



Turtle Lake Area School Board Members and Administration
205 Oak St. North, Turtle Lake, WI 54889

Dear Board Members and Administrative Team,

I appreciate the opportunity to talk with you about the Kinship of Cumberland/Turtle Lake program. I have been impressed with the support from administration, counselors, and staff of the school districts that we serve. They have all been very helpful.

As the Executive Director, one of my goals for Kinship is to have a larger presence in the area of youth mentoring. I ask if I could do a short presentation at a school board meeting to update you on current numbers, Kinship programming, as well as potential upcoming opportunities for Kinship youth.

I would also wish to request some financial support from the school district. It is common for schools to provide some support in this need. Typically, many districts have supported Kinship, using unspent fund 10 monies, or taking a small amount of fund 80. I have talked with Brandon Robinson, CESA 11 Administrator, and he has agreed to talk with you about the benefits of the local Kinship chapter for Polk County, as he has been involved with Kinship and has advocated for supporting the organization through school donations.

Our annual budget is approximately \$48,000. Kinship is requesting a \$2000 financial contribution from Cumberland and Turtle Lake for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. These funds, along with community donations and local grants, will be used to operate the school mentoring program and allow Kinship to remain a strong asset in your school, supporting your students and teachers. If Cumberland and Turtle Lake would donate \$2,000 from the school it would be greatly appreciated and all donations go to supporting local youth.

If you take an opportunity to experience the Kinship program in action, you will see high school students stepping into vital roles, and creating unique connections with younger students. Our Kinship board and I are proud of our mentors and confident they are

making important differences. We know the barriers that many youth in our area are facing. A stable, trusting adult or student relationship is a key to increasing resiliency and provides an important protective factor for our youth. School Mentoring allows Kinship to reach out to more area youth while providing teachers with an additional resource for their students to feel supported and cared for. Elementary, and middle school students benefit from extra support, positive role models, and a caring, stable friendship. Likewise, high school mentors gain a greater sense of commitment, responsibility, and connection with a younger generation. They are learning that giving back is an integral part of a successful community. Relationships are established and continue for multiple school years whenever possible. We know, the longer a mentoring relationship lasts, the greater the benefits.

Please review the information provided and contact me with any questions you may have. We look forward to meaningful partnership with our school districts.

Sincerely,

Jim Connell
Executive Director
Kinship Cumberland/Turtle Lake