

Connect 07

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities



Notes from the President

Dear BBBS supporters,

Welcome to Spring 2007! We had an amazing year in 2006 and are looking forward to even more growth as the new year progresses.

In October, we officially began our Amachi program with a kickoff at New Salem Baptist Church in Minneapolis. This program reaches out to the faith community to find mentors for children with incarcerated parents. Our special guest was Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., author and former mayor of Philadelphia. Dr. Goode is a dynamic and inspirational speaker, who impressed upon guests the need to break the generational cycle of incarceration.

We also have gone full steam ahead on our commitment to make sure our Little Brothers and Sisters receive enrichment opportunities and some sort of post-secondary education. This is a brave new world for BBBS and we are excited to explore it with our matches. In this newsletter you will read more about some of our initiatives in education and enrichment.

Our calendar continues to be full of exciting and inspiring events and we're off to a great start! Our 2006 Big Magic Breakfast was a spectacular success, leading to the creation of an annual meeting that will take place next November. We celebrate the people who inspire us at our Annual Awards Gala and Day on the Hill and we're gearing up for Bowl for Kids Sake and our summer golf tournaments. I hope you have these events on your calendar.

It is my greatest hope that in the coming year, we will be able to serve more children, increase our funding and grow as an organization. You can help us! Become a Big Brother or Sister; host a presentation at your home, school, workplace or faith community; attend a BBBS event and tell everyone you know about the **power of mentoring!** With a cost of \$1,200 per year per match, we rely on our friends more than ever and hope that each and every one will maintain their kind support of BBBS and consider increased support so that we can continue to meet the growing needs of children in our community.

Thank you for your constant support in providing hope for the future.

Sincerely,
Gloria C. Lewis
President and CEO

You Can Help

The life changing friendships and activities described in this newsletter are not possible without your support. Your gift goes towards enriching the lives of local children. It's easy to give. Simply mail a check to us in the envelope provided or see bigstwcities.org.

Wish List

- 1,000 new Big Brothers and Sisters
- Art supplies
- Auction items for events
- Board games
- Camcorder
- Digital camera
- Funding for match activities
- Interns: Special Events, Marketing and PR
- Meals and party supplies for match parties
- Office supplies
- Printing services
- Pro bono photographer
- Ticket Donations for local events
- Volunteers to share their time and skills

This Issue

- Amachi
- Day on the Hill
- Event Highlights
- General Mills Be Well
- Scholarships
- Upcoming Events
- Welcome New Board Members



a LITTLE bit of YOU can
make a BIG DIFFERENCE.

Events & Updates

Big Magic Breakfast 2006

It was a full house at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, as guests came to learn about how lives have been transformed by their involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The importance of education was a prominent theme at the event. University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks introduced Little Sister Molly Grise, a freshman at the University and recipient of the Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Molly expressed the importance of the scholarship, and how it has given her the opportunity to make her dreams come true. She spoke about how her Big Sister remains an important part of her life.

Big Sister Susan Swenson brought the audience to tears when she described the positive impact that her Little Sister has made on her life, and Little Brother Devon shared how his Big Brother taught him the importance of education, inspiring him to improve his grades, and change his environment.

Our Big Magic Breakfast showed the impact of real people, real friendships and the real difference one person can make in the life of a child.

Stellar Volunteers Support Gala

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (BBBS) is pleased to recognize not one, but three outstanding volunteers this quarter – **Cindy Hirman**, **Lisa Nicholson** and **Lisa Tomasko**. For over four years, the BBBS Annual Awards Gala has been graced by these three dedicated volunteers from Allianz Life Insurance of North America. These volunteers are now affectionately known as “Cindy and the Lisa’s”. They are a dynamic trio who has given tireless efforts to ensure the ambiance of our galas is warm and inviting to guests. “Cindy and the Lisa’s” transformed our galas into thematic events, enticing guests year after year and were responsible for bringing Design Group on as a Platinum Sponsor of our gala for the past two years. They’ve seen the gala grow from around 200 guests to a sold out crowd in 2007! In addition to being the most tenured members of the Gala Planning Committee, this group is not afraid to pitch in where they are needed. While their initial contribution on the >

Save the Date for Nexts Year's Gala:

Evening on the Nile

FEBRUARY 23, 2008



The scene was cool and the jazz was hot at the Metropolitan Ballroom on February 24! BBBS re-created Harlem's famed Cotton Club to a resounding success. With the smooth sounds of Synergy, the panache of auctioneer Kurt “The Colonel” Johnson and the finesse of emcee Joe Schmit, guests learned why BBBS' mission is so important, while enjoying an elegant evening.

Many fabulous items were donated to our silent and live auctions, ranging from a POSH cruise on Lake Minnetonka, to a VIP Viking vs. Packers package, to an X Box 360. Gala attendees ate delicious food by D'Amico and danced the night away.

Awardees at the Annual Awards gala were:

- Hope Award (Corporate)—Cargill, Inc.
- Hope Award (Individual)—Jim Hansen, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49
- Jim Kelly Award—John Hueg, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Thank you to our corporate sponsors:



Ecolab, GR Seppala & Associates, ION Corporation, Legacy Luxury Homes, Target Corporation

Thank you to our media sponsor:



< committee was focused on decorations/environmental design, they have taken on the roles of setting up the silent auction and selecting the menu for the evening. They also continue to play an instrumental role in connecting Allianz leaders and employees with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Be Well Boot Camp

It's not your teacher's gym class...but it is a whole lot of fun! Thanks to The General Mill Foundation's generosity, matches learned the importance of healthy eating and exercise. Two programs, in the fall and the spring, include personal trainers, yoga, cooking with a nutritionist, playing kickball and competing at Dance Dance Revolution. Littles received a pedometer and a journal to track their activity level. Be Well Coordinator Katie Hunt describes the program as a great success:

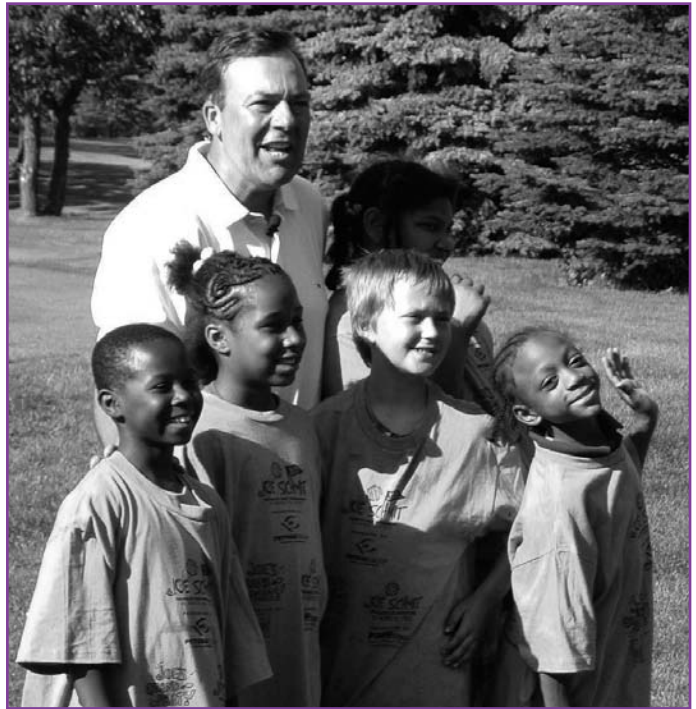
"By the end, the kids were thinking more about what they put into their bodies. The children listened because we were able to bring it down to their level and make it fun."

Saint Paul Saints Game

We're taking Bigs and Littles out to the ballgame! Community-based matches and School-based Bigs will be treated to dinner donated by Ed Christie of Forepaugh's Restaurant and a pre-season game provided by the Saints. This year's game will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2007 at Midway Stadium in St. Paul.



Sponsorships are sold to directly support the mission of BBBS. They range from \$5,000 to \$250. If you support the Saints' motto "Fun is good," please consider sponsoring this event. For more information, contact Angela Wren at 651.789.2431 or events@bigstwincities.org.



Summer Golf Tournaments

Do you like to golf? Consider playing in one of BBBS' summer golf tournaments. Both tournaments provide a day of fun on the links and a real opportunity to help children in our community.

The Joe Schmit Golf Tournament is a three day extravaganza of everything golf. It begins June 9, at the Minneapolis Convention Center with Joe's Grand Party and continues on June 11, at Hazeltine Golf Club. The tournament ends on June 12, at Bunker Hills Golf Club with the celebrity golf tournament. Produced by Joe Schmit, former KSTP anchor and current president of Petters Media & Marketing Group, the tournament has raised over \$2 million for BBBS since it began in 1991.

The Arby's Charity Tour will hit the Twin Cities at the Tartan Park Golf Facility on June 29. As a longtime corporate partner of BBBS, Arby's recognizes the importance of mentoring and supports Big Brothers Big Sisters throughout the country at this tournament. The tour includes golf events with featured contests, a live auction, and much more.

For information on the Joe Schmit Golf Tournament and the Arby's Charity Tour, please contact Angela Wren at 651.789.2431 or events@bigstwincities.org.



New 2007 BBBS Board Members

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities welcomes these new members to the dedicated group of volunteer board members providing direction and governance oversight to maintain and improve the success we enjoy in enhancing the lives of children through mentoring.



Mike Carrel –

Mike joined Vital Images in January of 2005 and was named Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer in May 2005. Prior to Vital Images, he served as president, CEO and CFO of ZAMBA Corporation, a publicly traded customer-relationship-management consulting services firm which was purchased in 2004 by TSC. Mike is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a bachelor of science in accounting from Pennsylvania State University and a master of business administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Mike will be lending his energies to the Development Committee and the Corporate and Foundation Giving Sub-committee at BBBS.



Mike Felmlee –

Mike joined the Prouty Project team as a partner in 2000 and was named CEO effective January 1, 2005. He works with management teams, boards of directors and staff groups to facilitate strategic planning, team, leadership development, and executive retreats. Mike has 26 years financial and operational management experience in the health care, manufacturing and public accounting industries. Mike is on the Business Advisory Board at the College of Business of Winona State University, the Finance Committee at BBBS and serves on the board of directors of HIRED. Mike will be lending his energies to the Finance Committee at BBBS.



John Hueg –

John is Vice President of Business Integration and Compliance, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Retail Centralized Platform. His team currently provides leadership, facilitation and resources in the areas of Change Management, Project Management, Performance Measurement, Process Documentation and Compliance. He has facilitated sessions throughout the centralized retail organization, to their clients and at various call center conferences on the topics of service excellence, leadership, competency development, personal accountability and quality methodology. He studied Communications Theory and Organizational Management and earned a mini-masters certification in Quality Management both at the University of St. Thomas in St Paul, MN. John is the new chair of the Individual Giving Sub-committee at BBBS.

New 2007 BBBS Board Members



David Kaercher –

David is the Vice President and Chief Technology Architect for Allianz Life of North America, a Life Insurance and Financial Services subsidiary within the Allianz Global network of companies. He has 20 years of progressive technology experience with specific exposure and knowledge in the areas of financial services, retail, consulting and telecommunications. David completed his undergraduate work at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA and a Master's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering from The School of Engineering and Applied Science at The George Washington University, Washington, DC. David is lending his skill to the Finance Committee at BBBS.



Beth LaBreche –

Beth LaBreche is founder of LaBreche, a Minneapolis-based reputation management firm providing strategic communications counsel, public relations and marketing communications services. Beth specializes in executive counsel, corporate social responsibility marketing and issues/crisis management for clients in the manufacturing, financial services and professional services industries. She is a recipient of The Business Journal's 40 Under 40 and Innovative Women awards as well as the Emerging Business Owner of the Year award from the National Association of Women in Business. Beth serves on the boards of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber and the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable. She earned her degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. Beth is serving on the Development Committee and the Marketing Sub-committee at BBBS.



Mark Van Note –

Mark is First VP – Investments, The Private Bank and Investment Group Merrill Lynch. He started his banking career as a credit officer in Citibank Private Banking Group in New York and then spent a decade helping to grow two startup companies and position them for liquidity events. Mark is originally from Iowa. He has an undergraduate degree from Stanford University and attended L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, one of France's most prestigious business schools. He is currently on the Board of the French American Chamber of Commerce, MN, is a Committee Chair for the Minneapolis Club, and is on the Finance Committee of St. John's Episcopal Church. He is a past board member of the Stanford Alumni Association of France. Mark is lending his skills to the Development Committee and the Corporate and Foundation Giving Sub-committee at BBBS.

a LITTLE bit of **YOU** can
make a **BIG DIFFERENCE.**

Gifts Made Through March 20th, 2007

2007 Corporate Sponsors

3M Community Affairs
A Better Place, Inc.
Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America
Allstate Giving Campaign
American Center for Philanthropy
Ameriprise Financial Gift Matching Program
Andersen Corporate Foundation
Anoka Hennepin School District 11
Associated Financial Group
Benfield, Inc.
Best Buy
Best Buy Children's Foundation
Books Are Fun, Ltd
Bremer Financial Corporation
Bridge Chiropractic, P.A.
Burdick-Craddick Family Foundation
Cargill, Inc.
Carlson Companies
Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation
Charles Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving
Chevron Texaco People Making a Difference Campaign
CNS, Inc.
Crown Holdings, Inc.
Culver's Franchising System, Inc.
Data Recognition Corporation
David Turch and Associates
Ecolab Foundation
Ecolab, Inc.
enXco
FAF Advisors
Federated Insurance
Federated Insurance Foundation, Inc.
General Mills Foundation
GoodSearch
Graco Foundation
Great Waters Brewing Company
Healthy Holdings, Inc.
Horwitz, Inc.
Imation Corporation
ING
International Dairy Queen
IWJ Charitable Foundation
Jadt Development Group
Karon Family Foundation
Kintera, Inc.
KPMG
Laird Norton Family Fund
Lakeside Capital Foundation
Legacy Luxury Homes
Margaret Rivers Fund
Martyn Service Company, Inc.
Medtronic Foundation
Michael Foods, Inc
Michaud Cooley Erickson & Associates, Inc.
Minnesota Community Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
Philip Morris USA, Inc
Premier Bank
Prudential Foundation
Quality Bicycle Products, Inc.

ResCap
Retail Construction Services, Inc.
Rich Management
Rider Bennett, LLP
Stephan Landscape Services, Inc.
Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation
Target Corporation
Terhuly Foundation
The Arby's Foundation
The Luther Family Foundation
The Minneapolis Foundation
The Prouty Project
The Saint Paul Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
UnitedHealth Foundation
US Bank National Association
Vill-Mar Inc.
Wachovia Foundation
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Wilmot Wheeler Foundation, Inc.
WSB & Associates
Xcel Energy Inc.

David and Katharine Frederick
Roger H. Frommelt
John and Leslie Garner
Anne Marie Gavel
David and Clo Mary Girk
Ann Gjelten
Brent Gmeinder
Merle-Bell-Gonzales and Louis Gonzales
Jeremy and Sarah Graff
Andrew and Monica Graham
William and Carol Gray
Paul and Julie Gulstrand
Richard and Sheridan Hafdal
Patti Hague
Philip and Janet Hallaway
Thomas Halpern
Ariel Harrison
Stanley Hatcher
Lisa and Jack Hauser
Erik E. Heidemann
Joseph and Jane Heinrich
Randy Herrild
Steve and Martine Hewitt
Tim and Barb Higgins
Bruce and Jeannine Hubbard
Kim and John Hubertus
Ronald and Renee Hunter
Derek and Tracy Johnson
Philip and Susan Jones
James and Martha Justus
Raye C. Kanzenbach
John and Paula Kelly
Jayne E. Kennelly
Robert and Sonja Kim
Karissa Kirvida
Barry and Julia Knight
Rich Knowlton
David O. Koch
James Kodadek
Jane Kostik
Donna La Brasseur
Lisbeth M. LaBrecht
Peggy Langenfeld
Brian Larson
Roger and Jacqueline Larson
Scott and Stacy Larson
Roger Lee
William Lee
Robert and Nora Leone
Edward and Noreen Levine
Harvey S. Lewis, Jr.
E.H. and D.M. Lillestrand
Mary Jo Lindholm
Steven and Laura Lonergan
Jeffrey A. Machacek
Tim and Patricia Maher
Dave Marrinson
Patrick and Arlene McCarthy
Edward McFadden
Robert Meller, Jr.
Mary Merrill
William Moore
Travis and Holly Morehead
Gregg Nelson

2007 Individual Sponsors

Gifts \$100 - \$499

Thomas Akin
Jerry and Lori Allen
David Anderson
Gary R. Anderson
James J. Anderson
Scott L. Anderson and Lisa Bailey
Jon Austin
Cindy and Marly Bahmer
Yvonne Baller
Dean and Cathleen Barthel
Guy Bergevin
Stephen and Eileen Bergren
Matt and Vivian Boockmeier
Patrick and Wendy Born
Clifton and Dorothea Burns
Mary and Charles Calisto
Jean Cash
Julie and Christopher Causey
Natalie Chapman
Peter J. Cmiel
Robert F. Collins
Peter and Mary Jo Conzemius
Samuel and Mary Jo Cote
Lee and Anne Cunningham
Barbara Diekmann
Craig and Astrid Diviney
Christine Dressel
Thomas and Tina Dvorack
Jeffrey Ebert
Paul Egeland
H.T. Fish
George and Connie Foley
Philip and Caroline Fortmeyer

Gifts Made Through March 20th, 2007

Gifts \$100 - \$499 (cont.)

Noreen Nesbitt
Kim Olson
Marian N. Olson
Dean and Melody Pekarek
Amy M. Poppler
Robert Proebstle
Peg Ratcliff
Steven Rau and Christine Meuers
Kristi Rendahl and Jamie Parker
Pat and Patricia Rickert
Leslie and Becky Rinerson
Paul R. Roach
William and Mary Rusinak
Steven and Linda Sandvig
Mark Scholtes
Max Schott
Carolyn Schwantes
Joel and Susan Shobe
Marsha Shotley
David Spalding
Scott and Samantha Strahl
Pat Swetala
Judith Tilsen and James Lewis
Gerald Timm
Rod Toft
William A. Traxler
Jim and Michelene Verlautz
Phyllis L. Wagner
Mitch Waltman
Roy and Betty Weigel
David and Lori Windschitl
Dennis and Teri Wingness
Michael M. Witzman
James D. Wright
Larry Wynia

Gifts \$500 - \$999

Bruce and Kaye Aho
Robert and Carolyn Albright
Sandy Becker
Linda and Dale Blyth
Ronald Christenson
Jeff Danforth
Fred Dickson
Michael and Darlene Duffy
Jim and Barb Eppel
Susan Frazier
John and Janet Gendler
Barbara J. Hanson
June M. Heinz
John and Amy Hueg
J.A. and L.J. Huseby
Dale and Jan Johnson
Jerry and Marie Jungbauer
Laurie and Dan Lafontaine
Gloria and Craig Lewis

Every attempt is made to honor donors' wishes regarding name publication. If you have questions or wish to inform us of your preference, please contact Topeka Wilson at 651-789-2434 or twilson@bigstwincities.org.

Barry and Sharon Mason
Randall and Lucy Mattson
Kathy Mertz
Larry Meuers
Pamela Olson
Colleen and David Reitan
Daniel Shogren
Mark N. Stageberg
Darcy S. Weinstine
Dennis Wilder

Gifts \$1000 - \$3000

Paul and Jayne Anderson
Robert Barnett
Kelly Bellini
Mary Brown and Donald Himsl
Lester and Theresa Brunker
Sarah Buxton
Michael H. Carrel
Ed Christie
Frank Dunbar
Stephen Erdall
James Glick and Katie Conley
James Haglund
Tim C. Johnson
Susan and Justin Kelly
Mark and Amy Kersey
John Lettmann
Robert and Suzanne McCarthy
Robert McCollum
Dick and Joan Niemiec
Robert and Molly Perry
Bill and Susan Sands
Christa Schnabel
Jerry Seppala
Jim and Sheri Simpson
Richard and Nancy Solum
Jim and Vicky Torborg
Dennis Walsh
Linda Hall Whitman
Jon and Jackie Williams
Rebecca Yanisch

Gifts \$5,000 - \$10,000

Paul and Lynne Blomgren
Michael and Jane Felmlee
Shirley J. Hughes
Tim and Kaye Igo
Kay Ostertag
Marc Phibbs
Robert Potts
Suzanna and Kraig Smiegowski
Richard and Elizabeth Uihlein

Gifts \$20,000 +

Stephen and Tamrah O'Neil

Education and Enrichment

BBBS continues working to ensure that every Little Brother and Sister receives enrichment and education opportunities. To advance this goal, we recently hired an Education and Enrichment Activities Coordinator. Our new coordinator, Willy Tully, is already at work researching opportunities and forming relationships with area educational institutions, in order to help Littles with their educational goals.

BBBS currently offers several scholarships. Two of those scholarships have deadlines coming up in the next 2 months. They are:

- The Chris D'Amico Scholarship is awarded annually by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities as a memorial to Christine (Chris) D'Amico. Chris served as a Big Sister from May of 1996 until her death from brain cancer in July of 1997. Following her death, a scholarship endowment fund was established with memorials made in Chris' honor. The scholarship is awarded annually to a young man or woman who has benefited from a match relationship through Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities. A student is eligible for the scholarship if s/he (1) has been an active program participant in Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities during the two years immediately preceding application; (2) will be attending an accredited undergraduate college, university or trade school for the academic year beginning in the fall or is presently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate college, university or trade school. The deadline for applying to this scholarship is May 15.

- The Josip and Agnete Temali Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. and Mrs. Temali as a testament to their belief in the value of education as a means to help people succeed. The couple emigrated to the United States in 1951 and settled on St. Paul's East Side. In 1965, Mr. Temali helped establish Big Brothers of Greater St. Paul and became the organization's first leader. Since Mr. Temali passed away in 1998, Mrs. Temali and their two sons have carried on the family scholarship legacy. The Temali Scholarship Fund also supports scholarship awards for seniors graduating from Harding High School in St. Paul. The deadline for applying to this scholarship is April 16.

For more information about any of these scholarships, to learn more about BBBS' education and enrichment activities, or to notify us of upcoming opportunities for BBBS to visit campuses and share information about our scholarships, please contact Willy Tully at 651.789.2445 or wtully@bigstwincities.org.

On December 15, 270 Little Brothers and Sisters brought their Big Brothers, Big Sisters and family members to the Metrodome for a party sponsored by the Minnesota Twins. The Little Brothers and Sisters thought that they were just going to a fun party...but there was a much bigger surprise in store!

The children enjoyed ball park hot dogs, running around the field, jumping in a bounce house and even had the chance to get an autograph from Twins pitcher, Pat Neshek. At the end of the celebration they gathered before a curtain on the concourse. There were screams of joy as hundreds of gleaming brand new bicycles were revealed, each with helmets and locks. Each child received their own bike, thanks to the Northstar Foundation, who believes every child should have a bike.

We received a flood of thank you's from adults and children alike.

"My Little Sister and I had a wonderful time! She loves her new bike and was so excited, she asked if she could ride it to school the next day. I had to remind her that she doesn't have school on Saturdays! This is an extra special gift, because my Little's family ... uses public transportation, ride bikes and rely on friends to get around. My Little's bike was stolen in the fall, so I know that she will put her new gift to good use." - Big Sister

"This was too good to be true...I can tell you that there was so much happiness and thankfulness it made a lot of kids and parents and staff cry. The Twins pitcher Pat Washek [sic] was absolutely wonderful. We hope that all the people that made this happen will have a Happy Holiday, thank you again! - Mother of Little



Artists Share their Gifts with Little Brothers and Sisters

PHOTOGRAPHY

Through the generosity of the Archie D. & Bertha H. Walker Foundation, Little Brothers and Sisters learned photography from professional photographers Patrick Siegrist (a Big Brother for the last six years) and Rebecca Pavlenko. Seven Littles, ages 10 to 14 learned introductory



photography, visited the Walker Sculpture Garden and the studio of photographer Wing Young Huie, and created a scrapbook with their Big. Bruce Lindert, Gallery Services, professionally framed the pictures at a discount for the exhibit opening on November 10, where the class and guests gathered to admire their art.

WRITING

The Science Museum of Minnesota invited our Littles to be a part of a very special writing project on the topic of race. With the writing samples from this workshop, a professional playwright will create "Voices," a performance slated at the Science Museum in 2007. Participants used their experiences, opinions and family history. Below is a sample of the writing generated at the workshop.

"When the world looks at me, they see a black girl who thinks she is the cutest thing since Tyra Banks. Who loves the skin she is in, smart and sophisticated yet still a teen....When I look in the mirror I see average. I see a girl lost, lonesome yet happy with the perfect man. I see a girl who's been through alot and is going through alot more. A girl with constant mood swings. A girl who never ceases to disappoint her mom. I see the girl who I have to be, fighting with the girl I wanna be. I see, what I hope will continue to be me." - Little Sister Mahogany, 14 years

a LITTLE bit of **YOU** can
make a **BIG** DIFFERENCE.

Day On The Hill

On March 15th, the Capitol Rotunda was filled with chants of “The Power of Mentoring” and purple BBBS shirts for our Day on the Hill. More than 200 friends and supporters of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (BBBS) rallied to show support for mentoring programs in Minnesota, especially those that provide mentoring for children with incarcerated parents.

Speakers at BBBS’ Day on the Hill included: Senator Linda Higgins and Representative Michael Paymar, who are the chief authors behind the bills to support this mentoring program; Representative Willie Dominguez; BBBS Board Chair Chuck Roehrick; Big Brother Pat Sukham; Mr. Lance Handy, a parent of Littles from the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program; Little Sister Diamond; and former Little Sister and current Annexed Scholar Stephany Osuji. The program was emceed by Gloria Lewis, BBBS President and CEO.

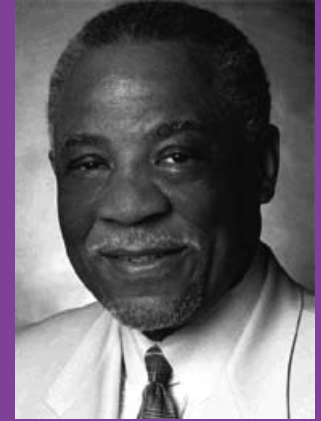
For four years, BBBS has been operating a mentoring program in the Greater Twin Cities that has helped children who have a parent or significant family member in prison. Through the support of a caring adult mentor and friend, we are helping these children to deal with the many difficulties and challenges they face, and helping their parents and families support them.

The Minnesota legislature is currently considering two bills – SF 1992 and HF342 – that will provide continued funding to the Department of Corrections to award grants to a nonprofit agency for mentoring programs for children with incarcerated parents. This program is very important:

- There are more than 7,500 children in Minnesota – one child in 40 – with a parent who is incarcerated.
- Studies show that 70% of children with incarcerated parents are likely to become incarcerated themselves if they do not receive preventative services, like mentoring.
- It costs the state \$40,000 a year to incarcerate a juvenile, but only \$1,200 a year to support mentoring and prevent them from entering the justice system.

If you want to show your support for mentoring for Children with Incarcerated Parents, contact your legislator and ask them to vote “yes” to support funding for this program – and support Senate File 1992 (The Public Safety Budget Bill) and House File 342. For more information, contact BBBS at dayonthehill@bigstwincities.org.

Amachi



Rev. Dr. Goode

This fall, BBBS officially introduced its newest program: Amachi. The word *Amachi*, is a Nigerian Ibo word that means

“who knows but what God has brought us through this child.” The program reaches out to the faith community to find mentors for children of incarcerated parents. A child with a parent in prison has a 70 percent chance of serving time in a correctional facility. With programs like Amachi, caring adults can break the cycle of incarceration.

On October 27, 2006 Amachi was kicked-off at New Salem Baptist Church in Minneapolis with special guest Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. Dr. Goode spreads his message of hope throughout the United States. The kick-off was a great success and we have been steadily recruiting Amachi mentors from the metro area.

In January, BBBS announced six Amachi grant recipients. These grants will fund a Congregational Volunteer Coordinator at each location, who will work closely with BBBS to recruit and support matches in their congregation. The organizations are: Holding Forth The Word of Life Ministries International, Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, True Love Church Ministries of Arts, Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church and New Salem Baptist Church.

To learn more about Amachi, call 651.789.2400 or visit our website at www.bigstwincities.org.



little moments. BIG MAGIC.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Greater Twin Cities

Big Brothers Big Sisters enriches children's lives by making and sustaining matches with caring mentors.

You can get involved today by volunteering, becoming a corporate partner, or making a donation.

Contact us for more information:
(651) 789-BIGS or www.bigstwincities.org

**a LITTLE bit of YOU can
make a BIG DIFFERENCE.**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities
2550 University Avenue W, Suite 410N
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Greater Twin Cities

2550 University Avenue
Suite 410N
St. Paul, MN 55115

NON-PROFIT
US Postage
PAID
Mpls., MN
Permit No. 1829

**a LITTLE bit of YOU can
make a BIG DIFFERENCE.**

— Donate Now —

651.789.2400 or visit www.bigstwincities.org

