



Big Brothers Big Sisters Big News



Fall brings with it many wonderful sights, fun sounds, majestic colors and delicious smells! Many of these seasonal attributes were abundant recently on an October Sunday afternoon at Big Brothers Big Sisters' first fall picnic: The sounds of crunching leaves and children's laughter; the feel and smell of crisp, fresh air, the sense of the expansive, open grassy areas; the surrounding array of fall colors; as well as the scent of roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. These features were all present at the fall picnic. This special "Treat" was the first of what we hope to experience annually. The picnic was held at Camp Reams on Christmas Rock Road, which is owned by the Southeastern Correctional Facility. **We want to give a Big, heartfelt THANK YOU to Rick Chualas and the Southeastern Correctional Facility for donating the space, pumpkins, cider and cookies for the event, as well as for their preparation time.** The kids had a "spooktacular" time fishing in the lake, roasting hotdogs and marshmallows for s'mores, playing cornhole, decorating pumpkins, listening to an interesting Halloween story read by Phil Mackie (one of our Bigs), as well as hanging out and playing football with the Lancaster Sabers Semi-Professional Football team. Everyone also enjoyed cookies and cider. **Mr. Mackie, hugs to you for entertaining us with your inspirational storytelling. We greatly appreciate your extra support and devotion to the children in our program! We are also thankful for the Sabers' commitment, and for the sharing of their time and energy with all the attending kids—the kids all had an awesome time with the hands-on activity!!!** We're all looking forward to the next Agency Fall picnic! Hope to see you there next year.



December 2011

Highlights:

- Fall Picnic
- Match of Month
- Bowl-for-Kids' Sake & Agency Activities
- Christmas Party & Caroling

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Match of the Month October: Henrietta and Selena



Henrietta & Selena at an Agency Skating Party

Henrietta and Selena have been matched since March 2010 in the Community-Based Program. When asked what Selena liked best about having a Big Sister, she said that Henrietta is really nice and fun to be with. Selena said her favorite activity was going bowling and making crafts with her Big Sister. Selena said that Henrietta has taught her how to be safe when riding in a vehicle with other people.

Henrietta had lots of good things to say about her Little Sister as well! Henrietta

likes having Selena as her Little Sister because Selena reminds her to relax a little and have fun. Her favorite activity with Selena was when the two of them were doing craft activities and they each designed their own flip flops to wear. Henrietta truly enjoys Selena and her outgoing personality. She said that having a Little Sister like Selena has helped her realize that she can make a difference in a child's life no matter what age she is!

Match of the Month November: Jaclynne and Alison

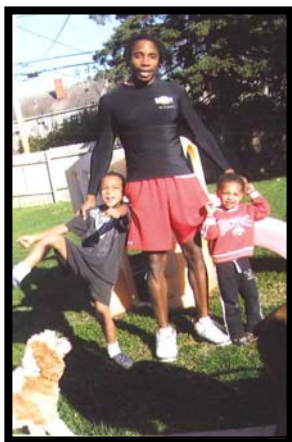


Jaclynne & Alison learning foreign languages together

Jaclynne and Allison have been matched since January 13, 2010, in the Pickerington School-Based Program. Jaclynne is a senior at Pickerington High School North and meets with Allison weekly at the KinderCare that she attends after school. The two girls spend time talking, drawing, playing cards, putting together puzzles, and jumping rope. Allison said her favorite thing that she has done with Jaclynne was when she painted her fingernails sparkling pink. Allison also said that the pair understand each other and get along as true sisters would. She even said, "Everyone should have a Big Sister who wants one!" Jaclynne has had

a great time getting to know Allison as well! She said her favorite thing about having Allison as a Little Sister is the fact that she knows that she is there for her and supports her in everything she does. Jaclynne's favorite thing about her Little Sister is that Allison is comfortable being herself around her, no matter how silly she might act. Lastly, Jaclynne said that being a Big Sister has helped her become a better listener and more open to connect with new people. Allison and Jaclynne have become great friends and only expect great experiences to come in the future! Congratulations Allison and Jaclynne!

Match of the Month December: Hondre and Kevin



Dre (center) & Kevin (left) enjoying the outdoors together this fall

Hondre (Dre) and Kevin have been matched in the School-Based Mentoring Program for the past two years. Dre meets with Kevin weekly at school and they focus on reading. Kevin says that he likes Hondre coming in and reports that, "Hondre is cool and he helps me." Once Kevin completes his academic work the two have fun working puzzles and hanging out. Recently, the two have chosen to extend their relationship to the Community-Based Program, so that they could spend time together outside of the school setting. Kevin is enjoying getting to know Dre's family. When they are together they enjoy doing outdoor activities,

especially swimming. Hondre feels blessed to be able to share these experiences with Kevin and believes that being a Big Brother gives him a feeling of satisfaction.



2011 Fairfield County Fair

Big Brothers Big Sisters participated at the fair again this year, within the Art hall. Thanks to those of you who stopped by the booth to see us! Many thanks to DeLille Oxygen for donating the helium tank, so that we could blow up all those brightly colored balloons for all the kids ☺ Hope to see all of you again next year in our same spot!



Bowl for Kids' Sake 2012

Start your engines....Bowl for Kids' Sake is coming. . .April 21st & 22nd at Tiki Lanes in Lancaster, and May 5th & 6th at Rule (3) in Pickerington. Bowl for Kids' Sake Community Committee meetings are scheduled for December 6th, January 9, February 6, March 5, and April 2 here at the Agency from noon – 1 p.m. Join us to find out how you can help! **Volunteer. Donate. Recruit a Team.**



This is the agency's largest fundraiser of the year. Make plans now to join the fun!!!



During this holiday season, give the gift of friendship. . .be a mentor.

While we have a continual need for both male and female mentors, we have an urgent need for male volunteers. For as little as four hours a month over a one year's commitment, you can make a difference in the life of a child. Get started today by visiting our website: www.bbbs-fairfieldoh.org or call the office at 740-687-9477.

HOLIDAY PARADE. . .Big Brothers Big Sisters joined many spirited parade goers in November by entering a float in the 2011 Holiday Parade, celebrating the beginning of the holiday season. We wish to thank Job & Family Services for allowing us to borrow the float, and Larry Kahle of Moline Management for pulling it for us!



CHRISTMAS PARTY. . .Was held Friday, Dec. 2nd from 7-10 p.m. in the Agency's Conference Room. BIG, BIG Thanks to Old Navy, Lancaster Board of Realtors, Meijer, J. C. Penney, and Victoria Grayson/Bath and Body for all their help in making our Christmas party and gift give-away possible!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 23	6-8:00 p.m.	Annual Dinner Liberty Center
February 11	11-1:00 p.m.	Amanda Skating Rink
February 25	8 p.m.	Comedy Night Fundraiser
March	TBD	Safety Training

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!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – Approx. 45 Bigs, Littles and Parents joined BBBS at the Inn at Fairfield Village to carol to the residents prior to the Agency's Christmas party this past Friday. There were approximately 30 residents who enjoyed the caroling and joined in the singing. **Thanks to The Inn at Fairfield Village for allowing us the opportunity and for the delicious cookies!**



Mentor Minute: taken from *A Workbook for Parents, Grandparents, Elders, Mentors and Other Caregivers*

KNOW: the Five Reasons Young People Give for Using Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

DECISION-MAKING: When it comes to your child's decision-making about the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, it's about understanding the adolescent brain and giving your child the tools he or she needs to make wise decisions.

Good decision-making is a complex process and takes years to master. But the first step in developing positive decision-making skills is to teach children to stop and think before they act.

Anytime there is a decision to be made, your child can apply this easy-to-remember technique: **NODD**
N – Name the issue
O – Options and choices
D – Decide on the best option
D – Do it and follow through



It is also important to discuss the consequences of decisions as well (both positive and negative). Children must realize that for better or for worse, their actions affect not only themselves, but others; and to take that into consideration when making their choice.

Children should also be reminded that we are only human and that we will all make mistakes. Teach them not to dwell on a poor decision made, but to learn from it and to make a better choice next time.

KNOW: Empowering parents to raise their children to be substance-free. Keeping Youth Drug-free from U.S. Dept. of HHS.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters Year End Giving: Please consider making a tax deductible donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County. Year end giving is a simple way to GIVE your support to a great mentoring organization while REWARDING yourself with reduced taxes and, in some cases, additional income. Your tax deductible donation will make a big difference for a child and help the agency to continue supporting children in our community. We are a 501c3 non profit and rely on individuals, businesses, and local foundations to keep us going. **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 or mail your donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County, P.O. Box 962, Lancaster, OH 43130.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County, Inc.

Our Mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. We partner with parents/guardians, volunteers and others in the community and hold ourselves accountable for each child in our program achieving: higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships; avoidance of risky behaviors; and educational success.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with hope & joy celebrating close friends, the love of family, and the promise of youth. From your friends at Big Brothers Big Sisters

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Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Fairfield County

It's coming....

