



# Kinship

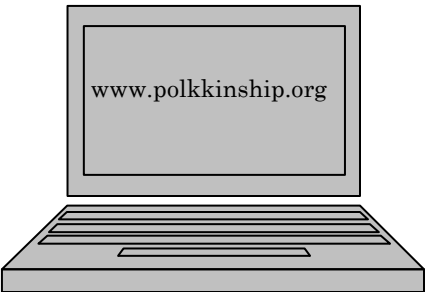
Kinship of Polk County

**Our mission:**  
Kinship of Polk County works to improve the quality of a child's life by establishing a relationship with a caring volunteer, for the purpose of promoting stability, support, friendship and community.

### Visit Kinship's New Website!

The address is the same but the content is new and improved and we are now connected to the Polk County Community Calendar! Check it out at:

[www.polkkinship.org](http://www.polkkinship.org)



Kinship of Polk County is proud to be partnering with:



United Way of Polk County



**Kinship**

National Kinship Affiliate

# The Kindred Spirit

December-January 2010

A publication of Kinship of Polk County

## Snow Tubing



Mark your calendar for the first Kinship event of 2010, our annual trip to Trollhaugen for an evening of snow tubing! This event is open to Kinship kids, their families, and their mentors.



**Date:** Friday, February 19



**When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



**Where:** Trollhaugen



**Cost:** \$7.00 per person



Dress warm and come prepared to fly down the hills on your snow tube.



We do need everyone to RSVP for the event so please contact the Kinship office by Friday, February 12 by calling 268-7980 or via e-mail at [mentoring@polkkinship.org](mailto:mentoring@polkkinship.org).



Watch your mailboxes for information on the Kinship Annual meeting this coming February. Join us for an evening of recognition and celebration.

## Kinship Highlighted Friendship

In March of 2008, Tom and Angela Anderson of Osceola handed in an application to become mentors for a local child. Their own three children were grown and out of the house and they felt that they had time to share. Two months later, they were introduced to Derek, an active 12 year old who was eager to be mentored and thrilled about the idea of having his very own “special friends.” He was looking for a chance to get out of the house and do things. With Tom’s varied interests and hobbies, it seemed like a great fit. A year and a half later, these three have forged a special friendship and incredibly close bond that will likely, last a lifetime.

Since May of 2008, Derek has experienced many firsts with Tom, most of which have brought him out of his bedroom (playing video games) and into the great outdoors. The two have spent time together fishing, hunting a variety of critters- squirrel, pheasant and deer, walking the woods, snowshoeing, pulling logs, shooting hoops, bowling, visiting the fitness center and most impressively, making dinner for Angela! When asked to share about their most memorable times together, a variety of memories surfaced... a Twins/Brewers game the three went to, an exhilarating few minutes riding the ripcord at Valleyfair (Derek is certain that Tom was the only one screaming), and finding two deer sheds last winter while snowshoeing. However, given all of their activity, much of their time together happens in the comfort of the Anderson’s home, simply playing games and sharing life with each other. They really find enjoyment just being together.

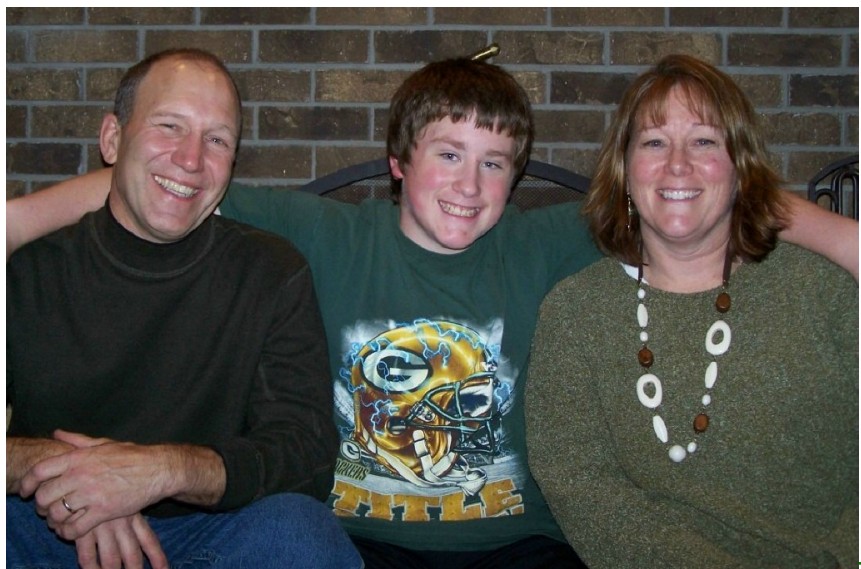
Derek is now 14 years old and says he is “happier” because of his time in Kinship. For those who know Derek, he is rarely quiet but when asked how he would describe his experience with the Andersons, he paused in thought and then simply said, “I’m speechless.” He went on to say that

being mentored has been the “greatest experience” and motioning to Tom and Angela said, “they are half my family.” Then in typical Derek fashion, his hands began to fly as he began sharing another story while Tom and Angela looked on with big smiles. There is no doubt that this young man keeps them both on their toes and creates many opportunities for laughter.

Tom and Angela agree that Derek has filled a big void in their own lives. Every week he brings his enthusiasm into their home and is a willing partner for whatever is planned. While they found it intimidating to open their lives to an unknown 12 year old boy, they now share how rewarding the experience has been. As Tom puts it, Derek is a “breath of fresh air.”

This article was written by Karalee Tollakson, Service Coordinator for Kinship.

To learn more about Kinship of Polk County, please visit [www.polkkinship.org](http://www.polkkinship.org) or call 268-7980.



## Partners 2010 Campaign set to kick off

Soon you will be receiving your 2010 Partners Campaign letter. Each year Kinship of Polk County asks for our members and friends to consider supporting our organization through a tax deductible donation. This year our goal is \$17,000. Your donation will help Kinship provides activities for children in our program. On average it costs about \$600 to match a child with a mentor on a yearly basis. We don't have user fees for our participants and try to offer as many low to no cost entertainment options as possible. We are also kicking off a monthly payment option this year that makes any donation easier to pay. Please consider helping Kinship in 2010, every dollar counts and does something good for a child in our county! To donate e-mail us at [mentoring@polkkinship.org](mailto:mentoring@polkkinship.org).

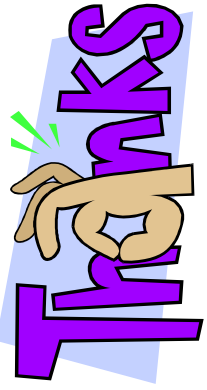
# Look What is New in 2010

## Kinship Offers Businesses a Chance to Become Sponsors

Something new available to businesses in 2010 will be the Kinship Partner Packages. These packages include a number of benefits for the sponsoring business including, but not limited to, the following items:

- Logo recognition with link to your website on the Kinship website
- Logo and name recognition in our bi-monthly newsletter which prints more than 4,200 per year
- Listing as a sponsor of the Kinship Annual Report and Annual Meeting/Volunteer Banquet
- Sponsoring one or more children in their match for a year
- Getting a stand alone insert to highlight your business in the Kinship Newsletter
- A clip out coupon in the newsletter up to 4 times per year
- A sponsor of our school based mentoring program and supplies in all 7 schools

We have more benefits available at 4 different partnership levels. If you are interested in hearing more about how you can help Kinship and how Kinship can help your business give us a call at 268-7980 or e-mail us at [mentoring@polkkinship.org](mailto:mentoring@polkkinship.org) and we'll schedule a time to come and explain all the details. We look forward to hearing from you!



A big thank you goes out to US Bank in Frederic for their sponsorship of the Luck School Mentoring program holiday party along with Luck High School Principal Mark Gobler!



Happy Holidays from the staff at Kinship. Have a safe and joyous holiday.

## Kinship Wish List

We are looking for the following items:

- Digital Camera
- Vacuum
- Gently used board games for kids

**Kinship of Polk County**

118 Center Street  
Amery, WI 54001

[mentoring@polkinship.org](mailto:mentoring@polkinship.org)

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