

Little Moments...BIG Magic

A Newsletter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County
January, 2009

CAN YOU CHANGE THESE NUMBERS?

161 CHILDREN ARE READY & WAITING TO BE MATCHED!

223 DAYS PASS ON AVERAGE BEFORE A CHILD IS MATCHED

41 NEW MATCHES MADE PER MONTH ON AVERAGE

59 NEW INQUIRIES FROM PARENTS PER MONTH



Sometimes numbers just don't add up. For instance, how can we hope to serve all of the children in Butler County who need a mentor when people aren't ready to volunteer? The numbers above tell a story. In the last three months we have seen a 56% increase in the number of children being referred to us. I wish that I could tell you that we have seen a similar increase in the number of folks calling in to volunteer, but we haven't.

It is time for all of us to step forward and "be the change". We all want the world to be a better place; we want kids to be happy; we want everyone to have the opportunities necessary for success. What is really unique about mentoring is that you can make all of those things happen and help yourself in the process. It is fun to see a child grow up. It is a joy to see how excited they get when they see you. It feels good to volunteer. Your heart might even grow! If we all took a small amount of our time and gave it to a child, the world would be a far better place.

We have many different mentoring options—we like to say that we have as many options as we have volunteers. We know that everyone is busy and has time constraints. If it means that we can put a caring adult into a child's life then we will find a way to make it work! **Call TODAY to volunteer—867-1227 or 424-3397 or email shana.rollins@bbbs.org.**

"We need your service. Right now, in this moment-our moment-in history. I'm not going to tell you what your role should be; that's for you to discover. But I am going to ask you to play your part; ask you to stand up; ask you to put your foot firmly into the current of history." President Barack Obama

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Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Butler County

"In the Heart of the County!"

5539 Eureka Drive, Hamilton, OH 45011

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Phone: (513) 424-3397

Fax: (513) 867-1489

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Funded in part by the BC Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board, BC Dept. of Job and Family Services, Butler County Success, BC Juvenile Court, US Dept. of HHS, US Dept. of Education and the United Ways of Butler County, Greater Cincinnati and Oxford and Vicinity

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

Join us for fun and games, all across the county, as we raise money to help fund Big Brothers Big Sisters.

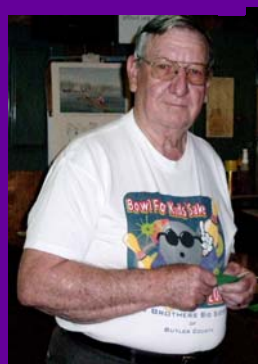
It is soooooo simple!

Ask a few friends to get together to form a team, each of you ask friends and family to sponsor you, and then once you have raised at least \$50/ person, come to one of the Community Days and BOWL for KIDS' SAKE!!

∞ The more money you raise, the more kids we can match with Big Brothers and Sisters! ∞

For more info or to register a team, call Jennifer @ 867-1227 or 424-3397. You can also email her @ jennifer.gilmartin@bbbs.org.

GOAL : \$70,000



POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

2/28 Northwest Lanes—FAIRFIELD

COMMUNITY DAYS

3/7 Eastern Lanes-MIDDLETOWN

3/14 Northwest Lanes-FAIRFIELD

3/21 Oxford Lanes-OXFORD

3/28 Columbia Lanes-HAMILTON

Many more dates to come including a special day for car dealerships, a "wii" bowling tournament and high school challenges!!





YOU MAY HAVE WHAT WE NEED TO CREATE MAGIC!

A Wish List!

- Gas cards for volunteers
- Brightly colored paper
- Patio table and chairs
- Volunteers to serve as mentors
- Volunteers to help with activities
- Volunteers to help with fundraising
- Nice board room table to seat 18
- Board room chairs (18)
- Billboard space
- Window treatments (22)
- Black 16x20 picture frames



EFFECTS OF THE RECESSION

Several donors and volunteers have asked about how our agency is weathering the current financial situation. As a non-profit agency, we do not have large surpluses of cash to fall back on in tough times. We definitely continue to depend on our donors to continue their support of us. We have lost one government grant due to cuts in state funding. All three of our partner United Ways have announced cuts that could go as high as 12% of our current allocations. We have already made considerable cuts in our operating expenses. So far we have not had to close any programs serving children. This will continue to be our goal as we go forward.

We have chosen to have a positive approach to the situation, realizing that our service is just as necessary and vital today as it was six months ago and that there are still charitable dollars available—we may just have to hunt even more diligently for them. If you can help us in any way, please do!



Thank You!

20 WAYS TO HELP

1. Invite friends to your home to hear about BBBS
2. Have gifts be made to us in honor of your Birthday or another holiday (Valentine's Day perhaps?)
3. Give a small amount monthly via credit card
4. Ask your employer to donate
5. Register for BFKS
6. Opening a new business? Give a gift to BBBS to raise community awareness!
7. Give us names of generous people to mail to
8. Be our "word of mouth" -tell everyone you meet about BBBS
9. Fill a table with friends at our Community Lunch in May
10. Have a fundraiser for us like a yard sale, a bridge tourney
11. Ask your civic group to make a donation
12. Ask your church to sponsor a match
13. Serve on our Board
14. Give generously to UW
15. Sponsor the cost of a match
16. Have your child's school host a "Penny War" for us
17. Promote Bowl For Kids' Sake for us at your work place—challenge others
18. Nominate BBBS for an agency award
19. Ask your union to make a gift to us
20. Serve on a fund raising committee ie. BFKS

CALL:

Julie or Carolyn @ 867-1227 or 424-3397 to help!

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

At Big Brothers Big Sisters we appreciate all of the wonderful donations that we receive. In our Annual Report we recognize all of our donors. However, when we receive a donation of over \$500, we also include that gift in our newsletter. We will also list all gifts given in memory or in honor of someone.

- AK STEEL CORPORATION FOUNDATION
- AKERS PACKAGING SERVICE
- AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS FOUNDATION
- ATRIUM MEDICAL CENTER
- BAKER CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION
- BBBSA
- BEVER, ERNST
- BURNS, ROBERT in memory of TRUDY BURNS
- BUTLER COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
- CISLE, DON M
- CLARK, JIM
- COHEN, WILBUR
- CONLEY, RONALD
- COX OHIO PUBLISHING
- CROSS & ASSOCIATES
- DOEHREL, ANDREW AND JOAN in tribute to ADAM DOEHREL
- EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS
- FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- FAIRFIELD ROTARY CLUB
- FIORA, CARL
- FIRST FINANCIAL BANK
- HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- HUFSTETLER, GARY
- JONES, JUDY in tribute to ELINORE AND VERLDON CAMPBELL
- KAUP, GARY AND SARAH
- KOHL'S
- KRONE, MARK
- KRUGER, LEW
- LAMING & ROGERS
- LEXIS NEXIS
- MAGNODE CORPORATION
- MARCUM, JOSEPH
- MARCUM, STEVE
- MCDONALDS
- MEAD, IAN
- MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- MIDDLETOWN ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION
- MILLERCOORS
- MIRIAM G KNOLL CHARITABLE FUND
- MOLYNEAUX FOUNDATION DIST ACCOUNT
- MOST VALUABLE KIDS
- O'BRIEN, PAM in memory of DAVID O'BRIEN
- PARNELL, BILL K
- PAWLING, PAT AND DEBBIE
- PELLA CORPORATION ENTRY SYSTEMS DIVISON
- PEPSI COLA BOTTLING COMPANY
- PNC FOUNDATION
- POSEY PROPERTY COMPANY
- PRECISION STRIP
- PURKRABEK KNUST, SUSAN
- RINALDI, TONY in memory of MICHAEL A. RINALDI
- ROSE CHEVROLET
- SAUER, G. FRED in tribute to BRUCE JONES
- SELLECK, MIKE AND PAM
- SK CONSTRUCTION
- ST MARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- STATE FARM COMPANIES FOUNDATION
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MIDDLETOWN
- THEDERS, RICK
- TRI-STATE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT CLUB
- US BANK
- WALMART
- WEBER W AND ELMINA SEBALD FUND
- WEST CHESTER ROTARY FOUNDATION
- WINSLOW, JEFF AND CAROLYN
- WISE, DAVID
- WITTMAN, STEVE AND CAY



"In the Heart of the County"
5539 Eureka Drive
Hamilton, OH 45011



CHECK US OUT @
www.bbbsbutlercounty.com

Each year we put out a request for nominations for Big and Little of the Year. They are often very inspiring and touching. This one arrived recently and we wanted to share it with you. It is awesome!



"I would like to nominate Olivia C. for the Big Sister of the Year award. Olivia came into our life last year and has been such a blessing to our granddaughter, Kelsey. Kelsey had gone through a tumultuous time, ending up with her , her brother, and little sister being placed in the custody of her grandparents. Kelsey's mother was sent to prison and the father was not allowed to be in their life due to inappropriate actions on his part.

Being her custodial grandmother, I felt that Kelsey needed someone younger to be able to do things with and talk to. Olivia has fulfilled that requirement 200%. She sees Kelsey every week and they go outside of the house and do something special. For example, one day they went to the bike path. Olivia brought drawing paper, colored pencils and markers, and they talked and drew pictures. Olivia took Kelsey to see "Bucket List" and after the movie they went to eat at Applebee's and she and Kelsey made their own "bucket lists". Kelsey still has these in her special drawer. Olivia makes Kelsey feel so special and loved. She is a Miami University student and has taken Kelsey to Miami to hang out in her dorm and visit with her friends. This has given "going to college" a very appealing prospect and desire for Kelsey.

During the summer, even though Olivia was very busy working at a camp for disabled children, she kept in weekly contact with Kelsey. Kelsey was very guarded with people when she first came to live with us, and you could see the shield coming down after a few weeks of being with Olivia. Kelsey desperately needed someone whom she could trust and rely on, to be with her when they said they would be; this was Olivia. Olivia gave Kelsey her cell phone number and when Kelsey would get upset or just wanted to talk to someone other than me, she would call Olivia and Olivia would talk to her until she felt better. Olivia has a very busy schedule at Miami and is involved in her sorority and other activities, but still takes time out of her schedule to be with Kelsey weekly, on special occasions, and always available by phone.

I didn't know what to expect when I contacted Big Brother and Big Sisters. I hoped Kelsey would be assigned a Big Sister who would at least see her on a monthly basis. This program has far exceeded my expectations. Through Olivia, your organization has helped Kelsey get happiness and trust back into her 9 year old life. I thank God that I contacted your organization, Olivia was assigned to Kelsey, and Kelsey is regaining what she lost at such a young time in her life. You have a great organization and I thank you for your efforts."