



NEWSLETTER

**Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County**

*A program of
Family & Community Services*

July / August 2011

68 children matched with adult volunteers. 106 children are waiting.

Start Something. Volunteer or donate today.

Call 330.296.6655 or visit www.bbspportage.org



15th Annual Big Brothers & Sisters Charity Golf Outing

Wednesday, July 27, 2011! Register today!

Entry fees remain the same: \$95 / person or \$380 / foursome, and include:

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Continental breakfast
- Cookout style sausage lunch
- BBQ dinner catered by Cajun Dave's
- Beverages
- Personalized bag tag
- Sleeve of golf balls
- Photo of your foursome
- 1 swing to win \$5000

Call our office at 330.296.6655
or visit our website -
www.bbspportage.org -
for more information or to
register your foursome.

*Each paid foursome pays for
one match for approximately
six months.*



VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express accepted.

Join Big Brothers & Sisters Advisory Board

We are currently taking applications for people who are interested in joining our Advisory Board.

- Advisory Board meets at 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of each month.
- Board members are responsible for assisting with fund development, special event fundraisers and volunteer recruitment

If you would like to find out more about joining our Advisory Board and helping the children of Portage County, please call Andrea at 330.296.6655.

Look Who's Waiting...for You?

We currently have children all over Portage County waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister volunteer. You will be matched with someone who is no more than a 15 or 20 minute drive from your home. This makes it easy to pick up your Little after work for a couple hours of fishing or to go for a bike ride. Maybe grill hamburgers back at your house or play a board game.

But what matters to the children is not the activities. It is the fact that they will have a caring adult in their lives. Because they will have someone to confide in and to look up to, they will, in turn, do better in school and at home.

You can make a difference in a child's life. **You** can Start Something. Just call us today at 330.296.6655 or visit our website at www.bbspportage.org. You'll be glad you did.

School Supply Sign Up

For help with school supplies for the upcoming school year, call **330.608.0795 beginning Tuesday July 5th.**



This sign up is for families living in Portage County who have children in grades K - 12.



Free Big Bros & Sisters T-Shirt For Bigs & Littles

Hey Bigs & Littles! Do you want a free BB&S t-shirt? Here is how to get one: sign up to march in the Balloon A-Fair parade in Ravenna on Sat., Sept. 17 and then show up, receive your shirt, put it on and march with us!

We want to have lots of people wearing our shirts to let everyone know we are in Portage County. It will help kick off our fall volunteer recruitment campaign.

Line up will be pretty early, about 7am, but you will be done by 11:00. We hope to have a car for those who want to participate but can't walk the route.

So we can have the shirts in time, you must call our office by August 15 to sign up.

Help us recruit volunteers for all the children on the waiting list and get a free t-shirt!

Attention Bigs!

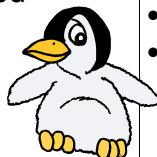
It is time to update your proof of car insurance. Please fax, email or mail to our office a copy of your current proof of automobile insurance card that you carry in your car. You are also welcome to stop in the office and we will copy the card for you. Please have your updated information to our office by July 31.

Free Drawing for "Pictureka!" Games

We have several brand new Pictureka! Games to give away to Bigs & Littles. It is a game for ages 6 and older, 2 or more players.

For your chance to win, call our office before Aug. 1 & ask to have your name entered in the drawing. One entry per person.

Bigs & Littles only. Drawing will be held Aug. 1. Winners must pick up their prize at our office.



Trip to Akron Zoo

On June 11, several matches joined our newest match support specialist, Katie Wilkinson, for a trip to the Akron Zoo. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed the animals. They all met up at 1:00 to eat their brown bag lunches and discuss their favorite animals.

Be sure to ask your match support specialist about our next group activity so you don't miss out on the fun!

Volunteer for Empower Portage

Empower Portage is committed to ending poverty in Portage County & works to build relationships across socio-economic lines in hopes of creating stronger understanding & investment amongst all community members.

Empower Portage is looking for adults who are passionate about ending poverty in their community. After training, volunteers become Allies who develop supportive friendships with low-income individuals or families that are working to transition out of poverty. Allies should be able to exemplify and teach responsible budgeting strategies.

Serving as an Ally is an 18-month commitment.. Allies spend 4-10 hours a month talking with their intentional friend(s) in person or by phone. Allies that register with the Kent Community TimeBank are eligible to receive "Time Dollars" for the time they volunteer.

Learn more about Empower Portage at www.empowerportage.com, call 330-297-7027 ext. 314 or email (empowerportage@gmail.com).

Wish List

Our wish List is made up of items that would help us better serve our Littles & Bigs. If you can help by donating something please call us at 330.296.6655. Thank you!

- Office supplies
- Postage stamps
- Event tickets
- Newsletter sponsor
- Funds for our fall volunteer recruitment
- Gift Cards
- Group activities funds
- Computer funding
- Volunteer Appreciation dinner funds
- Guest chairs for our waiting area



Happy Birthday to...

July	LB J.T.	BS Nicole
LS Angelicqa'	LB Preston	BS Olivia
LS Ashley	LB Ryan	BS Stacey
LS Desirae	BS Candice	BB Josh
LS Tiana	BS Janie	BB Ron
LB Aaron	BS Nichelle	BB Tom
LB Jasper		BB Zach



August	LB Chase
LS A'Lanyae	LB Mike
LS Kaitlyn	LB Zachary
LS Kari	BS Lauren
LS Seaira	BS Nicole
LS Shelby	BS Rachel
LB Chace	BS Yolanda
	BB Corey

Match Anniversaries

July

BB Preston Epling / LB Chad – 4 years
 BB Brad Woods / LB Sean - 2 years
 BS Erika McCune / LS Tiana – 2 years
 BS Nichelle Shuck / LS Mackenzie – 1 year
 BS Sara Rausch / LS Haven – 1 year
 BB Justin Pierce / LB Todd – 1 year

August

BS Alexandra Talbott / LS Kimberly - 2 years
 BB Frank Kurtz / LB Joe – 2 years
 BS Cori Clutter / LS Dallas – 1 year

To Do...

- ★ Enjoy some of the local July 4th events
- ★ Wash the car and spray each other
- ★ Go swimming and pack your lunch
- ★ Visit an air conditioned museum
- ★ Visit a farmers market
- ★ Swing at the park
- ★ Have a yard sale
- ★ Catch a ballgame or golf match on TV
- ★ Draw outside with sidewalk chalk
- ★ Water balloons
- ★ Throw the Frisbee
- ★ Enjoy some watermelon



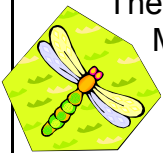
Welcome New Matches!

LB Isaiah / BB Jeff Child & BB Tom Hanson
 LS Makayla / BS Katie Sorokas

Road Trip ~ Dragon Hunt!

Join a Metro Parks naturalist in a search for dragonflies! Insect nets will be provided for those who dare to try capturing these elusive predators.

The hunt will be held on Saturday, July 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the new Tallmadge Meadows Area of Munroe Falls park, 1088 North Ave. in Tallmadge.
 For more information call 330.865.8065.



Match Scoops...

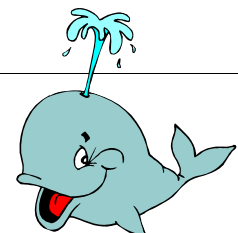


- Congratulations to BS Amy Keller on her recent wedding. She is matched with LS Shayla.
- BB Mike McKlusky attended LB Aaron's D.A.R.E. and is very proud of him.
- Congratulations to BS Lauren Caris & Jeff Goodlet on their upcoming summer wedding. They are matched with LS Phoebe and LB Tyler.



Q: What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

A: A nervous wreck.



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***

Program Manager

Andrea Neidert

Office Manager

Deb Ferrell

Match Support

Katie Heavner
Katie Wilkinson



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"Cars for Kids" We'll take your clunker!

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

To donate a running or non-running vehicle:

- Call the BB&S office at 330.296.6655
- Your vehicle will be towed free of charge, usually within 48 hours
- 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.***