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Kinship Collaborates with Other Organizations to Better Serve Kids

What could be a better gift for a kid than a new bike? Perhaps the only improvement on this gift would be the accompanying sense of pride that comes from knowing you assembled it yourself with the help of caring adults. This is what a team of employees from eDocument Resources provided for 10 kids awaiting Kinship mentors on July 20th at Longfellow Park in south Minneapolis. Each of the kids were empowered to be the "project manager" for their bicycle's assembly. Their mentor(s) for the day let them lead and wonderful lessons were learned!

One of our Kinship Kids shared that her bike had recently been stolen. So, with haste, one of the eDocument employees ran out and purchased locks for all the bikes that were sent home with the kids. Good hearted collaboration was visible everywhere!

Ken Schempp, President of eDocument Resources, visualized this event both as a service to others and as an opportunity for employee team building. Schempp donated the bikes and created the event after hearing about Kinship's mentoring program through his church, Westwood Lutheran in St. Louis Park. Westwood partners with Kinship in the new Church-School Program which creates a formal partnership between Kinship, a church, and kids from a local school.

The Bike-Building Event provided a fun and meaningful team building activity for the employees and a wonderful gift for the kids who are on Kinship's waiting list, eager to have a Kinship mentor. Kinship of Greater Minneapolis typically has a list of 150 kids, ages 5-15 primarily of single parent homes, who are eager to have adult mentors. Often the kids wait over one year before an individual, couple or family is found that will become their Kinship friend. Mentors are encouraged to include their kids in everyday activities about once a week, for a minimum of one year. In addition to ongoing staff support, Kinship offers group events and ticket opportunities to support these relationships.

If your business is interested in sponsoring an event for Kinship Kids, we'd love to hear from you!



150 kids are waiting anxiously for Kinship Friends...can you help?