

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC.**  
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# The Big and Little Gazette

## Fall 2008



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### BACK TO SCHOOL WITH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Tiki Pool was the place to be on Aug. 5, 2008 as the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program celebrated with a Back-to-School Swim sponsored by corporate partner, American Eagle Outfitters. American Eagle provided volunteers to help out at the pool party and help to fund the activity. Children in the program came out to swim with their volunteer mentors, their families, and their friends to celebrate the closing of summer and a return to school. A key highlight of the evening was the arrival of Chelle's Angels, a local women's motorcycle club, who held fundraising events throughout the year to raise money to purchase school supplies for the children in the program. Michelle Storts and her fellow riders rolled

into the pool's patio area with saddle bags and cars full of school supplies to give away. Every child received a backpack filled with supplies to prepare them for heading back to school ready to learn. Children were also treated to pizza and snacks. Other activities to help prepare Littles for returning to school included the Back to School Shoe giveaway. Through the generous support of Walkers Shoe Center, Alpha Delta Kappa, and Charity Newsies, the agency was able to send 23 children back to school in a new pair of shoes.

**Chelle's Angels (right)** pose for a picture before distributing school supplies to 39 children in the BBBS Program. THANK YOU!



Thank you **Walker Shoe Center**. Melissa Schmelzer is pictured above with Littles trying on shoes at Walker Shoe Center on 737 E. Main Street



**43 children WAITING for a mentor to call their own special friend!**  
 Ways to become Matched

**Traditional**—matching one-on-one with a child.

**School Based Mentoring**—one-on-one match within the school setting.

**Couples Match**—A husband and wife can mentor a child together.



**Family Match:** A family can mentor a child as a group.

**Pictured right.**

Gale Barry and Stephanie Brown from **Charity Newsies** deliver shoes to BBBS agency.

**Hand in Hand We CAN make a difference!!!**



THE "BIG" RECRUIT going on NOW! See back cover for details!!! Step Up. Step Out. Become a Mentor.





## MATCH OF THE MONTH: APRIL



Judy Hug and Ashley Ross have been in a mentoring relationship for the past four year and have recently closed that match , but did not close the friendship. Ashley graduated from high school and from the Big Brothers Big Sisters program this year. **ASHLEY: Q.** What do you like best about having a Big Sister? **A.** Having someone else there for you, someone who cares for you. **Q.** What is your favorite activity that you have done together? **A.** Going to visit Judy's daughter at college. **Q.** Tell me something new you have learned from your Big Sister. **A.** I have learned not to judge people too quickly. **Q.** Do you think having a BS has helped you and how? **A.** Yes, Judy has opened my eyes to new environments, new family experiences and new backgrounds. **JUDY: Q.** What do you like best about being a Big Sister. **A.** I enjoyed sharing events and experiences Ashley over the past four years. "They keep me young" reports Judy. I enjoyed watching Ashley take on leadership roles with the Tim Horton's Camp and I also enjoyed watching her performances with the school drama and music departments. **Q.** What do you like best about Ashley? **A.** Ashley has so much in her favor. She is a tremendous young woman with several pathways unfolding before her. What I like best is her compassion and perseverance. **Q.** How has having a Little helped you? **A.** Being a Big to Ashley is an honor. I feel I was there for a lot of fun and exciting things for her when she was younger and now that she's older and I'm still delighted when she calls. Ashley has taught me about reaching beyond the limits others may set for you. Ashley has been accepted into Bowling Green State University for this fall pursuing a teaching license for Foreign Language. I have to also credit Ashley's mother, who has lovingly learned to "let go" and to allow Ashley the opportunities that take her away from home because she can see how those experiences can help her daughter become a strong, independent young woman. Ashley and Judy will remain life long friends.



## MATCH OF THE MONTH: MAY



Matt Wideman and Nathan have been matched in the School Based Program at Sherman Jr. High since last school year. Nathan will be attending the high school this year. The two will stay in touch with letter writing and emails for the next year while Matt is away for military service in Egypt.

Matt Wideman came to the rescue when Nathan's first school based mentor transferred jobs that took him out of the area midway through the school year. Matt and Nathan were matched soon after and have become fast friends. **Nathan: Q.** What do you like best about having a Big Brother? **A.** I like meeting him at school and that he helped me with my homework. **Q.** What is your favorite activity that you have done together? **A.** That's easy. Playing basketball. **Q.** Tell me something new you have learned from your Big Brother. **A.** He taught me how to shoot the basketball. **Q.** What do you like best about your Big Brother? **A.** I like that he is in the military. **Q.** Do you think having a Big Brother has helped you? **A.** Yes. Matt has taught me to do better at basketball, helped me with reading, and with getting my homework. **MATT: Q.** What do you like best about having a Little Brother? **A.** It's nice to have a young friend. **Q.** What is your favorite activity that you have done together? **A.** I have enjoyed playing basketball on my lunch hour and helping Nate with Study Island. **Q.** What do you like best about your Little? **A.** I think that he is a great kid and he has a good heart. **Q.** How has having a Little helped you? **A.** It feels good to help and guide Nathan. Besides, he helps me with my basketball shot! Nathan reported that he looks forward to being a Pen Pal with Matt while he is stationed overseas with his military unit.



## MATCH OF THE MONTH: JUNE



Joe and Angela Zamerelli with Zane (center) are matched in a family match and have been experiencing many wonderful adventures. Daughters, Aynsley and Abigail have made a new friend!

**Zane: Q.** What do you like best about having a "Big" Family Match with Angela and Joe? **A.** That I can share with them and play with them. **Q.** What is your favorite activity that you have done together? **A.** EVERYTHING! **Q.** Tell me something new you have learned from your Big? **A.** I learned to do Yo-Yo tricks at the Lancaster Festival with Joe and the family. **Q.** Do you think having a Big Family has helped you and how? **A.** Yes. I think it has helped me. I get to try a lot of different things and the Zamerelli's are fun to be with. **Angela: Q.** What do you like best about having a Little? **A.** We enjoy spending time with Zane and sharing our family with him. We enjoy exposing him to new things. **Q.** What is your favorite activity that you have done together. **A.** We attended the Lancaster Festival to see the Yo-Yo Champion show. The kids thought it was really cool. **Q.** What do you like best about your Little? **A.** He is very loving. When he walks with Joe and me he likes to take our hand. **Q.** How has having a Little helped you and your family? **A.** As a family it has helped our girls to see not everyone has the same things or the same opportunity to experience things. It shows them another side of life and helps to broaden their horizons.

## AGENCY NEWS:



### FISHING TRIP

with

### LANCASTER BINGO

Eleven boys from the waiting list and a few matched boys had the opportunity to go on a fishing trip which was organized by Mark Sells of Lancaster Bingo Supply Company. The trip was on July 19 8am-12noon. The boys each received a fishing pole and the opportunity to clean and cook the fish that they caught. This was an excel-



lent example of a PALS outing. PALS outings are designed to give children on the waiting list the opportunity to meet positive role models and experience fun events while they are waiting for a mentor of their own. Pictured above are the "fisherman". Thank you Mark and all those who volunteered for the event!!!

### Agency Annual Picnic

The agency picnic was held on June 10 at Rising Park and was sponsored by Kohls. Members of Kohls Department Store volunteered their time to help run the event. The children were treated to a picnic dinner, water balloon toss, corn hole games, face painting, and made friendship bracelets. To top off the night, ice cream was served compliments of Gypsy Joe's Ice Cream. Many thanks to everyone who made the event such a success!!! Pictured below are members of the Kohls team.



## EVENTS CALENDAR:



### Sept 6 Night at the Columbus Crew

Kickoff 7:30pm Get there, stay late! The first 2000 fans will receive team posters, plus the Columbus Zoo will be there with LIVE animals.

After the game, stay for the post-game concert.

Everything included in ticket price. Call the office to reserve tickets. Littles FREE Bigs: \$12

### Sept. 27 Hayride/Hog Roast/Cruise In

This is an event you won't want to miss. Cruise-in, Hayride, Hog Roast, games and D.J. sponsored by Crestview Rehabilitation Center and River Valley Rods and Customs. Event is FREE Food is extra. 4-8pm

### October 25 Reptile Rapture: Alley Park

Learn about cool reptiles. Craft and food provided. NO COST 1-3pm

### November: Christmas Parade

### December: Annual Christmas Party

## COMING SOON

**Big Brothers Big Sisters new website is coming soon.** Be sure to visit [www.bbbs-fairfieldoh.org](http://www.bbbs-fairfieldoh.org) after October 1st for current agency information. There will be an on-line photo gallery so you can see what's happening in the agency.

There will be information on events and happenings, an on-line question and answer link for volunteers and parents, as well as a mentor resource center. We hope that the site will be informative and useful.



### **The agency has a need for the following items:**

Event tickets for the children. Football, soccer, museum  
Rolls of postage stamps.

Digital Camera for photographing new participants

Sponsor for weekly radio show on 90.9 FM

Projector for presentations and trainings.

Sponsor for the Christmas Parade Float

Office Copier

CALL THE OFFICE TO HELP! 687-9477

### FREE

### ADMITANCE

COSI—Bigs & Littles

YMCA—free pass for Littles

Tiki Bowling—Littles Bowl free



Call your caseworker for ideas and suggestions.

HAVE FUN. HELP A CHILD. BE A MENTOR



### Project: Mentoring THE "BIG" Recruit

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County is joining forces with school districts throughout the county to better our communities one child at a time—and we need your help! Become a mentor and in just one hour a week you can change a child's life and transform our community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters School Based Mentoring Program has a mission to boost our graduation rates by helping children to develop a love of learning and to develop the assets they need to succeed in school and in life, leading to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities for all. To do it we'll need volunteers, one for each student who could benefit from having an additional adult role model in their life.

The "Big" Recruit is currently underway and recruiting volunteers to meet with a child one hour one day per week within the school setting developing a friendship with a child and working to improve academic and/or social skills. Our goal is to recruit 100 mentors by Oct. 31, 2008 for the 2008/09 School year. This is a great opportunity for individuals to connect with the community. It is also a great opportunity for your company to build internal strength and civic profile within the community. By allowing employees to spend just one hour per week as a Big Brother or Big Sister, your company will develop the workforce of the future. Plus it feels GREAT! Call today to begin the process. A child is depending on you! 687-9477

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS ENDOWMENT FUND:** Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the BBBS 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 Endowment Fund, contact the Fairfield County

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Mission: To make a positive difference in the lives of children and to assist them as they grow to achieve their highest potential so that they become confident, competent, and caring individuals.



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