



Big Brothers Big Sisters Big News



ROCK THE LANES 
Bowl for Kids' Sake 2011

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO BOWL, WE SALUTE YOU!

Bowl for Kids' Sake 2011 celebrates our Big Brothers Big Sisters "rock stars"; our children, families, volunteers, and community supporters. Big Brothers Big Sisters is a non-profit organization and Bowl for Kids' Sake accounts for 30% of our annual budget. Fundraisers such as Bowl for Kids' Sake help us continue our services within the community. All the money raised during the event stays right here in Fairfield County. Proceeds help us recruit, screen, and match adult volunteers with children in our community. Furthermore, the agency sponsors monthly agency activities to engage our Littles, their families, and children on the waiting list.



Rock out with friends! Teams consist of 4-5 bowlers. Each bowler recruits sponsors by asking family, friends, and co-workers to donate. Each dollar counts and no donation is too small! Every dollar raised goes to help children in *your* community. Please contact the office or visit our website at www.bbbs-fairfieldoh.org to learn more.



Maybe you don't bowl? You can still help! Consider becoming a Bowl for Kids' Sake event sponsor, prize donor, or recruit a team of bowlers from your place of employment. It doesn't matter how well you bowl; the important thing is to have fun and help youth within our community.



Bowl for Kids' Sake 2011 Dates & Times

Saturday, April 9	Tiki Lanes, Lancaster	Sessions at 12pm & 2pm
Sunday, April 10	Tiki Lanes, Lancaster	Sessions at 12pm & 2pm
Saturday April 16	Rule(3) Pickerington	Sessions at 12pm & 2pm
Sunday, April 17	Rule(3) Pickerington	Session at 2pm

March 2011

Highlights:

- Bowl for Kids' Sake
- Match of the Month
- Bigs of the Year
- Agency Activities

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Visit us on the web
www.bbbs-fairfieldoh.org



Luke and Caleb at Sanderson Elementary

Match of the Month JANUARY: Luke and Caleb

Luke and Caleb are one of our recent matches in the Lancaster School-Based program. Caleb recently lost his father to cancer and Luke was a football player on Caleb's father's team. While Luke and Caleb knew each other from the football field they have gotten to know each other on a more significant level since their match in January. Luke and Caleb meet twice a week at Caleb's school and work on schoolwork together, as well as, spend time together in gym class and the library. Caleb really likes having Luke help him with his workshop papers and Luke enjoys reading with Caleb. Caleb knows that Luke really cares about him and that makes Caleb feel good. Luke says that Caleb is easy to talk to and really fun to be around. Luke has enjoyed being a mentor and the experience of helping someone. Caleb and Luke are building a strong friendship that will have a lasting impact on both of them. Congratulations Caleb and Luke!

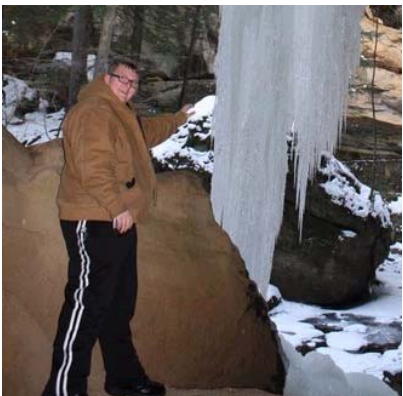
Match of the Month FEBRUARY: Luis and Marilyn



Marilyn and Luis share a smile at Tussing Elementary

Luis and Marilyn have been matched since November 5, 2009 in the Pickerington School-Based program. Once a week they meet at Luis' school to spend time together during his lunch period. They usually spend their time reading or sharing conversation. Marilyn's favorite activity to do with Luis is walk around the playground talking about school, family, birthdays, and sports. She also likes to help Luis expand his reading skills by taking turns reading books out loud to each other. Marilyn's favorite thing about having a Little Brother is that he makes her smile and he helps take away the everyday stresses of life. When Luis was asked what he liked best about having a Big Sister, he stated "Everything!" Luis explained that Marilyn has helped him improve his reading skills and become a better student overall. "Marilyn taught me to do my homework everyday" Luis said. These two have become great friends with only more good times to come in the future! Congratulations Luis and Marilyn!

Match of the Month MARCH: Jeremy and Allen



Allen poses at Old Man's Cave. Picture of Jeremy unavailable. Sorry!

Jeremy and Allen have been matched since August 2010 in the Community-Based program. Allen and Jeremy have become fast friends! When asked what he likes best about Allen, Jeremy stated, "Allen is up for anything. He has a curiosity in everything and he has a willingness to try it himself." Likewise, Allen stated, "The best thing about Jeremy is that he's nice and polite. I also have someone to go do things with, instead of just sitting at home playing on the computer all day." Allen and Jeremy's favorite activities are hiking at Old Man's Cave, playing video games, and working on computers. Allen stated that Jeremy has helped him learn about the inner workings of the computer and different software applications. When asked about how having a Little has helped him, Jeremy stated, "Generally, with full-time work and school, I end up on the couch during my free time. Allen inspires me to still have that adventurous bug that I had when I was younger." Congratulations Allen and Jeremy!

**Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year
Honored at Annual Dinner**

Big Brothers Big Sisters named the 2011 Volunteers of the Year at the Annual Dinner and Volunteer Recognition Banquet at the First Presbyterian Church on January 24th. Friends, family, and community members gathered to congratulate Big Brother of the Year, Jeremy Conley, Big Sister of the Year, Ginger Foster, and High School Big of the Year, Travis Dilley. These volunteers have gone above and beyond the call of duty in mentoring their Littles toward a brighter future. Corporate Partners of the Year, JCPenney and Old Navy, were also recognized for their unwavering support and involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Community Partner of the Year, Crestview Rehabilitation, was also acknowledged for their involvement and dedication to the Littles within our program. Thank you to all of the volunteers, board members, donors, and supporters who help make Big Brothers Big Sisters such a success. We appreciate your time, effort, and advocacy. **Pictured to the right are our Bigs and Littles of the Year**



Big Brother of the Year
Jeremy Conley and his Little Brother Matthew



Big Sister of the Year
Ginger Foster and her Little Brother Keante



High School Big of the Year
Travis Dilley and his Little Brother Nick

start something

for a child in your community. Volunteer. Donate. Advocate.

Annual Skating Party

On February 19th, Bigs and Littles skated the day away at Amanda Roller Rink. Thank you to Rick and Audrey Dellinger for sponsoring the event in memory of their Little, Frankie Westall. Everyone in attendance had a great time. We look forward to skating again next year!



Comedy Night 2011: Huge Success

It was all laughs on Saturday night, February 12th for the 2nd Annual Comedy Night Fundraiser to support Big Brothers Big Sisters. The event was held at the Fraternal Order of Eagles on East Main Street in Lancaster with over 150 people attending the evening's festivities which included live music performed by the GearHeads, a silent auction, and two nationally recognized comedians to entertain and delight the crowd. Many thanks to the silent auction donors and to the Eagles for sponsoring the event.



Calendar of Events

March 30	6pm	Annual Safety Training BBBS Office – 111 S. Broad St.
April 2	2:30pm	Easter Egg Hunt Ohio University Lancaster
April 9 & 10		Bowl for Kids' Sake <i>Tiki Bowling Alley – Lancaster</i>
April 16 & 17		Bowl for Kids' Sake <i>Rule 3 – Pickerington</i>
May		Activity to be announced
June	TBA	BBBS Annual Picnic
July		4 th of July Parade

Please call the agency if you plan to attend an event. It is very important for us to know who is coming and who is not. Thanks for your consideration.

Check out **COSI**...Littles admission is **FREE!** **Tiki Bowling**...**FREE** for Littles...**Amanda Roller Rink** offers skating on Sunday during the winter from 1:00pm-3:30pm Littles are **FREE**...Bigs cost \$3.00

Lunch n' Learn Open House

In honor of National Mentoring Month, Big Brothers Big Sisters held a Lunch n' Learn Open House on January 20th at the agency office. Mayor David Smith was in attendance to deliver a proclamation naming January as National Mentoring Month. Also, Big Brother Matt Wideman spoke about his experience as a mentor and encouraged fellow community members to volunteer. The Open House was a celebration of volunteers and community partners who dedicate their time and attention to children in our community. Thank you to Cristy's Pizza and Subway for donating food for the event.

Polar Bear Swim

The frigid temperatures were no match for the Bigs and Littles who attended the Polar Bear swim on January 16th. Littles enjoyed climbing on the rock wall, shooting hoops from the pool, and diving for pennies! Thank you to Lancaster City Schools and 5/3 bank for donating winter hats and gloves to our Littles. Everyone may have arrived cold, but they left warm! **Pictured to the right are snapshots of our swimmers.**



*******REMINDER: ANNUAL SAFETY TRAINING*******

The BBBS Annual Safety Training is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 30th, 2011 at 6pm** at the BBBS office located at 111 S. Broad St. This is a **MANDATORY** training for all volunteers. Parents and children are strongly encouraged to attend. Please RSVP by calling the office at (740) 687-9477.



Mentor Minute

Courtesy of your BBBS Caseworkers & The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota



Making the Most of Your Match

We know mentoring can be challenging at times. Sometimes you feel like you're not getting through to your Little. Rest assured, your Little is listening! Celebrate small accomplishments and wait patiently for bigger successes to follow. To help your Little get on the right path, focus on these four topics:

- ❖ **Academic Support**
 - Encourage your Little to think about life beyond high school. Help them research colleges, technical schools, or organizations they want to join.
- ❖ **Career Exploration**
 - Experience new activities with your Little. You never know where your Little will find inspiration or something they like to do. Help them find more information about a career they're interested in or arrange a job shadowing experience that both of you can attend.
- ❖ **Social Experiences**
 - Explore one another's cultural, social, and recreational backgrounds. Share with your Little what you like to do for fun and what your life is like from day to day. What you find "typical" or "run of the mill" will be fascinating to your Little.
- ❖ **Emotional Support**
 - Give your Little your full attention when you're together. Actively listen, look your Little in the eye, and show you're interested through your body language. Depending on your Little's personal life, you could be their only source of support and comfort.

Successful Bigs...

- ✓ Decide activities together with their Little
- ✓ Are reliable and consistent
- ✓ Are non-judgmental
- ✓ Have realistic expectations and goals
- ✓ Are patient
- ✓ Make their Little's safety and well-being their first priority
- ✓ Show empathy
- ✓ Are not authoritarian
- ✓ Respect their Little's feelings
- ✓ Are encouraging
- ✓ Know how to have fun!

Good Reasons to call your Caseworker:

- ✓ To share success stories
- ✓ To discuss safety concerns regarding your Little
- ✓ To get activity ideas
- ✓ To report changes in contact information or family situation
- ✓ To get encouragement and support
- ✓ To get a "refresher" on the rules and guidelines of the BBBS program
- ✓ To discuss the goals for your match
- ✓ To recruit new volunteers!

Relationships are the oxygen of human development. All young people need and deserve many adults who connect—and connect deeply—with them.

Peter L. Benson, Ph.D.
President and CEO of The Search Institute

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Big Brothers Big Sisters Endowment Fund: Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Big Brothers Big Sisters endowment fund. Planned giving is a simple way to GIVE your support to a great mentoring agency while REWARDING yourself with reduced taxes and, in some cases, additional income. Your tax deductible donation will leave a lasting tribute for years to come. There are many ways to support the Big Brothers Big Sisters Endowment Fund. Please contact the Fairfield County Foundation and your tax consultant.

Remember, every time you donate money or time to Big Brothers Big Sisters, you help change the life of a child in your community and set them on the road to success.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County, Inc.

Our Mission is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with measurable impact. **Our goal** is to provide a mentoring relationship to every child who needs and wants one, contributing to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities for all.

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Fairfield County



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