



NEWSLETTER

**Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County**

*A program of
Family & Community Services*

January/February 2012

60 children matched with adult volunteers. 87 children are waiting.

**Start Something. Volunteer or donate today.
Call 330.296.6655 or visit www.bbsportage.org**



Happy New Year!

What if every child fulfills their potential? Think how amazing that would be. The beginning of the new year is the perfect time to Start Something.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is not your typical organization. We help children realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities. And we couldn't do any of it without you.

We believe that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Most children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters live in single-parent or low-income families. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles").

By providing a system of ongoing evaluation and support, Big Brothers Big Sisters is proven by independent studies to help families. This system improves the odds that Littles will perform better in school, avoid violence and illegal activities, and have stronger relationships with their parents and others.

A 2009 study conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters found that adults who were matched for at least one year as children report that having a Big Brother or Big Sister played an integral role in who they are today by positively influencing their self-confidence providing stability, changing their perspective on life and pushing them to set higher goals.


Join us in our mission to help make a positive impact on children and your community. Donate today.




**Recruit more
mentors
\$10.00**




**Help a child
fulfill potential
\$25.00**



**Make a
perfect match
\$50.00**



**Start a lifelong
friendship
\$150.00**



**Sustain a match
for 1 year
\$900.00**

Bowl For Kids' Sake 2012

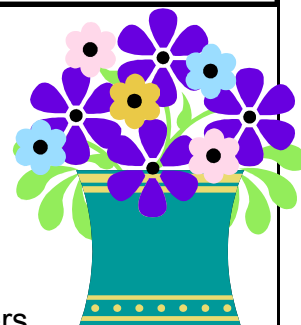
Our annual fundraising event will be held on Saturday, March 10, at Kent Lanes. Please plan to participate and help us raise funds to match more children in 2012!

Watch for more information in January.



Thank you to...

- ...All of our Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers. It's National Mentoring Month! Attention all Littles! Be sure to thank your Bigs for being your mentors!
- ...The Portage County Insurance Association for a \$500 donation to help sponsor our Volunteer Appreciation Holiday party.
- ...Deluxe Corporation Foundation for a \$3600 grant for our computer upgrade.
- ...An anonymous company for a \$1500 donation for recruiting and matching volunteers.
- ...The Sisler McFawn Foundation for a \$7000 grant to fund 8 matches for a year.
- ...Dave Scott for donating Lake Erie Monsters tickets for our matches.



To Do...

- Valentine's Day is February 14th; create some homemade cards
- Since the snow has arrived, build a snowman, go sledding or shovel a neighbor's sidewalk
- It's Leap Year! Plans something special for the extra day you get in February!
- High schools and KSU have basketball games you can attend
- Go swimming at one of the local indoor pools. It feels great on a snowy day!



Activity Wrap up

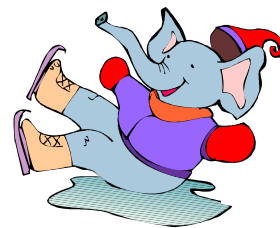
The Dec. 4th Volunteer Appreciation and Holiday Bowling Party was great fun for everyone who attended. We had unlimited bowling and then a delicious pasta buffet. Santa stopped in for a visit and everyone had a chance to share their Christmas wishes with him and have their picture taken. Of course, Santa had candy bags for all! Each volunteer in attendance was recognized and thanked for being a "Big" in our program.

Many thanks to the PCIA for the donation that helped sponsor the event and to the wonderful people at Kent Lanes for hosting such a nice party.

Road Trip ~

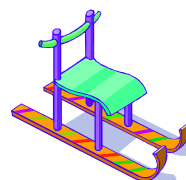
Mohican Winterfest... Come and enjoy ice carving competitions featuring Olympic Ice Carvers. Ice carvings are displayed throughout downtown but most of the events occur at Central Park. Visitors will enjoy speed carving demonstrations, ice-skating, winter hikes, carriage rides and more.

When: January 13 & 14
Where: Downtown Loudonville
Cost: Free Admission
Info: 419.994.4789



The Great Sled Dog Race Classic of Northeast Ohio... The Sled Dog Classic is the only sled dog event in Ohio & attracts mushers from across Ohio & other states. Teams will cover 1-6 miles through woods & across open fields. Because the weather doesn't always cooperate, an alternate race date will be announced.

When: February 25 & 26
Where: Punderson State Park, Newbury, OH (SR 44 North, about 35 minutes from the BB&S office)
Cost: Free Admission
Info: 1-800-775-8687 or www.siberiancleveland.org



Match Anniversaries

January

LB Dion / BB Stephen Laird – 3 years
LS Katherine / BS Candice Pipoly – 1 year

February

LB Christian / CM David & Cheri Walter – 5 years
LS A'Lanyae / BS Christine Luketic – 3 years
LS Jessica / BS Maureen Wilch – 3 years
LB Marco / BB Cody Alflen – 2 years
LB Chace / BB Scott Rawlings – 1 year
LS Jeri / BS Olivia Schroll – 1 year

Match Scoops

- LS Angienett was on the honor roll in November. Proud BS is Yolonda Bruyere.
- BS Debbie Ross attended LS Katelynn's Christmas concert.
- LS Chontea was in a karate competition and BS Kristen Toth was there to support her.



Happy Birthday to...

January

LS Brittany
LS Courtney
LS Jessica
BS Anna
BS Becky
BS Diamond
BS Donna
BS Emily
BS Erika
BS Vanessa
BB Joe
BB Stephen

February

LS Jeri
LS Kimberly
LS MacKenzie
LB Toby
BS Jessica
BS Maureen
BS Victoria
BB Sean



**101 Fun Ideas from the
Mentoring Answer Book**

16. Help your Little obtain a library card. Visit the local Library and check out books of interest. Teach your Little how to use the electronic card catalog.
17. Teach your Little how to use a computer or share computer knowledge.
18. Work on school projects, help with homework, and discuss study habits.
19. Teach simple first aid skills
20. Eat lunch with your Little at school.
21. Together, make a collage of your Little's life using pictures cut from magazines.
22. Paint an original t-shirt for a special occasion.
23. Visit a hardware store and explain the function of various tools.
24. On your Little's birthday, ask her to lie on paper and trace around her. Together, add facial features, hair, clothes, etc. Don't forget the date!
25. Take your Little to a sporting event at the high school he or she will attend.



Welcome New Matches!

LS Tiana / BS Victoria Meneese
LS Rebecca / BS Bahar Moftakhar
LS Rachael / BS Megan Samson
LB Dylan / BB Ken Walters
LB Jerod / BB Levi Daughtry
LB Eric / BB Joe Baum
LB Robert / BB Ted Alden



Wish List



Please call our office at 330.296.6655 if you can donate any of the following items. The donations help reduce our operating expenses and provide fun experiences to our Bigs and Littles.

office supplies
postage stamps
office furniture

event tickets
gift cards
copy paper

activity funding
match photo funding
become a special event sponsor

Newsletter sponsorship
running/non running vehicles



"Cars for Kids"

We'll take your clunker!

"Cars for Kids" helps raise funds for our One-to-One Mentoring program.

To donate your running or non-running vehicle:

- Call the BB&S office at 330.296.6655
- Vehicle towed free of charge, usually in 48 hrs
- Donors need to provide the keys and title
- Donors may also be eligible to claim a tax deduction for making a charitable donation

All money stays local and is used to serve the children of Portage County.

Program Manager

Andrea Neidert

Office Manager

Deb Ferrell

Match Support

Katie Wilkinson

Dee James



Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County
705 Oakwood St.
Suite 103

Ravenna, OH 44266

P 330.296.6655

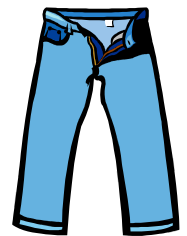
F 330.296.6766

www.bbspportage.org

Support Big Brothers & Sisters Shop Fabulous Finds Thrift Superstore



- Clothing fashions feature name brands such as Gap, Mudd, Levi, Elizabeth and Liz
- A great place to shop for quality used furniture, sporting goods, house wares, exercise equipment, bedding, books, movies, games, toys and craft supplies
- Located at 9058 SR 14, Streetsboro, 330.422.0039
- Open Monday through Saturday 10 am - 8 pm;
Sunday 11 am - 6 pm



**A portion of all sales is donated to
Big Brothers & Sisters**

