

For more than 10 years, RUSC Kinship Mentoring has remained committed to building meaningful, supportive relationships that help youth thrive. Through consistent connection, trusted guidance, and shared experiences, mentors provide young people with encouragement, stability, and a sense of belonging—showing them they are valued members of their community.

Over the past year, mentors and mentees shared 249 hours of one-to-one mentoring, with 14 active matches and three new matches formed in 2025. These relationships were strengthened through everyday moments and memorable experiences like sharing meals, exploring local lakes, attending cultural events, volunteering together, and simply spending time connecting. Several matches celebrated important milestones as youth successfully completed the program, reflecting the lasting impact of these relationships.

RUSC Kinship's reach extends beyond mentoring through programs that support youth, families, and the broader community. During the 2024–2025 school year, the Lunch Buddy Program provided 555 mentoring hours, serving 74 second-grade students across three local schools. In addition, RUSC Kinship supported early literacy by helping deliver 4,162 free books to children in Stevens County through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This work is made possible by dedicated volunteers, board members, partners, and supporters whose commitment continues to strengthen our community—one relationship at a time.

Celebrating New Matches

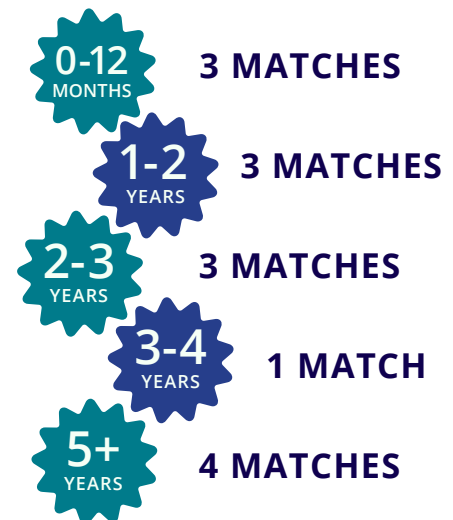


Nicole & Kiley



Craig & Luke

Mentoring Term Length



Mentoring Activities

- Ice fishing together
- Sharing a meal and conversation
- Playing a creative, teamwork-based computer game
- Exploring a local lakeshore and conducting science experiments
- Visiting the Wahpeton Zoo
- Attending a dance performance at the University of Minnesota, Morris



14 Active MENTOR MATCHES



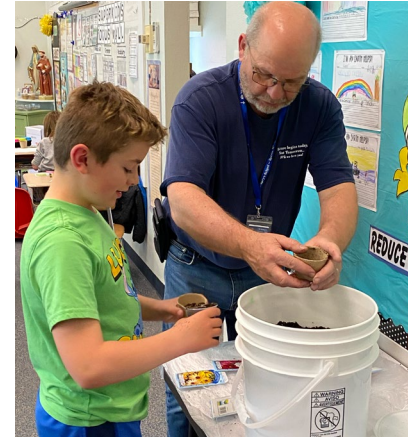
249 Recorded Hours OF MENTORING



2 Mentee Graduates FROM RUSC KINSHIP PROGRAM

Building Community through Mentorship

At RUSC Kinship, mentorship extends beyond one-to-one relationships to strengthen the broader community around each child. Through the Lunch Buddy Program, community partnerships, and hands-on service projects, youth and volunteers build connections, develop empathy, and experience the power of showing up for others. These shared experiences foster belonging, reinforce positive role models, and help young people see themselves as valued contributors to their schools and communities.



Takes place in the Chokio-Alberta, Morris Area, and St. Mary's elementary schools



Community Collaborations

MORRIS TREE PROJECT
MORRIS COMMUNITY GARDEN
STEVENS COUNTY SOIL & WATER
DONNELLY DASH & 5K
CONEXIONES

For Community Night Out

74

2nd Graders

AT 3 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

555+

Mentoring

HOURS



Community Service Projects

THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Preparing homemade dog & cat treats

THE MORRIS DOG PARK

Creating tug toys for dogs

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Packaging meals



Dolly Parton Imagination Library

RUSC Kinship is proud to be a local partner of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Stevens County. This remarkable program helps foster a love of reading by delivering high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to children's homes—completely free of charge—putting imagination and learning into the hands of our youngest community members.

RUSC Kinship is committed to ensuring this impactful literacy program continues through grant funding and the generous support of our community. Thank you for helping make early literacy accessible and for playing a vital role in nurturing young readers and strong futures in Stevens County.

300+

Children Ages 0-5
 RECEIVING BOOKS MONTHLY



4,162

Books Delivered
 IN 2025

PRESENTATION

Understanding NEAR: Building Self-Healing Communities

RUSC Kinship hosted the Understanding NEAR: Building Self-Healing Communities presentation, an engaging session focused on how early life experiences influence brain development, behavior, and long-term well-being. The presentation explored research from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study and highlighted the many ways individuals and communities can foster resilience and healing.

Minnesota was the first state in the nation to adopt the NEAR curriculum, creating a shared understanding of ACEs and encouraging community-driven solutions. When people understand how adversity impacts development—and how resilience can be built—they are better equipped to disrupt cycles of trauma and create healthier individuals, families, and communities.

Lisa Denzer received her NEAR Presenter certification through FamilyWise and recently took part in an online NEAR presentation that reached approximately 75 participants from across Minnesota. In addition, Lisa presented locally to about 50 individuals in Stevens County representing a wide range of backgrounds, including childcare providers, foster parents, ambulance personnel, and human resources professionals.

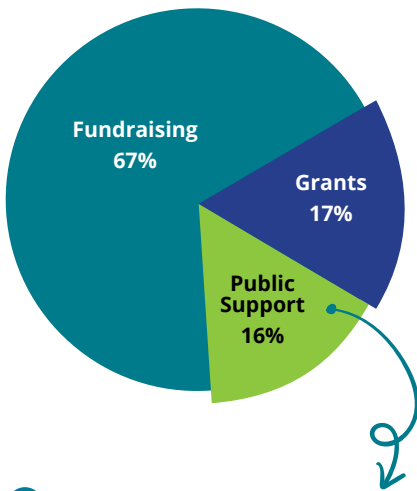
These conversations are an important step in building trauma-informed, resilient communities and strengthening our collective ability to support children and families.



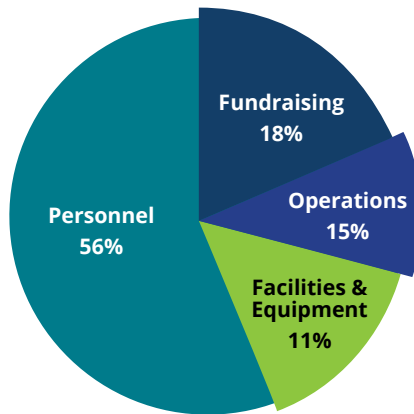
Lisa Denzer



Annual Revenue
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 12-31-25



Annual Expenses
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 12-31-25



Thank You
2024-25 BOARD MEMBERS

- Jeanne Ennen
- Algene Larson
- Deb Peterson
- Krista Anderson
- Laura Ennen
- Courtney Rohloff
- Tino Harris
- Kiley Rodarmel



THANK YOU DONORS

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful to the volunteers, mentors, board members, and supporters who make RUSC Kinship's work possible. For 10 years, your time, generosity, and commitment have helped build meaningful mentoring relationships and stronger communities—ensuring young people feel supported, encouraged, and valued.

As we look ahead, we invite you to continue this impact. Your financial support helps sustain mentoring programs, expand community partnerships, and reach more children and families in the year to come. Thank you for being an essential part of the RUSC Kinship community and for helping create lasting change.

DONATE TODAY

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