Kinship News

May 2026

Greetings Kinship volunteers & families,

It seems like forever ago when Kinship was ice fishing on Big Lake. In this newsletter are photo memories for you to check out. We are offering group activities this summer for all of Kinship's youth & volunteers. Our goal is to help build friendships through the great outdoors:) Please RSVP for Kinship's activities by calling / texting Kinship at (320) 632-8806, emailing info@kinshipofmc.org or using the online registration form at www.kinshipofmc.org.

Aaron Olson - Kinship's Executive Director

VOLUNTEERS MARK THESE DATES
Details to follow...

Kinship's "Casual Social Event"
Evening of Thursday, August 13th
Location TBA

Kinship's Soup & Chili Cook-off
5- 7 PM on Monday, October 19th
Falls Ballroom

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS FOR MATCHES!

Make homemade ice cream - Visit a lake - Backyard campfire - Make s'mores - Water balloon fight - Go stargazing - Eat popsicles on a hot day - Have a barbecue - Drive-in movie - Look for fireflies - Sidewalk chalk - Hike - Bike ride - Visit a farmer's market - Science Experiments - Build & launch model rockets - Watch a sunset - Make homemade lemonade - Kayak, canoe or paddleboard - Go to the shooting range - Splash in the puddles - Fish - Hunt - Build a fort - Run/walk a 5k race - Tend a garden - Plant a flower - Play frisbee - Frisbee Golf - Backyard games (i.e. croquet, bocce, kubb, cornhole, horseshoes, etc.) - Play catch - Go on a picnic - Explore MN! (Area biking & hiking maps are available online at the DNR website)

At right is a touching testimony from Anna Kahler, a junior, who has been part of Kinship since she was six years old. Below is a picture of Anna & Jeanne's from 2016; the two of them at the fish fry this year; and also the whole Lee Family & Anna at a Twins game!

My name is Anna Kahler, and I have been a part of Kinship for 11 years. I was three years old when my dad passed away, but I have three older siblings who experienced the loss too. This affected my family in many ways that couldn't be prepared for. My mom had to find a way to care for us and tried her best to give us a normal childhood, all while going through grief herself. Once my mom learned about Kinship, she signed up all three of my siblings for the program. When they joined, I was still too young, but I immediately started looking forward to joining. Once I officially joined, I was soon matched with my mentor Jeanne Lee who I have grown to know since.

Being in the organization and growing up with Jeanne by my side has affected my life in more ways than one. Kinship in itself has given me so many opportunities and memories that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise. I've gotten to go fishing, go karting, and to baseball games, all while meeting new people and growing as a person. The biggest influence I've had, though, is probably my mentor Jeanne. When I was young, and I first met her, I was shy, quiet, and unsure of how to act around her. However, as time went on, I've grown into a better person because of our relationship. I slowly became a part of her family and got to experience what a different kind of family environment was like while truly being myself.

Kinship not only taught me better communication skills and provided a positive environment in which to grow, but it has also given me a second family and lifelong relationships. I can not recommend Kiship enough because it has firsthand affected my life in more ways than I can imagine, and I know it does the same for others.

Sincerely,

Anna Kahler

Kinship Website

Kinship of Morrison County
107 2nd St SE - Little Falls, MN 56345
Phone/Text: (320) 632-8806
Web: www.kinshipofmc.org

Facebook Page

"David" movie at the Falls Theatre, a Board Game Night, ice fishing on Big Lake and the Fish Fry Fundraiser.

Kinship

Kinship's Fish Fry Fundraiser, our bowling night, "Girls Night" hosted by Maddie & Claire and the Roadside Cleanup

Kinship sponsors group activities as a way for our youth & volunteers to share time together, to build friendships and to have new experiences.

BRAT SALE

Wednesday, June 10th
10 am - 6 pm
LF Coborns

Kinship needs your help in selling brats at Coborns this summer. We receive funding from the United Way and in return, assist them with this fundraiser.

We need a crew of 3-4 people, with at least one adult, to run the brat sale throughout the day. This is a good way for matches to volunteer together. Shifts should be at least two hours long. If you are available and interested, please RSVP ASAP.

BOAT FISHING & FISH FRY

Sunday, June 28th
1 pm - 8 pm (approx)
Lake TBD

Mark it down! Kinship youth & volunteers are invited to an afternoon of fishing on a local lake. The "plan" is to catch our dinner & conclude with a fish fry! If you have a boat or portable cooking equipment for the fish fry, please LMK. If interested, please RSVP ASAP.

DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT

Thursday, July 2nd
Arrive prior to 9:15 pm
Transportation is on your own

Movies are fun, but they are a different experience at a drive-in theatre. Kinship is headed to the Long Drive In in Long Prairie (24257 Riverside Drive) on July 2nd. This activity is open to Kinship youth, volunteers & families. We will be watching "Toy Story 5."

Kinship youth & volunteers are admitted free and will receive $5 towards concessions. Family members pay normal theatre pricing (age 12+ are $8, age 5-11 are $5, under age 4 are free). No outside food or beverages are allowed (water is aok)

The gate opens at 8:45 pm. Tell the ticket seller that you are with Kinship (and have family members pay). There will be a roped off section for Kinship folks to park (ropes taken down at 9:15 pm). Prior to the movie, we will host a kickball game! The movie will start at 9:45 and should be done around 11:15 pm.

There is a second feature after Toy Story 5 that you are welcome to stay for, but the Kinship activity officially ends after the 1st movie is done. If interested, please RSVP.

ROX BASEBALL GAME

Monday, July 27th
5 pm - 9:30 pm
Bus from Courthouse

Thanks to a generous donation from the St. Cloud Rox, Kinship is headed to an up-close evening of baseball. We will have an entire section to ourselves (right above the visitor dugout) along with a "Ballpark Buffet." Note: Tickets, transportation & ballpark buffet are covered. Any souvenirs are on your own. Feel free to bring a ball & glove to play catch right by our area.

We will take a coach bus leaving from the courthouse at 5 pm sharp and should return about 9:30 pm. SPACE IS LIMITED TO 35 PEOPLE. RSVP ASAP.

CANOEING AND PICNIC AT CAMP RIPLEY

Thursday, July 30
5:00 - 8:30 PM
Camp Ripley

Kinship will be headed out to Camp Ripley for a an evening of canoeing (no prior experience needed), along with a pitstop to learn about the river, and will finish with frisbee golf and a picnic. Canoes, life jackets, paddles and dinner are all provided. We will meet at Camp Ripley and driving details will be given at a later date. If intereste, please RSVP ASAP.

FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE

Kinship is offering the DNR Firearm Certification course again this fall. It features classroom & multiple hands-on field days which will focus on safe gun practices, shooting .22,s, handguns, muzzleloaders, shotguns, archery, hunting scenarios, wildlife activities and more. The course is open to youth age 11 and over, and also adults (mentors or parents), and gives participants multiple opportunities to learn & practice safe gun handling & shooting.

Classroom sessions are held in the Historic Courthouse Courtroom. Field nights are held at the Eastern Morrison County Sportsman's Club (located on Hwy 27 6 miles east of the Ballroom). Classes will be held on August 11, 12, 17, 18, 20 & 24 and also September 1, 8 & 10. Class times are 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Space is limited, so RSVP ASAP.