



Lunch Buddies – that’s a wrap!

The RUSC Kinship Lunch Buddy program concluded in May (much to the dismay of all of the Lunch Buddies!). The 2022-23 Lunch Buddy program was conducted in the Chokio/Alberta School, Morris Area Elementary School, and St. Mary’s school.

It involved 41 second grade students and 44 adult volunteers meeting for lunch and enjoying a variety of activities each month.

This equated to over 750 hours of youth mentoring in a relaxed, fun environment that was enjoyed by so many. With most programming, evaluations are conducted at the end of the year. There was a noticeable trend with the student question, “What is the hardest thing about Lunch Buddies?” (at this point as the programmer, you take a deep breath and brace yourself!)

Most of the students stated that the hardest thing about Lunch Buddies was SNOW DAYS! They simply did not like missing out on their Lunch Buddy visits. Well, all of us are hoping for a much easier winter next year.

If you are interested in spending one hour a month with an area second grade student, contact us about the 2023-24 academic year!



ARE YOU THE ONE?

Mentoring is a rewarding opportunity to spend time with a young person. Currently, we have **5 Kinship Kids** waiting for mentors!



- » A 6-year-old male who likes pretending, arts & crafts, dinosaurs, farm toys, playing at the park, games, being read to and likes lots of different animals.
- » A 9-year-old male who enjoys games & movies.
- » A 16-year-old male who enjoys sports, video games, & drawing.
- » A 14-year-old male who likes video games & reading.
- » A 13-year-old male who likes science things, games, and video games. A plus if the mentor had a dog!

A SPECIAL TRIP TO Target Field



What do you do with a bunch of MN Twins tickets on a hot summer day?

Fill a school bus and head on down to Target Field! RUSC Kinship obtained tickets from the MN Twins organization and filled a bus with friends of RUSC Kinship – Mentors, Mentees, Lunch Buddy Volunteers, Lunch Buddy Kiddos, and RUSC Board Members and enjoyed a day at Target Field. Although our MN Twins fell to the Cleveland Guardians, it was a great day enjoyed by all of us.



A great big shout out to the Minnesota Twins Organization for providing a memorable day for friends of RUSC Kinship!

Graduation of a Mentee



There are times when we say goodbye to our mentees, not because we want to, but because of graduation from our program. This scenario holds true for Tabitha. She has been a part of RUSC since 2015 and mentored by Haley since 2021.

Haley shares that Tabitha was pretty shy and reserved when they first met, but within their first meeting Tabitha's warm smile and laughs confirmed that they were a match.

"I have watched her completely transform out of her shell and into a beautiful young woman. She is so passionate about what she wants to do in the next chapter of her life, going to college for child development. During our time together, we have spent hours doing crafts, baking, talking, attending community events, shopping and browsing the thrift store, and just hanging out together with my two kids.

I will cherish these memories with her forever and I truly hope I have made an impact on her life, not only as a mentor but now as a friend." – Haley Ourada, Mentor.

Tabitha shares that she truly enjoyed her time with Haley and feels that her mentorship with Haley has helped her to feel more confident and not as shy.

Tabitha encourages those who are considering mentorship saying, "It's worth it, even if you are not 100% sure, it makes you a better person and changes the life of a young person. It's fun to do all the fun things together with someone who cares about you."

Take the first step! Contact us.
rusckinship.org/mentor



2,290+ BOOKS RECEIVED

There are over 250 children in Stevens County receiving DPIL books every month thanks to the continued generous support from organizations and people like you!

A huge thank you to West Central Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative and Ottertail Power Company for grant dollars to support the program.

Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary Post 29 and AmVets Post 290 for sponsoring March and April books.

To sign up a child, go to: rusckinship.org/dpil

Become a \$25-a-month partner:
rusckinship.org/give



Celebrating New Matches



Pat & Trish meeting William, their new match. Lots of adventures await them!



CHECK OUT WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

Quarter Craze - April 15

The weather was perfect for our annual event! Lots of great prizes and the American Legion was full of anticipation for the Quarter Craze. Thanks to our incredible vendors and businesses who donated.

Golf Fore Mentoring - June 6

Thank you to the long list of sponsors, donators, volunteers, and participants who made our event so memorable.



Newsletter Changes

Our newsletter is going digital! Each quarter, you'll receive an email with our latest news & event recaps and links to our website. Please make sure you've opted in to receive our emails - **sign up at rusckinship.org**!

THANK YOU DONORS!



Spring 2023

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- In memory of the Ennens
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& JoAnn Anderson

Quarter Craze

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Golf Fore Mentorship

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Listen & Learn - 2nd Friday at 8:40am

What are you doing on the 2nd Friday of each month at 8:40am?

Tune your radio to KMRS 1230 AM or 107.7FM to the Community Connection to hear about what RUSC Kinship is doing, what we are planning, and ways for you to get involved! If you are unable to catch the live broadcast, you can listen to it online.



YES!

I am thrilled to be a part of providing Stevens County Youth with another positive adult in their life.

Organization Individual

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to RUSC Kinship Mentoring and mail or deliver to: 215 Atlantic Ave., Morris, MN 56267

I would like to be a **Champion** by sending the same amount every month (min. \$5/month).

I have enclosed \$____ to start.

Send me details to set-up direct deposits.

I have enclosed my **one-time** gift of:

\$30

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$_____

Donate online at rusckinship.org/give

RUSC KINSHIP | 215 Atlantic Avenue | Morris, MN 56267