

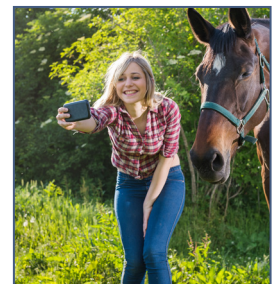
Mentoring During COVID



Kinship
Raising Up Stevens County

RUSC KINSHIP NEWS SUMMER | 2020

Covid did not stop our matches from spending time together the last six months. While we were unable to take photos of actual activities, the photos below suggest things that were reported to us by our mentor/mentees over the summer. They include: walks in the park, barbeque/grilling, biking, sharing recipes and books, crafts, letters, phone calls, Zoom Bingo, and “lots of” GOLF!



Mentoring in Real Life

Social distancing fu-u-u-u-n-n-n!

We were a little bummed that we couldn't enjoy the Garden Gala at the Pomme de Terre park this year, so RUSC Kinship Mentoring created a scavenger hunt! This fun activity was available for the kids and families to enjoy while keeping safe and enjoying the outdoors all summer long. Thanks to the Morris Dairy Queen for

offering a free treat for everyone who completed the list during our summer kick-off in June and RUSC Kinship also gave a prize basket to the winning team! In August we had our first in-person group activity: Kayaking with Dani's Nature Camp! It was good to see everyone and take advantage of the outdoor activities!



RUSC Kinship Mentoring Scavenger Hunt

Parents, grab your kids, grab your parents. Head for the Pomme de Terre City Park (County Road 10, east of Morris) and have fun with this scavenger hunt!

When you're done, take a selfie at the Community Patio and email to info@rusckinship.org or post it to FB and/or Insta with #LookatRUSC. Visit our website, RUSCKinship.org or our FB page, RUSC Kinship Mentoring for contest prizes and details.

- 7 silver and black containers in a curve
- a heart in stone
- a stalk of wheat
- a lion with a welcome sign
- a place to play with horse footwear
- 5 brown steel lattices
- a treble clef
- a sunrise brick pattern
- a star
- an anchor and a sword
- a bulldozer
- Minnesota
- the number 1521
- 3 red maple trees
- a train
- 2 lion faces
- a red brick chimney
- 4 tractors
- 4 big and 3 little grills
- 11 "banks", etched in stone
- Batman
- Xs and Os

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Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Email icons

Lunch Buddies Second Year



Fall of 2019 was an exciting time for RUSC Kinship's Lunch Buddy program where 3 of the 4 schools in the county participated. There was high enthusiasm among the 2nd grade teachers, the adult lunch buddies and the kids. We started the year with 44 Adult/Student matches. The students quickly got to know their adult buddies and excitement ran high on Lunch Buddy days. In February, Kay Feuchtenberger was hired as Program Coordinator of the Lunch Buddy program. In the midst of snowstorms and sickness, Kay got to experience Lunch Buddies at each school just one time. Then COVID-19 rolled in and put the program on hold. That "being on hold" status will continue throughout the 2020/2021 school year, but we are eyeing the future with hope. We were able to survey our adults, students, and teachers in spite of the shortened program and the results are so positive. Adults reported feeling a greater sense of connection with a community and more purpose. Many commented on the delight of watching their young buddy's enthusiasm for life and learning. Children reported looking forward to spending time reading and talking with someone who was their very own friend.

It is so fun to watch their eyes light up when they spot their adult buddy. One child suggested we could make Lunch Buddies better by doing it every day! The cross generational bonds were often mentioned in the surveys as being very valuable. One adult buddy stated, "It is good for my soul to spend time with kids." And a student, referring to their adult buddy said, "They make you feel happy!" Even with such a limited meeting time, reading through the surveys makes the impact Lunch Buddies has on the participants very apparent. Students, adults and teachers all place high value on the time they get to spend together.

As we move through this school year with Lunch Buddies on hold, we are planning for the future. We are hoping to make some minor revisions to the program to be able to extend its reach and maintain its impact. Truthfully, we cannot wait to get back to the relationships that are built over those noon hours together. It is so rewarding to see the 2nd graders enjoying time with their adult buddies and the smiles on the adults' faces as they eat lunch and read together. The new school year has just started, but truthfully, we hope 2021/22 comes quickly.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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RUSC Kinship Mentoring
 also received a grant from:



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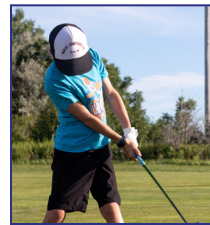
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“GOLF FORE Mentoring”

RUSC Kinship is so thankful that we were able to hold our annual Golf Fore Mentoring event in August. It was a great evening full of fun and fellowship! Thank you to everyone who made it a success!



Yes!

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



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