



NEWSLETTER

September/October 2009

Big Brothers & Sisters
of Portage County

A program of
Family & Community Services

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



13th Annual Charity Golf Scramble & Auction— Success!

Even though the weather didn't cooperate and we almost needed boats instead of golf carts, this year our golf outing raised over \$18,000 for our one-to-one mentoring program! Thanks to everyone who helped make this event successful - sponsors, golfers, volunteers and the golf committee. Check out our website to see the program from the event.

Wish List

The Wish List is made up of items the program 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.

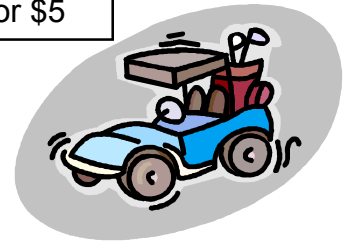
- Copy paper — white and colors
- Postage Stamps
- Gift cards to office supply stores
- Donations to help pay for group activities
- Free tickets to places & events for our Bigs & Littles



5th Annual “Double Trouble” Golf Outing Benefiting Big Brothers & Sisters of Portage County

- 4 Man scramble
- Suffield Springs
- Sunday, Sept. 13th
- Register by 12:00; Tee Off 12:30
- \$75 per person -
Includes 18 holes w/cart, lunch, dinner, keg beer and hole prizes

- Optional “Skins” for \$20/team
- Raffle drawing - tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5



To secure your spot contact Duane Rutherford (330-459-8506) or Mike Sossa (330-626-3586) or email dasosman@aol.com

Look Who's Waiting...for You?

We currently have boys & girls, ages 6-17, all over Portage County, waiting for a volunteer.

These are children who enjoy all different kinds of activities and have many different interests - sports, crafts, cooking, cars, animals, books, computers, games, indoors and outdoors.

These are children who need a caring adult friend involved in their lives. These are children who need someone just like you!



And what do you gain from this experience? The feeling of seeing a child smile because he is happy to see you. The chance to give something back to your community. A good reason to stop and have some fun for a few hours each month.



All we ask is that you commit to 12 hours per month for one year. Come on. You can do this. Call today or go to our website and fill out the form. We will be happy to hear from you! The children will be glad you called. And so will you.

Call 330.296.6655 or visit www.bbspportage.org.



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



Join Us to Visit a Pumpkin Farm & Corn Maze!

All matches are invited to join BB&S for a visit to the Kingsway Pumpkin Farm. Bigs & Littles will receive free admittance which will include a hayride to the pumpkin patch to pick out a pumpkin (cost of pumpkin is extra), mini maze, large corn maze, petting zoo, play ground and straw tunnel.

Concessions & animal feed (and the pumpkins) will be available at an extra cost for those who wish to purchase them.



You must RSVP to the Big Brothers & Sisters office by Sept. 29th if you plan to attend.

Kingsway Pumpkin Farm is located in Hartville. For directions go to www.kingswaypumpkinfarm.com or call our office. Hope to see you there!



BrimFest Help Needed!

We will have an information table set up at the Brimfield Festival, BrimFest, on Sept. 17-20. We hope to recruit new Big Brother & Big Sister volunteers and we need help!

We are asking Bigs & Littles, as well as anyone else who can volunteer, to staff the table for an hour or two. You would be answering questions about Big Brothers & Sisters. What a great way for matches to volunteer together!

Before or after your shift, you can enjoy all the fun BrimFest has to offer—food, rides, vendor booths, bake off, chili cook off and a pet show. You might even want to enter one of the contests. Go to <http://www.brimfieldchamber.com/brimfest09.htm>

for entry forms.

And please! Call the BB&S office to sign up for a shift and help us recruit more volunteers for our waiting Littles.

Big Brothers & Sisters Day at the KSU Football Game

On September 19, at 7 p.m., Kent State will host Iowa State and will recognize the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the surrounding counties at the game. Big Brothers Big Sisters programs will be recognized between the third and fourth quarter and on the scoreboard.



The Matches will be able to interact with some of the student-athletes, and get on the field before the game.

A space to set up an information table will be provided at the game so we can pass out literature and recruit volunteers.



Matches need to call the BB&S office to sign up for the game. We will also need volunteers to staff the info table.

We will pass on additional information as it becomes available.

Ride in the KSU Homecoming Parade

BB&S will have a convertible in the KSU Homecoming parade to help recruit volunteers. One match will be able to ride in the convertible and wave to the crowd.

The parade is on Sat., Oct. 10, at 10:00 am. Participants need to arrive by 9:00am.

If your match is interested, call us by Oct. 1. We will have a drawing to choose the lucky match.

The convertible is owned and will be driven by our long time advisory board member, Paul Huchok.



To Do...

- Make caramel apples
- Go to a high school football game
- Sign up for all of the BB&S activities
- Rent a scary movie in honor of Halloween
- Cook dinner together
- Go on a hike
- Check the BB&S website for things to do
- Bake cookies
- Carve pumpkins
- Check out free programs at the library



Happy Birthday to...

September

LS Aelyssa
LS Angienett
LS Cassie
LS Madison
LS Mercedes
LS Summer
LS Tyshina
LB Colton
LB Dana
LB Dion
LB Ryan
BS Debbie
BS Megan
BS Sara
BS Teresa
BB Andy
BB Allyn
BB Brent
BB Justin
BB Patrick
BB Ryan
BB Scott



October

LS Aajah
LS Angelina
LS Endiyah
LS Emma
LS Kyrin
LS Shayla
LB David
LB Marcus
LB LyVonne
LB Mason
LB Michael
BS Christine
BS Elizabeth
BS Megan
BB Dan
BB Mike
BB Preston
BB Ray
BB Sean
BB Tim



Match Anniversaries

September

BS Rachel Aemmer / LS Samantha – 5 years
BS Megan Petruzzi / LS Ashley – 5 years
BB Sean Scahill / LB Ryan – 4 years
BS Lara Kocerka / LS Elena – 3 years
BS Mary Brodland / LS Alexis – 2 years
BS Elizabeth Busnick / LS Jada – 1 year
BB Phil Garcia / LB Brandon – 1 year
BB Zachary Wilson / LB Gil – 1 year

October

BB George & Matt Gaumer / LB Jesse – 8 years
BS Amy Boyd / LS Kali – 5 years
BS Sarah Hans / LS Merissa – 3 years
BB Logan Jennings / LB Marcus – 2 years
BS Tara Gustwiller / LS Cloey – 1 year
BB Collin DeMeritt / LB Jonathan – 1 year
BB Justin Bednarz / LB Zachary – 1 year
BB Chip Henry / LB Michael – 1 year

Welcome New Matches

LS Maya / BS Jen Inman
LB Sean / BB Brad Woods
LB Liam / BB Ryan Melin
LS Tiana / BS Erika McCune
LS Jamie / BS Elizabeth Bing
LS Kimberly / BS Ally Talbott
LS Angel / BS Ashley Simmons
LS Nicole / BS Jamie Wilson
LB Joe / BB Frank Kurtz
LS Mercedes / BS Kari Sansone
LS Seaira / BS Liz Moore
LS JoVawn / BS Keena Cephas
LB Dana / BB Mike Marcotte



Say "Hello"...

...to two new staff members who come to us through the Americorp program.

Linda Umbayemake is doing volunteer recruitment & Julie Arnold is a match support specialist. Both will be with BB&S for one year.

Call or stop by & say "hi".

Say "Goodbye" & Good Luck

Bridget Arble, our summer intern, completed her time with us and graduated from Kent State this month.

We wish Bridget all kinds of good luck in her future.

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...



- The Portage County Charity Horseshow for donating tickets.
- Tim Patrick and Dave Scott for donating Indians and Browns tickets.

2-for-1 Update

All matches can use their 2-for-1 card at KSU home football games this season. Just present your card when you purchase your ticket and your Little will get a free ticket!



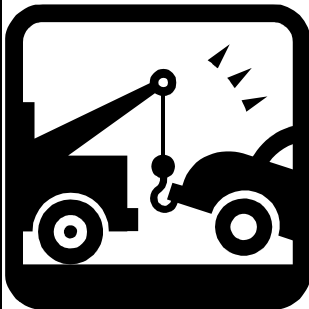
Cars for Kids

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

Andrea Neidert

Office Manager

Deb Ferrell

Match Support

Lauren Cieslak

Julie Arnold

Cale McCallion

Volunteer Recruitment

Linda Umbayemake



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