



# NEWSLETTER

**Big Brothers & Sisters  
of Portage County**

*A program of  
Family & Community Services*

September / October 2011

**61 children matched with adult volunteers. 84 children are waiting.**

**Start Something. Volunteer or donate today.**

**Call 330.296.6655 or visit [www.bbspportage.org](http://www.bbspportage.org)**



## ***Fall Volunteer Recruitment Campaign***

**What if every child fulfills their potential? Think how amazing that would be.**

By becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister volunteer you can help a child discover his potential and encourage him to reach for it; in school, in sports, in life.

Big Brothers & Sisters is not your typical organization. We help children realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities. And we couldn't do any of it without you.

As a volunteer you make a one year commitment to see your "Little" three or four times a month.. The screening interview includes an opportunity for you to tell us the type of child you would enjoy spending time with, as well as the types of activities you enjoy. That makes it easier for us to make a match where both of you are having fun.

We want you to spend your time, not your money, so we provide ideas and information for free activities, discounts to local businesses, free donated tickets and free group activities.

We have over 80 children waiting all over Portage County. Call our office today at 330-296-6655 or visit our website: [www.bbspportage.org](http://www.bbspportage.org). **Start Something!**

## ***Join Big Brothers & Sisters Advisory Board***

We are currently taking applications from people who are interested in joining our Advisory Board.

- Advisory Board meets at 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of each month.
- Board members are responsible for assisting with fund development, special event fundraisers and volunteer recruitment

If you would like to find out more about joining our Advisory Board and helping the children of Portage County, please call Andrea at 330.296.6655.

## ***Wish List***

Please call our office at 330-296-6655 if you can donate:

office supplies

event tickets

computer funding

postage stamps

gift cards

activity funding

Newsletter sponsorship

funding for holiday event



## Fall Match Activities

We will be marching in the Balloon A-Fair parade on Saturday, Sept. 17. Everyone is welcome to join us. We have a few extra BB&S shirts, first come first served, if you didn't RSVP. When we run out of those we will give out BFKS shirts. You still need to call and sign up so you receive the information about where to meet for the parade.



Katie is working on an outdoor activity for October but no final details yet. Be sure to watch your email and do your check ins so you can find out about the fun she has planned!

Are you interested in football tickets? If you would like to attend a Browns or KSU football game, contact us to get your name on the list. Then when tickets are donated and it is your turn, we'll give you a call.



### To Do...

- Sign up for the free e-newsletter, Ohio Traveler; free and inexpensive activities [www.ohiotraveler.com](http://www.ohiotraveler.com)
- Seasonal activities - pumpkins, cider, Halloween costumes, leaf raking
- High school football games
- High school volleyball games
- Hiking & biking
- Attend your Little's school open house
- Bake cookies
- Cheer your favorite team on TV



## Portage Park District 2011 Wild Hikes Challenge!

The Portage Park District is pleased to present the "Wild Hikes Challenge," a program designed to encourage healthy recreation in our parks and trails.

Just walk, hike, skip, jog or run on eight great trails before December 1st to earn your "2011 Wild Hikes" tag. First year hikers will earn a beautiful, locally sourced, volunteer produced hiking staff.

Go to [www.portageparkdistrict.org](http://www.portageparkdistrict.org) to print your sign up form and get information on the trails.

Let us know if you are participating & when you complete your 8 hikes!



## BAM! Body and Mind

*BAM! Body and Mind* is an online destination for kids created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Designed for kids 9-13 years old, BAM! Body and Mind gives them the information they need to make healthy lifestyle choices. The site focuses on topics that kids say are important to them — such as stress and physical fitness — using kid-friendly lingo, games, quizzes, and other interactive features.

Some highlights of the site include:

- KABAM, a comic creator that allows kids to resolve conflicts and stressful situations with the help of the cartoon BAM Bunch
- An exercise personality quiz that results in a custom activity list for each user



This would be a great site to check out with your Littles who are in the age range.

## Training CDs

If your Little is 9 -13 years old, we have a new resource for you. A class at KSU created training/ information modules to be used by Bigs & Littles together. The modules cover many different topics including nutrition, money and self image. The sessions are computer based and interactive.

You will soon receive a flyer with more information about the topics and how you can access the modules to use with your Little. Please feel free to call your match support person if you have any questions after receiving the flyer. We encourage everyone to make use of this new resource.

This fall the class is working on training modules for the younger Littles. Those will be available in January.

## Match Anniversaries

### September

LB Ryan / BB Sean Scahill – 6 years  
 LS Seaira / BS Liz Moore – 2 years  
 LB Zack / BB Jemel Laurel – 2 years  
 LS Phoebe / BS Lauren Caris – 1 year  
 LB Toby / BB Ron Smith & BS Emily Allen – 1 yr

### October

LS Kaitlynn / BS Tammy Fox – 2 years  
 LS Michael / BB Joshua Sells – 2 years  
 LS Gabrielle / BS Elisabeth Olmstead – 1 year  
 LS Kari / BS Nicole Dunn – 1 year  
 LS Tyshina / BS Stacey Heitkamp – 1 year  
 LB Tyler / BB Jeffrey Goodlet – 1 year

## Happy Birthday to...

### September

LS Angienett  
 LS Dominique  
 LS Gabrielle  
 LS Mercedes  
 LS Tyshina  
 LS Tristle  
 LB Dana  
 LB Dion  
 LB Michael  
 LB Ryan  
 BS Antonique  
 BS Debbie  
 BS Katie  
 BS Sara  
 BS Virginia  
 BB Cody  
 BB Jem

### October

LS Haven  
 LS Rachael  
 LS Shayla  
 LB Jagger  
 LB LyVonne  
 LB Michael  
 BS Christine  
 BS Elisabeth  
 BS Tammy  
 BB Mike  
 BB Preston

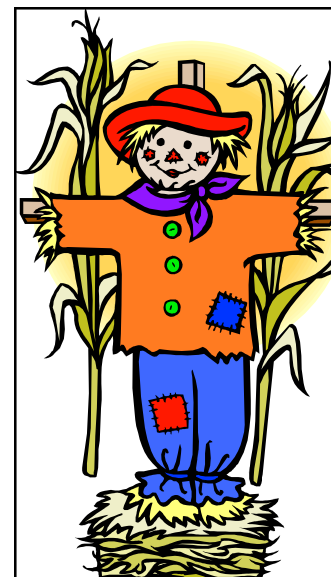


## Welcome New Matches!

LS Chontea / BS Kristen Toth  
 LS Angelicqa/ BS Diamond Towns  
 LS Ashley / BS Halle Kulka  
 LB Brandon / BB Joe Durbin

## Match Scoops

- LS Kimberly and BS Ally Talbott are taking a ballet class together.
- Congratulations to BS Lauren Caris and BB Jeff Goodlet who were married in July.
- LB Aaron got a surprise at his birthday party when BB Mike McClusky showed up!
- LS Jeri & BS Olivia Schroll saw the *Smurfs* movie.



## 101 Fun Ideas from the *Mentoring Answer Book*

1. Start a collection of: stamps, rocks, shells, baseball cards, butterflies, stickers, buttons, coins, etc.
2. Teach your Little any special skills you might have: sewing, photography, carpentry, knitting, playing a musical instrument
3. Work on a special craft project together; use it as a holiday gift
4. Make homemade play dough, string beads and take turns painting faces
5. Offer to help your Little make something special for his room; a wall hanging, framed picture, wood project, models, arts & crafts



## "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***

#### Program Manager

Andrea Neidert

#### Office Manager

Deb Ferrell

#### Match Support

Katie Heavner  
Katie Wilkinson



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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***