



NEWSLETTER

March/April 2010

Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County

A program of
Family & Community Services

**103 children matched with mentors. Over 90 children waiting. You can help.
Volunteer or donate today. Call 330.296.6655 or visit www.bbspportage.org**

Bowl for Kids' Sake 2010

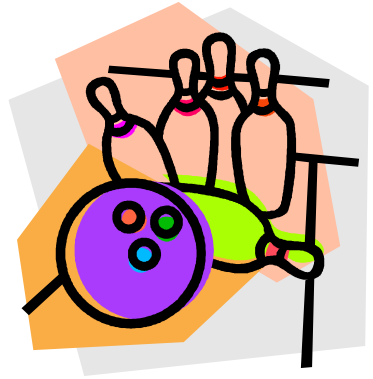
BFKS 2010 will be held on

Saturday March 6, at 2:00 & 3:30p.m.

and will be hosted by AMF Twin Star Lanes in Kent.

There will be bowling, food, door prizes & rewards everyone can earn by collecting donations to help support Big Brothers & Sisters.

Call today! Lanes are still available!



Thank you to all of the companies and individuals who sponsored Bowl for Kids' Sake 2010:

Automatic Data Processing, Inc.
American Legion Post #331
Buckeye Community Health Plan
Chad Murdock, Attorney at Law
ComDoc

Dillon Realty
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #70
HALL-GREEN AGENCY, INC.
HARTONG ELECTRIC INC.
Humana Insurance
Kiwanis Club of Kent, OH
Martin & Dana Sceeny

Michael Pfahl, Esq.
Midway Auto
PARTA
Patrick Inc.
Paul E. Huchok, CPA
Penney's Auto Body, Inc.
Portage Community Bank
Primal Screen, Inc
Rick Kuntz Trucking, Inc.
TMC INSURANCE GROUP
VFW Post 1055
Water Street Tavern

We also want to thank:

- ◆ AMF Twin Star Lanes for hosting the event.
- ◆ Guys Pizza Company for donating the pizza
- ◆ www.ProPartyDJ.com for providing entertainment.

Do you want to support BB&S but you are not available to bowl on March 6?

You can still help by donating to Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Send your donation to our office and help us reach our fundraising goal.

All money raised through BFKS stays in Portage County to help the children who live in our community.

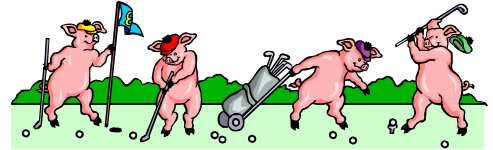
THANK YOU TO...

- ◆ Sisler McFawn Foundation and Ravenna United Fund for grants that will allow us to provide services to 10 children for a year.
- ◆ Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet for donating tickets to their March 13 & 14 performances.

It is our belief that one caring volunteer can have a positive impact on a child's future.

To Do...

The "To Do" list for this issue of the Newsletter is compliments of Julie Arnold, one of our match specialists. Thanks Julie!



- ◆ April 5th is the Masters Tournament. Play Wii golf together, find an indoor driving range to practice your swings, or Summit Mall offers Lunar Golf! (An indoor glow-in-the-dark putt putt golf green).
- ◆ April 22nd is Earth Day! Plant a tree, plant flowers, pick-up garbage at a local park. See area events for celebrations with an educational purpose. Area zoos and libraries are great resources.
- ◆ Explore Disney's Family Fun website for crafts, games, kid-friendly recipes, etc. www.familyfun.com
- ◆ May 5th is Cinco de Mayo. What a great excuse to explore the produce department. Try making homemade salsa and/or guacamole. Baking pita bread that's been brushed with olive oil and sprinkled with salt, makes great chips! How about Mexican music from the library paired with Taco Bell? For those of you who know Spanish, this is a great time to share what you know.



- ◆ May 30 is the Indianapolis 500. Make it fun, by renting the Pixar film: Cars. Go check out new sports cars on the dealer lots. Put together a simple model that you could design together. Wash the car and go to a drive-in restaurant for shakes and fries.

- ◆ Anything simple can be made into a theme night, packed with fun possibilities!

Welcome New Matches

LS Dallas / BS Nicole Milburn
LS Jennifer / BS Molly Finneran
LB Kory / BB Alex Hopkins
LS Ciara / BS Amanda Cross
LS Mercedes / BS Michaela-lynn Stone
LB Marco / BB Cody Alfien
LS Kari / BS Bridget Mahoney
LB Jacob / BB Danesh Bansal



Activities Update

Our Brown Bag Game Night was a success! Even after being postponed for a week due to snow, seven matches attended. Everyone played board games, ate their brown bag meals and enjoyed each others company. This was a great opportunity for matches to meet other matches and also get to know the match support staff. And thanks to the match support staff – Lauren, Julie and Grace - for planning the event.



Wish List

Our Wish List is made up of items we need 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.

- ◆ Desk chair with wheels; without arms
- ◆ New computers
- ◆ Funding for program software
- ◆ Copy paper
- ◆ Postage Stamps
- ◆ Free tickets to places & events for our matches to use



Upcoming Activities

We are working on some fun match activities for this spring so be sure to watch your email for updates. You can also call your match support caseworker to find out what is planned.

If you have ideas about activities we could consider for the future, please let us know!



Happy Birthday...

March

LS Courtney
LS Eva
LS Jamie
LS Kaitlynn
LS Katelyn
LS Marilyn
LS Nicole
LB Anthony
LB CJ
LB Jesse
LB Marco
LB Noah
LB Zack
BS Bonnie
BS Elizabeth
BS Marta
BS Megan
BS Tara
BB Alex
BB Greg

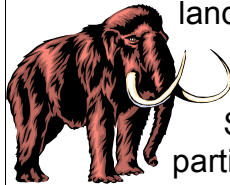
April

LS Angel
LS Ashlynn
LS Dallas
LS Darnasia
LS Darnisha
LS Michelle
LB Chris
LB Eric
LB Joe
BS Alana
BS Danielle
BS Jada
BS Lindsay
BS Michaela-lynn
BB Chip
BB Dan
BB Logan
BB Scott

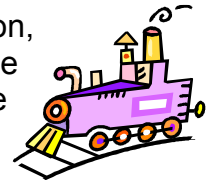


Road Trip ~ William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum And the Hoover-Price Planetarium

Just a short drive away in Canton, this museum offers something for everyone. Discover World is a hands-on interactive science center; travel back to the time of dinosaurs at Natural History Island; visit animal friends at Ecology Island and capture your shadow in Space Station Earth.



See the authentic mastodon skeleton, participate in a simulated fossil dig, slide down a real fire pole! And don't miss the model train layout.



Then you can travel to outer space without leaving the ground at the museum's 65 seat Hoover-Price Planetarium.

Hours are Monday - Saturday, 9am - 4pm, Sunday, 12 - 4pm

For more information:
<http://www.mckinleymuseum.org/>



Match Anniversaries

March

LB Rico / BB John Maffitt – 10 years
LB Aaron / BB Scott Burmeister – 1 year
LS Desirae / BS Joy Loper – 1 year
LS Mariah / BS Tiffani Scalzo – 1 year
LS Mary / BS Alana Boone – 1 year
LS Shelby / BS Jennifer Boling – 1 year
LS Summer / BS Danielle Gatka – 1 year



April

LS Alexis / BS Jada Holley – 3 yrs
LS Brittany / BS Norma Ellis – 3 yrs
LB Lyvonne / BB Bob Taylor – 3 yrs
LS Cassie / BS Tara Christensen – 1 year



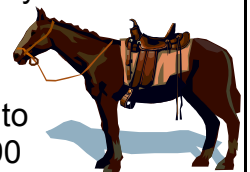
Look Who's Waiting...for You?



This nine year old Little Sister lives in Deerfield. She is a talkative and friendly little girl who loves horses, nature and reading. She would like to learn to sew.

She is in third grade & does very well with school work.

Would you like to learn more about being a Big Sister to this child? Or volunteering to spend 12 hours a month with one of the 90 children on our waiting list? If so, just give us a call or check out our website.



Be a friend. Be a mentor. Just be there.

Email Newsletter

Help us save money on postage and paper by signing up to receive your Newsletter through email. Just send an email to info@bbsportage.org. Your Newsletter will arrive sooner and in color!

Do You Have News?

- LB Liam and his BB Ryan Melin have been having fun making movies!
- LB Rico and BB John Maffitt have been matched for 10 years! Congratulations to both!





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

"Car for Kids" helps to raise funds for Big Brothers & Sisters One-to-One Mentoring program.

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, 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

Program Manager

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Deb Ferrell

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Julie Arnold

Grace Ford



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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***