



NEWSLETTER

November/December 2008

Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County

A program of
Family & Community Services

94 Children matched with mentors. 92 Children are waiting.

Big Brothers & Sisters Sets Thanksgiving Mentoring Goal

If you have ever thought about being a Big Brother or Big Sister, now is the time to learn more. Big Brothers & Sisters of Portage County has set a goal of recruiting five Big Brothers and five Big Sisters by Thanksgiving.

Current Big Brothers and Sisters are college students, business people and retirees. They have all agreed to spend 12 hours per month for one year, sharing everyday experiences that enrich and enhance the lives of all involved.

Contact us now at 330.296.6655 or visit our website at www.bbspportage.org to take the first step. Ten Portage County young people will be thankful that you did.

Big Brothers Big Sisters. Little Moments. Big Magic.

Be part of the magic. Call today.



Chocolate Fest A Sweet Success



Big Brothers & Sisters of Portage County thanks those who participated during its 3rd annual chocolate festival, held Saturday, October 11 at the United Methodist Church of Kent. A Taste of Chocolate and Auction made over \$4,000. Proceeds will benefit the agency's one-to-one youth mentoring program.

Ticket holders were treated to scrumptious chocolate delights, and also a few non-traditional chocolate items like chocolate-scented candles. The event was made possible by the following vendors: Creative Memories, Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Drummond Chocolates – Home of the Gourmet Chocolate Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Eat 'n Park, Hattie's Café and Gifts, Lori's Little Wonders, Mary Kay Cosmetics, PartyLite, Susan Stefancik Wedding Cakes, Tastefully Simple, and Triangle Pharmacy.

Over 70 auction items were up for bid thanks to community-minded businesses and individuals. Bidding began on the agency's website, and concluded at the event. To see final bid amounts, visit www.bbspportage.org.

Sponsors who supported this event were: FirstMerit Bank, Huntington Bank, kentnewsnet.com, Midway Auto Sales & Wrecking, Portage Path Title Agency, LLC, and Seven Seventeen Credit Union. Additional support was received from Guido's Original Pizza in Kent, and Printer's Devil, Inc.

Volunteers who helped throughout the day included Ray Carlisle, Vikki Fischer, Dave Horning, Paul and Erin Huchok, Hunter and Grace Petrie, Kathy Schneider, and Jean and Mike Sossa. Huchok, and daughter Erin, dressed as a Hershey Kiss, promoted the event during the KSU Homecoming parade just prior to the event.

Holiday Volunteer Opportunities for Matches



The Salvation Army - needs volunteers to serve as Bell Ringers and to distribute food and toys. Call Bonnie, Major Marie or Major Jacki at 330.296.7371

Streetsboro Community Christmas (transitional housing for homeless veterans) - needs volunteers to help wrap gifts; serve cookies, soup, coffee and tea; bake cookies ahead of time and drop off for families waiting for gift wrapping. Contact Pam Danner at 330.626.4251.

Freedom House - Volunteers are needed to cook a meal on Sunday, Monday or Wednesday night; provide group activities such as craft groups, writing/poetry groups and teaching computer classes. Call Ryan Everett, Matt Slater or Charlie Forsyth at 330.673.0705.

Wish List

The Wish List is made up of items the agency needs or would like to have. If they are donated, our operating costs will be reduced. If you or someone you know could fulfill these wishes, please call our office at (330) 296-6655.

- Copy paper
- Postage Stamps
- Pens
- Office Supply Gift Cards
- Wrapped candy of our holiday party
- Tickets to events for our Bigs & Littles to use



New 2 for 1 List Merchants

Rocky's Skating Center

272 West Ave.
Tallmadge
330-630-2550

1 paid admission = 2 skating times and 2 rentals



Tallmadge Bowling Lanes

333 Northeast Ave.
Tallmadge
330-633-8904

2 games of bowling for the price of one



Mark's Martial Arts & Self Defense

431 Beecher Ave.
Ravenna
330221-7122

\$70 per month = karate classes for Big & Little

Check our website often for more additions to the list -
www.bbsportage.org.

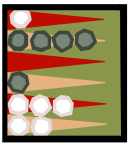


KSU Planetarium

Looking for something different to do that doesn't cost much? The next free public showing at the KSU Planetarium will be held on Friday and Saturday, December 12 & 13, at 8:00 PM. Directions and parking information can be found at http://phys.kent.edu/pages/gen_info.htm or by calling 330.672.2246. You must also call this number to make reservations.

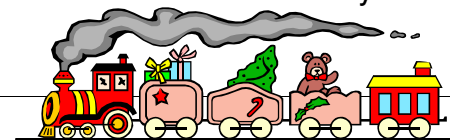
To Do...

- ↑ Rake leaves for a neighbor - don't forget to jump in the piles!
- ↑ Bake cookies
- ↑ Check out programs at your local library
- ↑ Plan a board games day
- ↑ Go on a fall hike at Towner's Woods
- ↑ Make a holiday craft project
- ↑ String popcorn & hang on trees for birds
- ↑ Borrow holiday movies from the library



Attention Bigs & Littles!

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 pm. You will receive your invitation soon and don't forget to RSVP! This event is always lots of fun for everyone.



Email Newsletter

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email and help us save money on postage, let us know by emailing info@bbsportage.org. You will receive your newsletter faster and in color!



Welcome New Matches

LS Meghyn / BS Sonya Ericson
 LB Phillip/BB Scott Moody
 LS Tyshina / BS Brittany Orcutt
 LS Aelyssa / BS Lisa Davala
 LB Brandon / BB Phil Garcia
 LB Michael / BB Chip Henry
 LS Seaira / BS Carly Dunn
 LB Gil / BB Zach Wilson
 LS Jada / BS Elizabeth Busnick
 LB Deantione / BB Brad Woods
 LB Jonathan / BB Collin DeMeritt
 LS Kirsten / BS Kristin Colage
 LS Courtney / BS Cara Lancaster
 LS Aaleaya / BS Alicia Weaver
 LS Angel / BS Lisa Spisak
 LS Jamie / BS Meredith St. Jean
 LB Zachary / BB Justin Bednarz
 LS Cloey / BS Tara Gustwiller

Happy Birthday to...

October – Sorry! We missed a birthday – LB Lyvonne

November

LS Ashley BS Lisa
 LS Sarah BB David
 LB Cody BB Bob
 LB Brian BB Alex
 LB Russell BB Scott
 BS Kristin
 BS Allison
 BS Keri
 BS Jen
 BS Sonya

December

LS Kali LB Leim
 LS Ty-Lyn BS Lara
 LS Taylor BS Dorothy
 LS Brooklynn BS Taryn
 LS Taliyah BS Kim
 LS Shauntia BS Wesley
 LS Jessica BS Cara
 LS Maya BB Aaron
 LB Jeffrey BB Mark
 LB Christian BB Mike
 LB Tony
 LS Daeyaviaughn

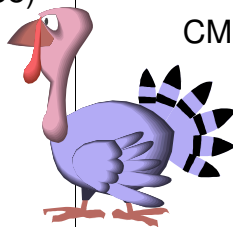


Call Your Caseworker!

Kelso Kids Club

Kids Club is for grade school children & meets the first Sat. of the month, 10 - 11:30 a.m. covering a variety of topics. Meetings are held on the Kelso House grounds, unless otherwise noted & reservations are required.

Questions can be answered & reservations made by phone (330-673-1058) or email, leaving the adult's name, child's name, grade and contact phone number. Our schedule for the school year can be found at www.kelsohouse.org.



Match Anniversaries

November

BS Donna Dauber / LS Sarah – 10 years
 BS Julie Grant / LS Byanca – 4 years
 BB Josh Ort / LB TJ – 3 years
 BB Barry Stump / LB Dominick – 2 years

December

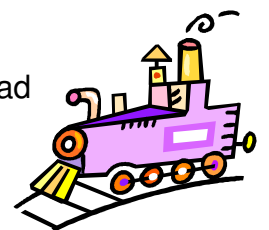
BB Aaron Hickle / LB Jonathon – 2 years
 CM Jeffrey & Alison Bockmuller / LB Jesse – 2 years
 BB Jeremiah Riel / LB Izaiah – 2 years
 BS Rosemary Baroni / LS Michelle – 1 year
 BB Ryan Smith / LB Nathan – 1 year
 BS Jennifer Inman / LS Nicole – 1 year



Road Trip ~ Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

LS Ty-Lyn and BS Carole Gatian took on ride on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad this summer and recommend it to other matches!

"In the winter excursions include scenic trips through snow -covered forests and along the Cuyahoga River" according to their brochure. For more information call 800.468.4070 or visit their website at <http://www.cvsr.com>.



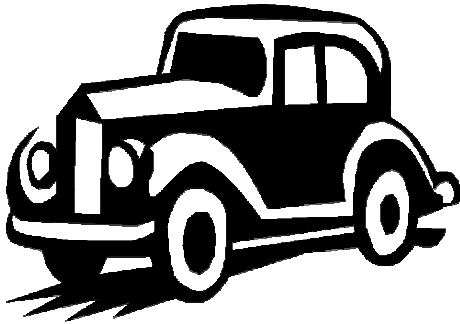
Shop at Fabulous Finds Thrift Superstore ...

Where every purchase helps support Big Brothers & Sisters One - To- One mentoring program. 9058 SR 14 , Streetsboro. Clothes, furniture, toys, sports equipment, holiday decorations, kitchen wares and much more. Shop Monday - Saturday 10am - 8pm; Sunday 11am - 6pm.

Donate Your Running or Non-Running Vehicle

"Cars for Kids" is a program designed to raise funds for Big Brothers & Sisters. To donate your running or non-running car or truck:

- Call the BB&S office at (330) 296-6655.
- Your vehicle will be towed free of charge.
- Donors need to provide the keys and title.
- Donors may also claim a tax deduction for making a charitable contribution.



Executive Director

Andrea Neidert

Associate Director

Linda Carlisle

Office Manager

Debbie Ferrell

Match Support

Allison Jackson

Lauren Cieslak

Syasha Andrews



Big Brothers & Sisters of Portage County

220 West Main Street
Ravenna, OH 44266
Phone: 330-296-6655
Fax: 330-296-6766
www.bbspportage.org



Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County
220 West Main Street
Ravenna, OH 44266
www.bbspportage.org