



# Kinship

Bridges Kinship Mentoring

July 18, 2018

Dear Friend of Bridges,

For twenty-three years, Bridges Kinship Mentoring has matched children and adolescents with a positive adult role model who could befriend, inspire, encourage and guide them. Our Kinship Connections, Community Based Mentoring and Lunch Buddies programs have deeply impacted countless mentees and mentors alike. The success stories we hear from these children and adults are plenty and their stories about mentorship are uplifting. That's why our Board is so excited to announce that Bridges Kinship Mentoring is taking a huge step towards creating even more space for these stories to be written.

Beginning this autumn, the Bridges Board of Directors has decided to formally align our efforts with those of University of Minnesota Extension, Center for Youth Development. When this opportunity to better serve kids presented itself, as a Board, we knew that we couldn't pass it up. This is a testament to the incredible mentors, mentees, donors, volunteers and staff who have built Bridges into what it is today: a premier youth-serving nonprofit that helps so many young people achieve their greatest selves.

We're still working out some of the logistics, but here's what is most important:

- When we first approached Extension about possible ways for us to collaborate our efforts, we were impressed by the similarities in organizational goals. Additional conversations led us to realize that we share a common vision for the future as well.
- Given our common vision; the three mentoring programs will be housed with the University of Minnesota Extension, Center for Youth Development.
- We are very excited about the growth opportunities this move presents for the current mentoring programs offered by Bridges and we're thrilled about what this will mean for mentoring in our area as a whole.
- Our community will provide quality mentoring opportunities on a larger scale by leveraging Extension's knowledge, connections and immense resources in ways that are impossible to do as an independent organization.
- Current volunteers and mentor families will receive further communication in the next two weeks.

As the Board of Directors, we are choosing to place Bridges programs in the capable hands of University of Minnesota Extension. Extension is incredibly well-positioned to take Bridges programming under its wing and we feel fortunate that they will expand, in collaboration with us, on what has been built over the last two decades. This is a big win for our kids and for Itasca County. Thank you to everyone who has supported Bridges throughout the years.

Jason Anderson  
Board of Directors Chair  
Bridges Kinship Mentoring

Additional information and updates can be found at:

[bridgesmentoring.org/](http://bridgesmentoring.org/)

or by contacting: Jason Anderson, Bridges Kinship Mentoring Chair, [info@bridgesmentoring.org](mailto:info@bridgesmentoring.org)