



CRIME STOPPER

WHEN IT comes to fighting crime, everyone has a pet solution: More cops. Stronger gun laws. Stiffer sentences. Tougher judges. Courageous witnesses.

That popular list rarely includes "more mentoring."

After all, mentoring kids at risk is not a concept that galvanizes a fidgety electorate, or flatters a politician who wants to be viewed "tough on crime," and doesn't exactly fire up conservative talk-radio listeners.

But it is crucial. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Pennsylvania provides kids with mentors, perhaps the biggest deterrent to crime and violence.

Few people are born violent. Violence evolves, nurtured by family circumstances, community and personal choices. A Big Brother or Big Sister in a youngster's life can help keep him out of trouble and guide him.

Research shows at-risk kids with Big Brothers or Big Sisters are less likely to use drugs, skip school, use alcohol or hit someone. It's a start more kids need to bypass a dead-end life.

To volunteer, call 1-888-412-BIGS, or go to www.bbssepa.org.

It may take time, but positive bonds can lead to positive outcomes.