to come and share!

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST



2024 Winner:

Samiya and Paige Polgar



Thank You

We are so incredibly grateful for the generosity of the following financial supporters:

- Steven Schletty
- Westfields Hospital and Clinic
- FNC Bank
- Clayton School District
- Clear Lake School District
- Frederic School District
- Unity School District
- Unity Lions Club



2025 PARTNER CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

BECOME A 2025 KINSHIP PARTNER

2025 Partners are individuals and businesses who believe in the power of mentoring and invest financially into the mission of Kinship. Every dollar raised impacts local youth by providing them with support and hope through a caring mentor. Relationships impact lives, and mentors build relationships.

Partner with Kinship today.

Real People. Real Lives. Real Change.

2025

Partner Campaign Kick Off

Goal: \$45,000



MENTORS NEEDED IN AMERY

Kinship has a growing number of youth waiting for mentors in the Amery area. There are currently six boys and 1 girl ranging from ages 6 to 11. If you know of someone who would make a fantastic mentor and might be interested, PLEASE let them know OR give Kinship a call. The staff would LOVE to simply share information and answer questions. **BE A KINSHIP AMBASSADOR AND SPREAD THE WORD!!**