

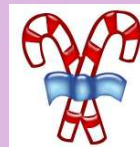
Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Rock, Walworth & Jefferson Counties

Winter 2010-11 Newsletter

888-904-KIDS

www.bbbs4kids.org



BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE 2011

The Big Brothers Big Sisters **BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE** Campaign is just around the corner! The 3-month campaign is scheduled to kick-off in January, during National Mentoring Month, and will conclude at our bowling party scheduled for **Saturday, April 9th.**

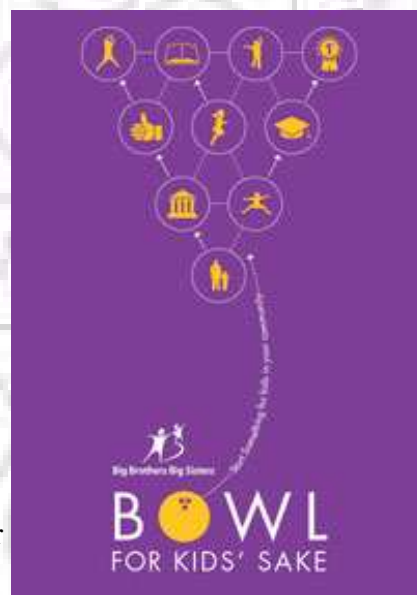
BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE offers everyone in our community an opportunity to positively impact a child's life. By participating in **BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE**, your team will help children reach their potential and, through them, transform families, schools and communities!

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE is Big Brothers Big Sisters annual signature fundraiser. Each year, half of a million people across America come together to have fun and raise money to support Big Brothers Big Sisters as we change how children grow up! **BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE** is the perfect way for individuals to make an impact on our community ~ it only takes a little bit of effort to raise the money that is vital to our program's success.

As a 'thank you' for your support and enthusiasm, Big Brothers Big Sisters hosts a celebratory party at Rock River Lanes in Fort Atkinson. No bowling experience is required!! ...only the willingness to share in our heartfelt and sincere thanks for helping us transform kids lives.

We encourage YOU (our volunteers, families, matches, local businesses, partners & friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters) to consider joining us as we celebrate youth mentoring! **BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE** is as simple as asking 10 friends to support your efforts with a \$10 pledge! As each bowler raises just this \$100 minimum goal, Big Brothers Big Sisters is that much closer to reaching their overall goal of providing their services to every child who could benefit from a mentor.

Call 888-904-KIDS or email bbbsjolynn@hotmail.com for information on how YOU & your team can get involved!



Have Fun. Help Kids. Save the Date.



April 9th

5-8 pm

Rock River Lanes

Fort Atkinson

Stop by www.bbbs4kids.org for more detailed event info after January 1st!

MATCH NEWSMAKERS

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.

Elizabeth Andrew

Dear Lunch Buddy,

Thank you so much for being my lunch buddy. Last night I was thinking about you. For 3 years you have been the best. I only thought that you were going to be my lunch buddy for 1 year. You make me happy every Tuesday.

P.S. Your Lunch Buddy Mykayla

(actual letter from a student to her Lunch Buddy)



celebrate



- Thank you Ecolab & Seipert volunteers for your work at our agency during Stateline United Way's Day of Caring!
- Congratulations to our Board President, Deanna Ohman of M&I Bank, for being the Beloit Daily News Volunteer of the Month during September!!!
- Thank you to Big Brother Dennis Hoffman, his Little Brother Zach and Mike for helping keep the BBBS portion of the Ice Trail cleaned up last March! We appreciate your service project...plus a wonderful way to get some fresh air & exercise!

Congratulations to the following matches for celebrating 3 or more years together ~ HAPPY MATCH ANNIVERSARY!

3 years:

Big Sister Erika Pladies & Little Sister McKenna ~ celebrated in June
Big Brother Jim Meacham & Little Brother Cody ~ celebrated in October
Big Sister Emily Welch & Little Sister Samantha ~ celebrated in November
Big Sister Mara Springs & Little Sister Savannah ~ celebrated in October
Big Sister Carolyn Schweitzer & Little Sister Liz ~ celebrated in October
Big Brother Paul Hanson & Little Brother Geovanni ~ celebrated in February

4 years:

Big Sister Cathy Burt & Little Sister Cat ~ celebrated in July
Family Match Sarah/Bradd Olson & Little Brother Tyler ~ celebrated in February
Big Brother Brad Smith & Little Brother Skyler ~ celebrated in October
Big Sister Susan Wenzler & Little Sister Jamie ~ celebrated in July

5 years:

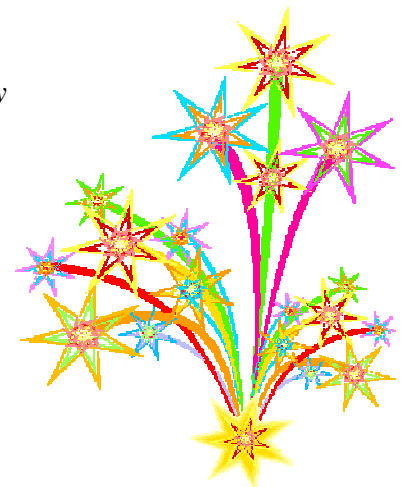
Big Brother Troy Matson & Little Brother Noah ~ celebrated in October
Big Couple Deena & Monroe Putnam & Little Brother Alex ~ celebrated in May
Big Sister Cynthia Miller-Johnson & Little Sister Aiyana ~ celebrated in March

6 years:

Big Sister Becky Esselman & Little Sister Veronica ~ celebrated in September
Big Brother Bob Langer & Little Brother Brandon ~ celebrated in March

9 years:

Big Sister Beth Pederson & Little Sister Nellie ~ celebrated in November



MATCH HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteers are seldom paid ~ not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

Author Unknown

Karliene Thom is the perfect example of a great Big Sister! Karliene, of Janesville, has been involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program for over 10 years...most recently matched with 2 Little Sisters. Karliene joined the BBBS program because she felt she could help someone who wasn't as fortunate to have a loving surrounding. Today, she has been matched with Little Sister Trista for over a year and Little Sister Angela for 6 months.



Karliene enjoys taking the girls out to see shows, swimming, going for walks or having dinner together. One of her most memorable moments came when she took Trista out to dinner for the first time and let her order her own meal... something Trista had never experienced before! Karliene has seen many positive changes in her Little Sisters including an increase in self-confidence, taking more pride in their appearance and their willingness to try different things.

Through her volunteer work, Karliene has learned to be patient. She knows that each of her Little Sisters have different personalities. They may have similar issues but come from different backgrounds and home environments. By working with the girls, both of them feel comfortable confiding in Karliene and trusting their friendship.

As a great advocate for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Karliene suggests to new mentors to always keep in contact with your Little. Even a simple phone call could make a big difference and mean a lot to them. Sometimes things may get rough within a match, but never give up!

Karliene feels truly blessed by having her Littles in her life. She considers both of her Littles as a 'bright light' in her life and hopes to have their friendship for many years to come!

Attention all Volunteers ~ some basic reminders!

- BBBS strongly encourages you to not 'friend' your Little Brother/Sister or Lunch Buddy on Facebook. Please be conscious of other social media sites too.
- All of our offices have answering machines. You are welcome to call the office 24/7 to leave a message for your Match Support Specialist regarding how your match is going and if you would like her to call you back.
- Please remember to let BBBS know if any of your contact information changes (cell #, email address, home address, etc)!
- Remember to always check your emails, BBBS is trying to use e-blasts more frequently to save money on postage!
- Holidays are a busy time for families. If you have plans to be gone for an extended time, please remember to communicate your schedule with your Little and his/her family.
- Many matches like to exchange gifts during the holidays. Although BBBS does not prohibit this, we do suggest that you do not overspend and to talk to the parent of your Little to get their approval prior to purchasing a gift.

OVERNIGHT POLICY REMINDER



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rock, Walworth & Jefferson Counties recommends that there be no overnight visits between the volunteer and client in the match relationship.

If a parent chooses not to comply with the BBBS overnight policy, the parent accepts all liability and accountability for anything that may occur during this visit.

If you have any questions or concerns about the agency's policy, please contact your Match Support Specialist / Case Manager.

* **www.bbbs4kids.org • 888-904-KIDS • 'Friend Us' on Facebook** *
* *(Search for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rock, Walworth & Jefferson Counties to stay connected)* *

PROGRAM NEWS

Letter from the Executive Director...2010 in Review



As Thanksgiving has passed, I am reminded to reflect on my last year as Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters. My first year has passed so quickly as I have been busy getting to know you...our volunteers, our families, our partners, our staff and board of directors. If I haven't had a chance to personally meet you, I am hopeful that we can connect in 2011 at one of our many agency outings or fundraising event. I also am available if you ever should have a question, idea or feedback regarding our mentoring programs (please see my contact information below).

2010 has been a very successful year thanks to all of you! No matter your role, you have contributed something beneficial to our agency. Our agency would not reach the children we need to serve if not for our invaluable volunteers and their generosity in giving of their personal time through either our Community Based or Lunch Buddies Mentoring Programs. As a donor-funded agency, we are appreciative of our community connections and the belief you have in our programs. Your advocacy and generous financial support allows Big Brothers Big Sisters to recruit exceptional volunteers and match them as a role-model with an area youth.

Thank you for a great 2010! I am looking forward to a prosperous 2011! By working together towards a shared goal, I know our youth mentoring programs will continue to flourish and meet its mission.

Regards,
Luke Janiak-Fenton, Executive Director
608-362-8223
bbbsluke@hotmail.com

Lunch Buddy Contact Information:

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Ann Dudzek ~ Coordinator
920-563-3279 or bbbsann@hotmail.com
(Fort Atkinson schools)
Rockwell • Purdy • Luther • Barrie
(Whitewater schools)
Washington • Lincoln • Whitewater Middle

ROCK COUNTY

Melanie Wittman ~ Coordinator
608-362-8223 or bbbsmelanie@hotmail.com
(Beloit schools)
Robinson • Morgan • Gaston • Aldrich • Wright
(Evansville schools)
Theodore Robinson Intermediate School
(Janesville schools)
Van Buren • Roosevelt • Jackson • Kennedy

WALWORTH COUNTY

Pam Carper ~ Coordinator
262-728-8865 or bbbspamc@hotmail.com
(Elkhorn schools)
Jackson • West Side • Elkhorn Middle School
(Delavan school)
Wileman Elementary
(Lake Geneva school)
Eastview Elementary

I just had to let you know of an experience I had at school last Friday. I was at school popping popcorn for the PTA and happened to be in the school lobby at the same time a class of first graders were visiting the school store. Hidden (she's so tiny, she was all but buried!), amongst all these children was one of my Lunch Buddies. Her face lit up the entire area when she saw me. That is the reason I love the program, During the time we spend together, she can be extremely shy, and sometimes very quiet. But the look on her face was all the convincing I needed to know that I really matter to her and the time we spend together is very important to her. Makes me proud of the work the program is doing, and glad that I am a part of it.

~ Mary
March 2010
**Lunch Buddy's name
has been withheld*



AGENCY EVENTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters Winter Party!

Mark your calendars for Friday night, January 14th! Big Brothers Big Sisters will be hosting their winter party from 5:45-7:45pm at the Janesville Ice Arena (821 Beloit Avenue/Janesville). This fun event is open to all youth, mentors, families and kids on the waiting list (throughout all of Rock, Walworth & Jefferson Counties). Enjoy free skate rental & admissions compliments of North East Business Association of Beloit. Warm drinks and a light snack will be provided in the warming house party room. Please join us for an evening of fun as we celebrate Mentoring Month!



Please RSVP to your Match Support Specialist, by emailing bbbsjolynn@hotmail.com or by calling 888-904-KIDS.

Looking for a New Volunteer Leadership Opportunity?

Big Brothers Big Sisters is expanding their Jefferson County Action Team and launching committees in both the Walworth County and Rock County areas. County Action Teams typically meet 6-8 times a year to discuss ways to advocate the Big Brothers Big Sisters programs in their counties. Volunteers will be asked to provide ideas on ways to increase community awareness, fundraise, recruit mentors and partnership development.

Action Teams typically consist of 5-10 local community business leaders or current/past BBBS volunteers who want to give back within their community through local youth programs. Call **888-904-KIDS** or the contact information below to inquire how you can get more involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters:

Mike Gosenheimer (Walworth) pearlgoose@gmail.com
Jim Meacham (Jefferson) jmeacham@charter.net
Brooke Virgin (Rock) brookevirgin@yahoo.com
888-904-KIDS

Summer Event Recap!

- The 6th Annual Hog Hula Memorial Day Fundraiser enjoyed beautiful weather, great music & a large crowd. Thank you to the **Hog Cabin Saloon** for supporting BBBS as we raised almost \$10,000!
- The 18th Annual **Stinebrink's Piggly Wiggly** Golf for Kids had another record breaking year with 216 golfers participating and helping to raise \$32,000 on July 17th. Special thank you to our sponsor, Mark Stinebrink and his stores of Delavan, Lake Geneva and Kenosha!
- The 6th Annual BBBS Golf For Kids at Koshkonong Mounds enjoyed a great day on the links in the sun. Thank you to all who supported the cause & raised \$6,000!
- Thank you to **NEBA & the Moose Lodge** of Beloit for sponsoring/hosting our annual summer picnic for everyone in the BBBS program on August 7th!

NEW FACES ~ STAFF & BOARD



Three new community members have joined the volunteer Board of Directors this past summer/fall.

Brooke Virgin, Service Center Manager for Girl Scouts of WI-Badgerland Council, joined the board because of the need she saw and the ability to be there for our community's youth when they need assistance. Brooke has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Relations from UW-Whitewater and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from University of Phoenix.



Jeremy Stephens, Bank Manager for Harris Bank in South Beloit, has many years of volunteer experience with Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together Greater Milwaukee. Jeremy has a finance degree from UW-LaCrosse.



Drew Cheers, Plant Controller at Hormel Foods in Beloit, recently transferred to the Rock County area with his employer. Drew has a BA in Accounting and a minor in Business Management from Central College. Drew grew up in Iowa and worked in Austin, MN before moving to Beloit with Hormel Foods.

BBBS welcomes their new board members! If you are an energetic, talented individual looking to help provide leadership, fiscal knowledge or assist with long-term strategic direction, please contact Kathy Murray, Nominating Committee Chair, at 608-312-6843.



2010/11 BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Deanna Ohman—**President**
- Kathy Murray—**Vice President**
- Mike Gosenheimer—**Secretary**
- Ashley Butts—**Treasurer**
- Jim Markgraf
- Jim Meacham
- John Kannengeiser
- Tom Macone
- Jeremy Stephens
- Brooke Virgin
- Drew Cheers

2010/11 JEFFERSON COUNTY

ACTION TEAM

- Jim Meacham—**LEADER**
- Mike Gosenheimer
- Jim Markgraf
- Amanda Wallace

Beloit Office: 1239 Huebbe Parkway/53511 (608)362-8223
Fort Atkinson Office: 734 Madison Avenue/53538 (920)563-2876
Delavan Office: 1545 Hobbs Drive/53115 (262)728-8865

Big Brothers Big Sisters is happy to announce 5 new employees to their staff over the past several months. Please feel free to contact them with any questions you might have.



Melanie Wittman has joined the staff as Lunch Buddies Coordinator in Rock County. She will oversee the programs in Beloit, Janesville & Evansville. She can be reached at bbbsmelanie@hotmail.com or 608-362-8223.



Karen Medema is welcomed as the community-based Enrollment Specialist in Walworth County. She can be reached at bbbskaren@hotmail.com or 262-728-8865.



Lexi Siatos has been hired at the Rock County Enrollment Specialist for the community based programs. She will work on recruiting volunteers and matching them with littles on our waiting list. Lexi can be reached at bbbslexi@hotmail.com or by calling 608-362-8223.



Ann Dudzek is welcomed as the site-based Lunch Buddies Coordinator in Jefferson County. She is responsible for programs at the Fort Atkinson School District and in the Whitewater area. Ann can be reached at bbbsann@hotmail.com or 920-563-3279.



Pam Carper has joined BBBS as the Walworth County Lunch Buddies Coordinator. She will oversee programs in Delavan, Lake Geneva and Elkhorn. Pam can be reached at bbbspamc@hotmail.com or by calling 262-728-8865.



PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Big Brothers Big Sisters ~ a donor-driven youth mentoring organization!

start something

Big Brothers Big Sisters is Starting Something NEW!

With the New Year comes new changes to our organization. National Studies conducted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, have shown that many people do not fully understand what BBBS accomplishes. To lessen this confusion, **Big Brothers Big Sisters is changing our look and our messaging** in hopes that we can change *your* perspective. We want you to help us Start Something BIG in 2011.

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps children *realize their potential* and *build their future*. Each time BBBS pairs a child with a role model we Start Something incredible; a one-to-one relationship built on trust and friendship that can blossom into a future of unlimited potential. We are able to nurture children and *strengthen communities*, all through professionally supported one-to-one matches.

We know that mentoring is very important and that the more people who are involved, the better the program will become. Because of this, we want to make it clear that there are MANY ways to get INVOLVED in our organization and that it takes both donors and volunteers to change the lives of children. There are a number of ways to get involved:

- Donate money
- Become a Volunteer ~ Big Brother, Big Sister or site-based Lunch Buddy
- Encourage your employees to give back through community service projects
- Join a Committee ~ Board of Directors or County Action Team Member
- Participate in Bowl For Kids' Sake

This New Year help us Start Something BIG. Encourage friends, family members and co-workers to get involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters. Help us reach our vision of successful mentoring relationships for all children who need or want them contributing to better schools, brighter futures and stronger communities for all.



THANK YOU to some of our recent donors!!

- Fort Atkinson Generals Baseball Club—Baseball Fest
- Janesville Morning Rotary Club
- Walworth Community Chest
- Mercy Business Center
- Fort Wisconsin Club
- Lake Geneva Jaycees
- Nasco
- Fort Atkinson Lioness Club
- M&I Foundation
- W&A Distribution Services, Inc.
- North East Business Association
- Alliant Energy Foundation & Matching Grant Program
- Pentair Foundation
- Manpower Inc—Child of the Month Sponsor
- Stateline Community Foundation & the Kathy/Scott Murray Fund
- Ecolab's Community Relations Council
- Joanne Henney of Lake Geneva
- Patch Products, Data Dimensions and Durst Mastergear for their generous gifts during the holiday season!!

The Valero Energy Foundation recently selected Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rock, Walworth & Jefferson Counties as a recipient of their Valero Benefit for Children Golf Classic. A \$5,000 donation was made to the Jefferson County office to continue their good work.

Pictured top right are Valero employees with their banner. Bottom right is Mike Gosenheimer and his Little Brother M.J. accepting the donation on BBBS's behalf.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Rock, Walworth & Jefferson Counties

1239 Huebbe Parkway
Beloit, WI 53511



888-904-KIDS

www.bbbs4kids.org

Fall/Winter Newsletter

Published: December 2010



**Happy Holidays from
Big Brothers Big Sisters!**



Proud partner with United Way



Be A Lot To A Little. Be A Mentor. The Life You Change May Be Your Own!

As a non-profit organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters relies on contributions from local businesses, individuals and foundations to support the growth of mentoring more area kids. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to support youth programs in your community.

Enclosed is my ANNUAL GIFT to support the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters...

- \$50 \$500 (supports a Lunch Buddies match for a year)
 \$100 \$750
 \$250 \$1,000 (supports a Community Based match for a year)

Other \$ _____

I am interested in receiving volunteer information for:

- Community Based Programs Lunch Buddies Programs Other _____

Name: _____ Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____



Donation gifts can be made payable to BBBS and mailed to their main office at:

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rock, Walworth & Jefferson Counties
1239 Huebbe Parkway, Beloit, WI 53511**

Donate via [bbbs4kids.org](http://www.bbbs4kids.org) at the following link:

http://www.firstgiving.com/process/donatechannel/default.asp?_FRSId=59317