



**Lakes Area Kinship  
Detroit Lakes**

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**What do Kinship volunteers do?**

- Help a child discover and develop his or her strengths
- Be a reliable and dependable friend.
- Listen and offer emotional support to a child in a non-judgmental manner.
- Share relevant experiences from their own life.
- Suggest and encourage use of community resources.
- Establish trust and friendship
- Listen to and stand by a child through joys and frustrations.
- Keep confidentiality.

**What a Mentor is:**

- A guide
- A friend
- A listener
- A coach
- A responsive adult

**What a Mentor isn't:**

- A savior
- A foster parent
- A therapist
- A parole officer
- A cool peer



**Kinship**

**A program of:**



Befriend a Child



Make a Difference.....

The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart.  
- Helen Keller



**Kinship**

*Befriend a Child*

*Make a Difference.....*

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.  
- Leo Buscaglia



### **Kinship is a program for children.**

*Our goal is to improve children's lives by establishing quality relationships between children and caring volunteers for the purpose of promoting stability, support, friendship and community. We do this through mentoring relationships.*

*Mentors share an hour or more per week for one year with their Kinship child. They may go fishing, sew, work on a puzzle, go to a movie, bake cookies or wash a car. The activities themselves are not as important as shared time and relationships that are built.*

#### **"Who is a Kinship youth?"**

*A Kinship youth is a child between the ages of 5 and 16 who would benefit from having a special relationship with a caring adult. These children/youth are children that value friendship, affection, advice, guidance and meaningful adult companionship.*

*The child's/youth parent may, or may not be in the home. The program aims at providing an extra measure of encouragement to help the youth develop a satisfactory self-image and a sense of worth. Volunteers ARE NOT a parent substitute! They are adult friends.*

#### **"What is a Kinship mentor's financial responsibility?"**

*The inexpensive, no cost type of activity — at home, in the community, outdoors — is the way to go. Elaborate presents or costly events would be frowned upon. Your presence and your interest become all the collateral you need.*

#### **"Who can volunteer?"**

*Mentors and Friends of Kinship are adults 18 years and older. They may be single, married, a mother, father, grandparent, employed, or retired. They are anyone who recognizes the value and potential of our community's children and want to help. Through volunteers attention, Kinship children's self confidence grows and, in turn, volunteers find themselves gaining far more than they give.*



#### **"As a volunteer does this mean more time away from my family?"**

*No! Couples and families are encouraged to be mentors and volunteers of Kinship. This is a wonderful way to spend time together as a family while giving to others. Kinship needs couples, families with children and individuals to serve the children of Kinship.*