



NEWSLETTER

November / December 2011

**Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County**

*A program of
Family & Community Services*

58 children matched with adult volunteers. 80 children are waiting.

Start Something. Volunteer or donate today.

Call 330.296.6655 or visit www.bbsportage.org



Big Brothers Big Sisters Presents: The Start Something Web Series

The Unique Social Media Reality Documentary Sheds Light on Successful Youth Mentoring

Big Brothers Big Sisters presents the Start Something Web Series, a unique multiple - episode social media reality documentary. The series, developed pro bono, will reveal how the nation's largest mentoring network carefully partners with families, volunteers and communities to help children and teens overcome adversity to drive achievement in school and succeed in life.

"By observing our successful mentoring program unfiltered, current and prospective donors, volunteers and partners can see exactly how their investment in Big Brothers Big sisters helps children overcome adversity to beat the odds," said BBBSA President and CEO Karen J. Mathis.

The Start Something Web Series, which began on October 13 and runs through the end of the year on the national mentoring network's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BigBrothersBigSisters), follows mentors, mentees, families and professional staffers - the people who make the program work. Independent studies find when enrolled in BBBS, children who face adversity are more likely to improve in school, avoid risky/delinquent behaviors and have higher self - esteem and aspirations.

The series trailer can be viewed on You Tube at :

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=GcsIHqA6_I

10 Ways YOU can Start Something for a Child...

1. Donate \$25, \$50 or even \$100
2. Volunteer as a Big Brother or Big Sister
3. Sponsor an event such as a monthly activity or a PR campaign
4. Recruit three friends to become Bigs
5. Set up your own donations page and ask your friends to help you help kids
6. Provide tickets for our Bigs & Littles to attend community events
7. Schedule a BB&S presentation at your office, place of worship or social group meeting
8. Become a monthly donor for as little as \$5 a month and provide on-going support all year
9. Join our Advisory Board
10. Consider a corporate sponsorship tailored to your business interests



Tell us how you want to Start Something!

Call 330.296.6655 or visit our website: www.bbsportage.org

Annual Holiday Party and Volunteer Appreciation

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 4th, at 3:00 for our Holiday Party & Volunteer Appreciation. This year's event is a bowling party to be held at Kent Lanes. Join us for bowling, a pasta buffet dinner, volunteer recognition and more.

Bigs, Littles and volunteers are free. All others are \$15.00

You must RSVP by November 18 by calling our office at 330.296.6655.



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I cannot attend but would like to donate.

Name and Address _____

Amount enclosed _____

Please mail donations to: Big Brothers & Sisters
705 Oakwood St., Suite 103
Ravenna, OH 44266

Or call to donate by credit card

To Do...

- Check local newspapers and websites for seasonal/holiday activities around our community
- Find a volunteer activity you can participate in as a match
- Make a list of everything you are thankful for
- String popcorn and put it on trees in your yard. The birds will thank you
- Borrow holiday movies from the library and watch together
- Try to guess when we will have our first snow
- Take a camera to the park and take pictures of the changing seasons
- Bake a pumpkin pie
- Is your Little in a holiday program at school? Check out the show!
- Jigsaw puzzles and board games are a nice change from video games



Big Brothers & Sisters T-shirts

We still have some BB&S t-shirts left from the Balloon A-Fair parade. They are lime green with our logo over the heart. The back features our website address and the "Start Something" tagline.

Shirts are \$10. Call for sizes if you are interested.

Thank you...to BB Stephen Laird for donating KSU football tickets for matches to use.

LOL! Thanksgiving Jokes to Tell Your Big!

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? The outside!

Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? Yes. Buildings can't jump at all!

What type of music did the pilgrims like? Plymouth Rock!

Why did the Pilgrims eat turkey at Thanksgiving? Because they couldn't fit the moose in the oven!

What always comes at the end of Thanksgiving? The letter "G" !

**Happy
Birthday...**

November

LS Lainya
LS Makayla
LS Rebecca
LS Sarah
LB Michael
BS Erika
BS Kristin
BB Bob
BB David
BB Frank
BB George

December

LS Ausha
LB Eric
LB Christian
LB Jerod
LB Tyler
BS Amy
BS Ashley
BS Liz
BB Caleb

Match Anniversaries

November

LS Ashley / BS Jane Gilliland – 3 years
LS Katelynn / BS Debbie Ross – 3 years
LS Kaitlyn / BS Rachel Carabotta – 1 year
LS Nicole / BS Jessica Mudgett – 1 year
LB Ryan / BB Corey Cecil – 1 year
LS Shayla / BS Amy Keller – 1 year

December

LB Jasper / BB Tom Collins – 2 years
LS Tristle / BS Janie Mottershead – 2 years
LB Aaron / BB Mike McClusky – 1 year
LS Elana / BS Rachel Ripepi – 1 year



Welcome New Matches!

LS AnnaBelle / BS Becky Conaway
LB Dana / BB Caleb Heller
LS Alexis / BS Antonique Dawson
LS Dallas / BS Marissa Allen
LS Jamie / BS Natalie Stahl
LB D'Ovionne / BB Sean Coffey
LS Kyrsten / BS Ashley Tatarka



Match Scoops

- Congratulations to BB Mike McClusky & his wife on the birth of their first child!
- BS Rachel Carabotta attended LS Kaitlyn's soccer game to cheer for her!
- Congratulations to BS Maureen Sweeney on her recent marriage!
LS Jessica was excited to be in the wedding.
- BB Joe Boxler attended LB Chris' football game.



101 Fun Ideas from the *Mentoring Answer Book*

6. Keep a journal of your relationship. Share entries you both have made on an occasional basis.
7. Instruct your Little on telephone etiquette and the use of emergency phone numbers.
8. Plant a vegetable or flower garden together.
9. Go grocery shopping together.
10. Teach yard maintenance, i.e. cutting grass, raking, seeding, fertilizing.
11. Help your Little check for jobs in the newspaper or neighborhood.
12. Research career choices or colleges together.
13. Take your Little to local concerts, recitals, school plays, parades, etc.
14. Teach your Little to read a recipe, use measuring utensils, read a thermometer.
15. Introduce your Little to new foods and tastes - make a special meal, favorite recipe, try different ethnic foods, eat at a nice restaurant.



Wish List

Please call our office at 30.296.6655 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	event tickets	activity funding	Newsletter sponsorship
postage stamps	gift cards	computer funding	become a special event sponsor

Sponsor a match for a month - \$75.00. Start Something.

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 Wilkinson



Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County
705 Oakwood St.
Suite 103
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P 330.296.6655
F 330.296.6766
www.bbsportage.org



"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
- Vehicle will be towed free of charge, usually within 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.***

Start Something. Call today