



Big Brothers Big Sisters Big News



It's school time again! It's a time when children probably are excited, but maybe a little sad that summer is over. Some kids may feel nervous or a little scared on the first day of school because of all the new things: new teachers, new friends, and maybe even a new school. Luckily, these "new" worries only stick around for a little while. To celebrate the beginning of school and to help ease the back-to-school jitters, Big Brothers Big Sisters held their annual 'Back to School Swim' at Tiki Pool on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, from 8 - 11 p.m. A big splash was made by 68 Littles, 18 Bigs and 9 parents. Joining the Agency in welcoming the attendees was Chelle's Angels, a local women's motorcycle club, who worked hard at raising the money to buy, organize and provide new school supplies for over 80 children, by grade level. Their generous and well-organized contribution certainly eased the children's and parents' worries of going back to school. A BIG Thank you to Chelle's Angels for all their compassion, love and support! American Eagle also bigheartedly provided much needed volunteer time and support to pay for the pool rental, and purchase pizza and drinks for all who attended. In addition, they organized and set up the food for everyone. A BIG Thank you also to American Eagle for sharing their personal time and offering support to make this fun event possible!

In addition to the back-to-school swim and school supply give-away activities, new school shoes were graciously provided for 10 of our Littles by another local community organization, Charity-Newsies. Thanks Stephanie Brown of Snyder & Co. for organizing the shoe drive. (See picture on page 5)! We saw many smiling faces when opening up those shoe boxes! Thank you so much Charity-Newsies for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Big Brothers Big Sisters is grateful for these organizations and their devoted support for our children, in making sure that they go back to school with what they need to be successful! Thanks again!

For additional pictures, please see page 4.



September 2011

Highlights:

- Back-to-School
- Match of Month
- Annual Campaign
- Agency Activities

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www.bbbs-fairfieldoh.org



Match of the Month July: Shelbie and Linda



Shelbie & Linda at the 2011 OU-L/BBBS Easter Egg Hunt

Shelbie and Linda have been matched since June 2008 in the Community-Based program. When asked what she likes best about having Linda as a Big Sister, Shelbie explained that Linda is very nice and is always there to listen when she needs to talk. Shelbie said her favorite activity was going to the Egg Hunt with Linda, and spending time together afterwards. Shelbie said that Linda has taught her to ignore what other people say and just be herself. Linda had lots of good things to say about Shelbie as well! Linda likes having

Shelbie as her Little Sister because it gives her satisfaction with getting to watch Shelbie accomplish different things in her life. It also gives her companionship. Linda said that what she likes best about having Shelbie as her Little Sister is that she has a good heart and is a lot of fun to be with. Her favorite activity with Shelbie is when they go bowling and out to eat together. They have also worked the Kiwanis concession stand during the Little League games. Linda has truly enjoyed watching Shelbie grow into an amazing young lady.

Match of the Month August: Tony and Anthony

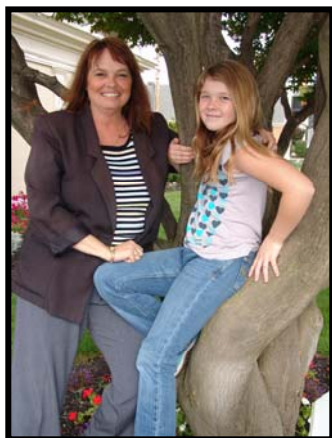


Tony & Anthony sporting their Martial Arts black belts together

Tony and Anthony have been matched since April of 2009. Tony mentors Anthony not only in the Community-Based program, but also in the School-Based program. Anthony said he likes having Tony as a Big Brother because he teaches him a lot of different things. Tony has taught him karate and helps Anthony become more assertive when dealing with his peers and family. Anthony said that having a Big Brother has helped him, by Tony acting as a positive male role model for him. Tony enjoys having Anthony as his Little

Brother. Tony said that Anthony is very smart and responsible. He enjoys Anthony's competitive side while training him in martial arts and bowling. Tony explained how he loves to watch Anthony grow into a young man and has full confidence that Anthony will be successful with anything he has to tackle in the future. These two have become like family to each other, with only more good times ahead of them. Congratulations Anthony and Tony!

Match of the Month September: Desi and Breeze



Desi & Breeze sharing time together this fall

Breeze and Desi have been matched in the School-Based Mentoring Program for the past three years. Last year, the two chose to extend their relationship to the Community-Based Program so that they could occasionally do things together outside of school time. Breeze says she likes to hang out with Desi because she is "awesome," and a lot of fun. "I like to go shopping for ingredients and bake cookies," reported Breeze. "I like when we go for a drive and Desi teaches me about what things are and how they work." Desi loves being a Big Sister to Breeze and especially enjoys having the opportunity to

share her life experiences with Breeze, teaching her things that she may not normally be exposed to and is happy to be a positive influence on the young woman Breeze will become. Desi enjoys spending time with Breeze, and especially enjoys her sense of humor. Whether they are playing "slug bug", walking around, shopping, or playing Scrabble Slam at the lunch table at school, Breeze always makes Desi laugh and smile. "Breeze helps remind me not to take life too seriously and to take time to enjoy and laugh at the little things."



Annual Summer Picnic

Soft grass, brilliant sun, hands-on food at the ready -- what's not to love about a picnic? It's summer's sweetest and easiest activity, and Big Brothers Big Sisters took full advantage of the warm, sunny weather by gathering for its annual picnic earlier this summer. While picnicking is all about spontaneity, a dash of planning went into the picnic and made the experience that much better! This year, the Agency chose a different location and invited the Bigs, Littles and parents to picnic and celebrate summer together in Pickerington, Ohio. The beautiful Victory Park was the setting for the Bigs and Littles to participate in a challenging game of corn hole, other individual sports events, fun on the wonderful playground, creative crafts, elaborate face painting and lots of tasty summer food (including juicy watermelon). Approximately 50 people celebrated together and enjoyed the picnic, which was held the evening of Friday, June 24th. We want to say thanks again to those who helped make the picnic such a success: Kohl's-Pickerington volunteers for setting up and serving food, Sam's Club in Reynoldsburg, and Giant Eagle in Pickerington for donating gift cards to purchase the food. We really appreciate all the support and willingness of these businesses to assist us with providing another positive opportunity for our Bigs and Littles to interact in a fun atmosphere!



Summer Picnic Smiles

Annual Campaign

Big Brothers Big Sisters wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many donors who have supported this year's annual campaign. Together, so far, we have raised a considerable amount as shown on the thermometer gauge at right; however, we still have a ways to go. It's not too late to help us reach our goal! These funds are used to support the Agency's mission to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measurable impact. Thank you for being passionate about BBBS.



Mentor Minute: by *Parent Further*, a Search Institute resource for families

Setting New Routines for the New School Year – Help Your Little Set a Good Routine

"A child wants some kind of routine or rhythm. A child seems to want a predictable, orderly world."—Abraham Maslow, psychologist

Tips for all parents:

- Talk about why school routines help your kids succeed in school. Research shows that kids who eat a healthy breakfast and get a good night's sleep do better in school compared to kids who don't.
- Expect resistance. No one likes to change their routine, especially if the change requires more structure and earlier bedtimes.

Tips for parents with children ages 6-9:

- Sleep is key for this age group. As your child begins to get into an all-day school routine, expect them to be exhausted. Help your kids get their rest and be patient with the big changes they're going through.
- Keep talking about and modeling good eating habits. As kids get older, they tend to find friends who have different or unhealthy eating habits. They may also want to use their lunch money or allowance to purchase unhealthy foods from vending machines.

Tips for parents with children ages 10-15:

- Examine your daily routines and clean them up so that you can be a better role model for your kids. Young teenagers are quick to point out when you're not setting a good example (even if they're not doing what you say either). So make it harder for them to find fault with your routine.
- Be patient with puberty and the mistakes young people make. Some young teenagers will stay up too late (even when they're in their beds). Don't bail them out if they oversleep, and be firm about what you expect for daily routines and why.

Parent-Teacher Relationships: Reach Out! – By focusing on creating a strong, positive relationship with your child's teacher, everyone wins!

ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL SWIM

(continued from story on page 1)



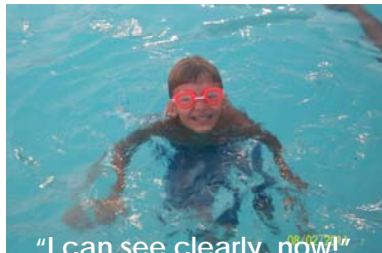
Chelle's Angels



American Eagle



Meka - "Say Cheese!"



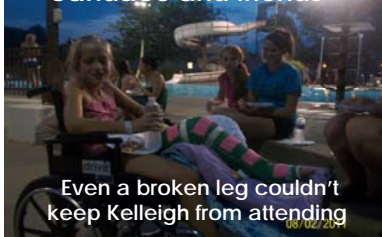
"I can see clearly, now!"



Candace and friends



Escaping the heat



Even a broken leg couldn't keep Kelleigh from attending



Chelle's Angels' Motorcycles





2011 Millersport Sweet Corn Festival

Red, two times the money! Green, twelve times the money! Orange, ten times the money!—These were some of the phrases the BBBS volunteers recently heard while working the Walnut Township Fire Department's gambling booth at the Labor Day weekend Millersport Sweet Corn Festival. The BBBS volunteers were also joined by Kohl's A-Team. Festival visitors could play a quarter to a dollar on any color to anticipate the roll of the color dice and the spin of the number wheel, winning the amount indicated by the combination. By supplying ten workers each night, BBBS was awarded \$1,000 by the fire department. In addition, we will receive an extra \$500 from Kohl's. Thanks, Kohl's, for your commitment and hard work!

Bigs & Littles get "Hooked" at Fishing Derby

About a half-dozen Bigs & Littles participated in our annual catch and release Fishing Derby with Mark Sells at the 'ole fishin' hole on August 19th. All had a great time & caught a few fish! Thanks so much, Mark, for your continued support!





Bowl for Kids' Sake 2012

We are currently in the planning stages of the Bowl for Kids' Sake 2012. We have chosen the dates: April 21st & 22nd for Tiki Lanes in Lancaster, and May 5th & 6th for Rule (3) in Pickerington. We recently sent out an on-line survey to all 2011 Team Captains and received some great feedback related to our latest event. Based on this feedback, we have also decided to put together a Subcommittee consisting of a few previous Team Captains, as well as the BBBS Executive Director. Our hope is to brainstorm new ideas, work on community outreach and awareness for both locations, initiate a plan to meet our BFKS yearly budgeted goal, as well as commit to a plan for team and sponsorship recruitment. We will gather this information and focus on improving the event, as well as create a unique theme. Our goal is to make next year's event even better, so that we may grow and continue to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children throughout Fairfield County! Interested in helping, call us!



Wrap Up of Camp Oty'Okwa

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County was pleased to send 13 children from our program to Camp Oty'Okwa this summer. This was a tremendous opportunity for these children and would not have been possible without our generous sponsor, the Bertha Wilson Trust, that provided camperships for all of these campers.

Camp Oty'Okwa develops leadership and social skills, focusing on how to work with peers, caring for others, teamwork, and understanding, as well as accepting people that are different from you. Daily camp activities included hiking, arts & crafts, swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, rappelling, fishing, nature walks, campfires, and sleeping outside under the stars.

A great time was had by all who attended from our Agency, and they wish to send a great big THANK YOU to our sponsor!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 23	4-6 pm	Fall Picnic <i>Camp Reams</i>
November 19	10 am	Holiday Parade <i>Fairgrounds</i>
December 2	7-9 pm	Christmas Party <i>BBBS Office</i>
January	TBD	TBD

Please give the agency a call if you plan to attend an event. Thanks for your consideration. 740-687-9477

Check out COSI...Littles admission is free!
Tiki Bowling...free for Littles!



Ariyah was thrilled to receive new back-to-school shoes from the Charity Newsies!



start something for a child in your community. Volunteer. Donate.



Fall Picnic – Camp Reams



Fall parties are fun ways to get together with your family and friends, maybe to celebrate the season's harvest, enjoy the crisp fresh air or crunch through the fall leaves. This fall, BBBS would like to enjoy the fall atmosphere with you by offering a simple, yet soul-satisfying activity on Sunday, October 23rd from 4-6 p.m. at Camp Reams, located on Christmas Rock Road in Lancaster. We'll provide sticks to roast hot dogs & marshmallows, and we'll have cookies, chips and cider. Bring your creativity to paint a fun, cute or scary face on a pumpkin! Bring your fishing poles and tackle boxes too, if you have them—a pond is available! We'll have plenty of coloring books for those who want to add some extra color to your day. Watch for your postcard to come in the mail, and please call the office to register!

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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.

Every time you donate money or time to Big Brothers Big Sisters, you start something incredible in the life of a child, a one-on-one mentoring relationship built on friendship and trust that blossoms into a world of unlimited potential. To get started visit www.bbbs-fairfielddoh.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County, Inc.

Our Mission is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-on-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.

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.

United Way
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