



NEWSLETTER

November/December 2009

Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County

A program of
Family & Community Services

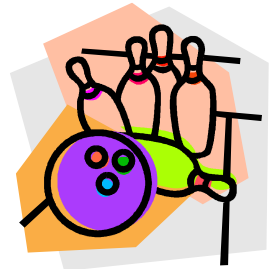
100 children matched with mentors. Over 91 children waiting. You can help. Volunteer or donate today. Call 330.296.6655 or visit www.bbspportage.org

Bowl for Kids' Sake 2010

BFKS 2010 will be held on Saturday March 6, at 1:00 p.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.

Mark your calendar now!



Our 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.



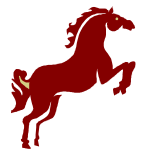
- Monetary donations to help sponsor match activities
- A sponsor for our Newsletter
 - Wrapped candy to give away at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
 - Copy paper
 - Postage Stamps
 - Free tickets to places and events for our Bigs and Littles to use



Look Who's Waiting...for You?



- This 8 year old boy lives in Ravenna with his mom. He is very friendly and talkative. He loves animals and loves building with Legos. He likes to ride his bike and play games.
- This little girl is 10 years old and lives in Diamond with her mom. She is very sweet. She likes to do art projects, cook, swim and ride horses.
- Brimfield is the home of this 8 year old boy living with his grandparents. He likes to be outside and will try any activity. He is very excited about getting a Big Brother.
- Quiet but friendly describes this 10 year old girl living in Streetsboro with her grandparents. She loves animals and prefers indoor activities like bowling and craft projects.



Do you have 12 hours a month to volunteer as a Big Brother or Big Sister to one of these children? If you would like more information about our program please check our website at www.bbspportage.org or call us at 330.296.6655. The children are waiting to meet you.



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



Pizza Shop Tour & Free Pizza

If you like pizza, you won't want to miss our November match activity. We will be touring Domino's Pizza in Ravenna. After the tour, everyone will get to make their own pizza!

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 10:00 am at
Dominos Pizza in Ravenna, 302 E. Main St.



You must RSVP to the
BB&S office by Thursday,
November 12, if you plan
to attend.



To Do...

- Visit the KSU Fashion Museum
- Visit a pet store
- Go ice skating at KSU
- Play a board game
- Give each other a manicure
- Make holiday cards for a nursing home
- Sign up to ring the bell for Salvation Army
- Practice random acts of kindness
- Work on homework
- Get a book from the library & do science experiments
- Take your Little to visit where you work



Volunteer Idea Exchange and Information Sessions

Is there a topic you would like to learn about that would help you help your Little? Something that would help your match move to the next level? Maybe something you and your Little would both like to learn about? Or maybe you would just like a chance to meet with other Bigs and find out what they are doing.

We are currently putting together a schedule of just such meetings that will begin in January. If you have ideas for speakers (ADHD, communication skills), learning sessions with your Little (crocheting, fishing skills, make up application) or have certain days or times you would like to attend, please let us know.. We hope to start offering the sessions in January and want them to be something you want to attend at a time that works for you! Call your match support specialist with your ideas.

Activities Update

- Several matches enjoyed BB&S day at the KSU football game. The Bigs & Littles had a chance to go on the field during warm ups and between the 3rd and 4th quarter, meet the players & of course enjoy watching the Golden Flashes play.
- Over 30 people went to the Kingsway Pumpkin Farm. Everyone had a blast choosing pumpkins and conquering the corn maze!
- Check out the activities in this issue of our Newsletter & join us for some of the fun!

Join
us!



Facebook Guidelines for Bigs

Social media sites, such as Facebook and MySpace, do not prevent the viewing of information and pictures from non-friendly/uninviting people. As a "Big," you need to protect the privacy of your "Little" by not putting forward any personal information, including pictures, full name, where they live, or descriptions of their personal or family background that could be identifying or disrespectful.

Since child safety is the most important priority for Big Brothers Big Sisters, do not release any personal information of your Little on Facebook or other social networking sites or post any pictures of them without permission from their parental supervisor in the form of a parental release form. You can request a form from our office. The signed form needs to be returned to us to be placed in your case file. Bigs should never post pictures of their Littles or discuss specific match details without first discussing with the Match Support Specialist.

Happy Birthday to...

November

LS Ashley
LS Hannah
LS Sarah
LB Michael
LB Sean
BS Allison
BS Ashley
BS Erika
BS Keena
BS Keri
BS Kristin
BS Krystal
BS Tiffani
BB Bob
BB David
BB Frank



December

LS Ausha
LS Brooklyn
LS Kali
LS Maya
LS Ty-lyn
LB Christian
LB Eric
LB Liam
LB Tony
BS Ashley
BS Holly
BS Liz
BB Craig



Welcome New Matches

LS Ausha / BS LaKeisha Jarmon
LS Brittany / BS Molly Finneran
LS Courtney / BS Lindsay Rinehart
LS Kayleigh / BS Krystal Hiehle
LS Darnasia / BS April Bachtel
LB Zack / BB Jem Laurel
LS Nichole / BS Alexa Saracco
LB Tyler / BB Chris Childs
LB Michael / BB Josh Sells
LS Darnisha / BS Ashley Rudyk
LS Hannah / BS Stephanie Moran
LS Rachael / BS Debbie Drago
LS Kaitlynn / BS Tammy Fox
LS Endiyah / BS Jena' Paisley



2-for-1 Updates

We are working on adding new places to our 2-for-1 list. Additions will be posted on the website as soon as we have them so be sure to keep checking.

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.

Thank You to...

- BB Stephan Laird for recruiting 2 new Big Brothers.
- Advanced Display Systems for donating magnetic signs to the agency.
- Burton & Bonnie Jones for donating "Flashback to the Fifties" tickets.



Match Anniversaries

November

LS Sarah / BS Donna Dauber – 11 years
LB Dominick / BB Barry Stump – 3 years
LS Angienette / BS Stacy Hilinski – 1 year
LS Ashley / BS Jane Gilliland – 1 year
LB Anthony / BB James Mastriana – 1 year
LB David / BB Dan Lintz – 1 year
LS Katelynn / BS Debbie Ross – 1 year
LB Kyrin / BB Matt Ankerman – 1 year
LS Nicole / BS Nicole Endejann – 1 year
LS Sarah / BS Brittany Parker – 1 year
LB Trevor / BB Bruce Saxe – 1 year

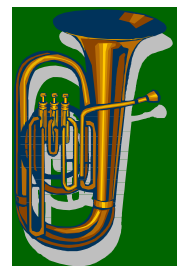
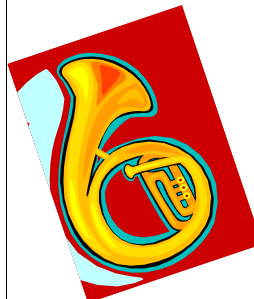
December

LB Jesse / CM Allison & Jeff Bockmuller – 3 years
LS Aelyssa / BS Holly Stefanoff – 1 year
LB Eric / BB Andrew Thornton – 1 year
LB Kyle / BB Patrick Impiccini – 1 year

Road Trip ~ Tuba Christmas!

Akron's beloved holiday tradition celebrates its 30th year! A gift to the community from The University of Akron School of Music and E.J. Thomas Hall, TubaChristmas combines hundreds of tubas - many festively adorned with tinsel, garlands and lights - and sing a longs in a beautiful setting.

The event is free. It will be held on Saturday, December 19 at 2:30 pm at EJ Thomas Hall on the University of Akron campus.



Annual Volunteer Appreciation & Holiday Dinner... All Bigs & Littles will soon receive invitations to our annual Volunteer Appreciation & Holiday Dinner.

Mark your calendar now for Sat., Dec. 12, at 6:00pm & remember to RSVP to the BB&S office when you receive your invitation. This event is a lot of fun & we don't want anyone to miss it!

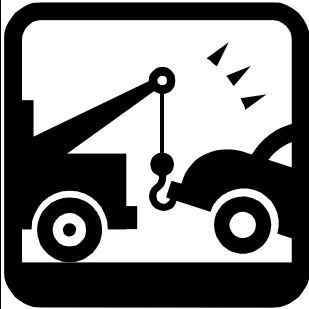
Cars for Kids

We'll take your clunker!

"Cars 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 claim a tax deduction for making a charitable donation



Program Manager

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Support Big Brothers & Sisters

Shop Fabulous Finds Thrift Superstore



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

- 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

