

Day on the Hill

On May 10, BBBS supporters, friends, volunteers and staff gathered at the Minnesota Capitol to rally in support of a bill that provides funding for mentoring children of prisoners.

As the leading Twin Cities mentoring organization, BBBS wanted to make sure that legislators understood how important mentoring is to our community. Thanks to the Big and Little Brothers and Sisters and others who showed their support, bill HF4162 passed on the last day of the session.

This bill provides \$250,000 to organizations that mentor children with an incarcerated family member. This money is much needed, as these children face overwhelming challenges. The most startling statistic is that a child with an incarcerated parent has a 70 percent chance of ending up in a correctional facility. While it costs \$40,000 a year to incarcerate



a BIG Success!



a juvenile, it costs approximately \$1,100 a year for BBBS to nurture and sustain a mentor-youth match and provide hope for the future.

In BBBS' Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCOP) program, we have seen first-hand the results of these matches. For three years, we have served over 300 youth with incarcerated parents...but with an estimated 7,600 Minnesota children with an incarcerated parent, there is great opportunity to serve more.

Jim, a Big Brother in the MCOP program, and Wynona, the mother of Jim's Little Brother, Anthony, both shared their experiences at the rally. Both stressed the sense of stability Jim has brought to Anthony's life and the strength that Anthony has gained. Anthony is only one of the 77 percent of children in the MCOP program who say that they have increased their self-confidence through being in the program.

Other Day on the Hill speakers were Representative Jeff Johnson and Senator Jane Ranum, co-authors of the bill; Lance Handy of the Council on Crime and Justice; Bernie Laur, General Sales Manager at B96 Radio and Representative Katie Sieben, who serves as a Big Sister.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the speakers, volunteers, donors and BBBS staff, this special at-risk group of Minnesota children will be shown the way to a bright future full of hope.

Welcome New Board Members

BBS is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors. Alberto Marzan and Jim Stevens have joined our volunteer board to help guide BBS into the future.

Alberto is the founder and President of Net Gain Interactive, a subsidiary of Bolin Marketing Advertising. Net Gain seeks to innovatively mix marketing and technology in order to encourage consumers to act. Alberto also generously donates his time to advising minority businesses on their internet strategy.

Jim Stevens comes to us from a long-time corporate partner. Jim is the Vice President of Operations for Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio Arby's Restaurant Group. Jim has been with Arby's since 2000, and serves on the local Arby's Charity Tour committee.

BBS thanks Alberto and Jim for their dedication to the agency and selfless commitment to serving Twin Cities' children.

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

— Donate Now —

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities

FALL



Notes from the President

Dear BBBS volunteers, friends and supporters,

As I celebrate my one year anniversary of leadership at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (BBBS), I can truly say that we have accomplished a lot and are well on our way from good to great.

New life and new ideas are entering this place everyday through our new board members, employees and volunteers. With these fresh perspectives, BBBS will reach our goals of serving 5,000 children by 2008, and finding Big Brothers and Sisters for every child on our waiting list.

BBBS has recently refocused its vision on working within the community to help improve children's lives. We are seeking to partner with businesses, individuals and professional and faith communities to find a Big Brother or Sister for every child that wants one. We know that together we can improve a child's life...one Big Brother or Sister at a time.

This year we celebrated the 15th anniversary of one of our wonderful events, the Joe Schmit Golf Tournament. Joe and Laura Schmit, and their many colleagues, have raised \$2 million over a decade and a half of support. I offer my sincere thanks to the Schmits for their devotion to BBBS and generosity of spirit.

We are excited to introduce a new program into BBBS: Amachi. Amachi is a Nigerian Ibo word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child." The program focuses on reaching out to the faith community to find mentors for children with incarcerated parents and is an exciting addition to BBBS. Please join us for our kick-off with our guest speaker Reverend Doctor W. Wilson Goode, Sr., the Director of the National Amachi Program and former mayor of Philadelphia. The event will be held on Friday Oct. 27 at New Salem Baptist Church.

Lastly, BBBS is expanding its vision of every Little Brother or Sister obtaining some sort of post-secondary education. In this newsletter, you will learn about a graduating Little Sister who received a scholarship through BBBS. In addition, in order to expand our education goals, BBBS is finalizing fundraising for an Education and Enrichment Activities Coordinator to help children reach their highest potential through learning.

Everyday I am humbled when I think of the dedication of our supporters, partners and staff. You are making a difference in children's lives and helping BBBS develop into an organization that is truly great. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gloria Lewis
President and CEO

ShortClicks

BBBS's website has a brand new look! Please visit us online at www.bigstwicities.org

WishList

- 1,000 new Big Brothers and Sisters
- Volunteers to share their talents and skills
- Digital camera
- Ticket donations for local events
- Funding for Match activities
- Meals and party supplies for match picnics, anniversary parties and end-of-school year parties
- Office supplies
- Printing services
- Art supplies
- Board games
- Auction items for events

ThisIssue

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a LITTLE bit of YOU can
make a BIG DIFFERENCE.



Carlson Companies Outdoor Adventure

This summer, Big and Little Brothers and Sisters developed bonds and memories to last a lifetime. The Larry Winston Outdoor Adventure program took matches on two weekend wilderness adventures. Named for the late Larry Winston, a beloved sales executive at Carlson Hotels Worldwide, part of Carlson Companies, the trip included canoeing, camping and riding the rapids. This trip was the longest amount of time many matches had spent together. The children learned to work as a team and challenged themselves. One Big Brother said, "The experience of being together for 72 hours built more trust and a closer relationship than 12 months of regular mentoring." Adds another, "I would like to thank Carlson Hotels Worldwide, Carlson Companies and the Larry Winston family. If not for you, these kids might not ever have experienced something like this. I know they will keep this experience forever." Little Brother Jeffrey summed it up his way, "Oh baby, this trip was the bomb!"

Recruitment Update A Little Bit of You Makes a Big Difference

We need your help to locate Big Brothers and Sisters for over 1,000 children on our waiting list. With boys making up 65% of the list, there is a great need for men who can be a friend to a child. Specifically, the number of African American Big Brothers is disproportionately low.

One of our latest initiatives, The 100 Men Campaign, was developed to reach out specifically to these potential mentors.

It is fun and rewarding to be a Big. You can play catch, go to a museum or talk about your favorite movies. The focus is on building, not buying, a relationship. Big Brothers and Sisters are interviewed to ensure they are matched with a child who shares their interests and will be compatible with their personality. Once matched, volunteers are supported by our team of professional Match Support Coordinators.

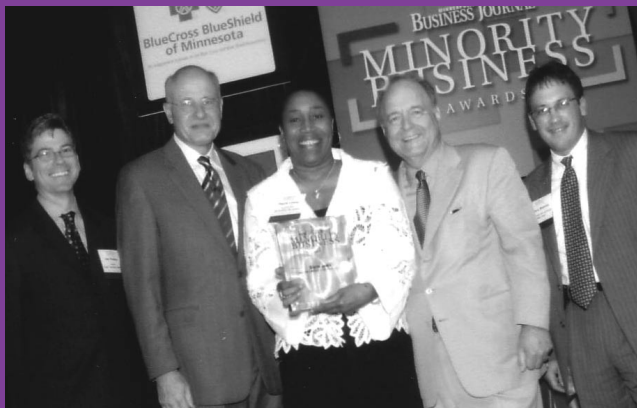
BBBS has several options for being a Big Brother or Sister, including:

Community-based mentoring connects adults and children who want a friendship with flexibility. Matches meet two to four times a month at the locations of their choice.

School-based Bigs meet their Little Brother or Sister at school once a week during the school year, with BBBS-supervised activities during the summer.

To learn more about the 100 Men Campaign or becoming a Big, please call 651.789.2400 or e-mail bbbs@bigstwincities.org.

Gloria Lewis Wins Minority Business Award



BBBS President and CEO, Gloria Lewis, was recently honored as a leading Minority Corporate Executive in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's Minority Business Awards. These awards serve to illustrate the Twin Cities' thriving community of minority business entrepreneurs, executives and advocates.

Gloria was chosen as an honoree due to her zeal in promoting BBBS' mission and seeking new and creative ways to find Big Brothers and Sisters for the children on our waiting list. In addition to an article in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, Gloria was also featured during the Minority Business Awards ceremony.

BBBS congratulates Gloria on this well-deserved honor.

Events & Updates

A Pitch Well Recieved

BBBS' annual St. Paul Saints game was held on May 9, 2006. Matches were treated to delicious food provided by Ed Christie, owner of Forepaugh's Restaurant in St. Paul. Afterwards, 270 matches watched the Saints' season opener. BBBS President & CEO Gloria Lewis led a group of Little Brothers and Sisters in singing the national anthem. "Lewis and the Littles" brought down the house! BBBS is grateful to Ed Christie and the Saints for partnering with us to bring a memorable evening to our matches. We would also like to thank our sponsors for helping to make this game possible.



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Joe Schmit Golf Tournament

The 15th annual Joe Schmit Golf Tournament took place this year on June 10, 12 & 13.

A three-day event, the tournament gathers BBBS supporters and local celebrities to help realize Joe Schmit's dream of providing a Big Brother or Sister for every child who wants one.

The tournament kicked off with Joe's Grand Party on June 10, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This casual event, sponsored by Grand Casino, attracted tournament participants, golf lovers and friends of the agency. The party included food from Timber Lodge Steakhouse, silent and live auctions, music from the Casablanca Orchestra and dancing.



The tournament concluded with two days of golf: The Joe Schmit Challenge at Hazeltine on June 12, and The Joe Schmit Celebrity Golf at Bunker Hills on June 13.

BBBS is grateful to Joe Schmit and our sponsors for their continued support of our mission. Top sponsors included: Title Sponsors: Grand Casino & Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, POPP.com
Presenting Sponsors: Denny Hecker's Automotive Group, Petters Group Worldwide, LLC, 2nd Wind Exercise Equipment. Major Sponsors: Allianz, Waste Management, McNeilus Steel, CTW Consulting, LLC, Net Gain Interactive, LLC, Optimum Mortgage

Arby's Golf Tournament

The Arby's Golf Tournament is part of Arby's Charity Tour. This year is the ninth time that the tour has made a stop in the Twin Cities. This year's tournament took place on July 28, with a reception, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a live auction and a lively awards presentation. In 2006, over \$100,000 was raised to help our children.



Upcoming Events

Amachi kick-off celebration with Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.

Join us Friday, October 27, at New Salem Baptist Church, to celebrate the kick-off of Amachi in our community. Our guest speaker is Reverend Doctor W. Wilson Goode, Sr., Director of the National Amachi Program and former mayor of Philadelphia. Lunch will be provided free of charge. Amachi is a faith-based program that mentors children of prisoners. Statistics show that children whose parents are incarcerated are 70% more likely to be incarcerated themselves. Learn how you can make a difference for these children. RSVP today at 651.789.2400! Space is limited. To learn more about Amachi, see our website at www.bigstwincities.org.

The Big Magic Breakfast, a fundraising event

On November 9, BBBS invites you to the Big Magic Breakfast at the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota. This free event showcases our match success stories and underscores the need for donors and volunteers. During the breakfast, guests will share in the BBBS vision of eliminating our 1,000-child waiting list and finding a Big Brother or Sister for every child who wants one. Please mark your calendar for this exciting and inspiring event. For more information about the breakfast, please contact 651.789.2400 or breakfast@bigstwincities.org.

Gala

Travel back in time with us, as we recreate the jazz age in the hottest club in New York. We will be celebrating our annual awards gala February 24, 2007, at the Metropolitan Ballroom in Golden Valley, with this year's theme: The Cotton Club. Enjoy fabulous entertainers, delicious food and help us honor volunteers who have been exemplary in serving our children. This glittering event is sure to be a night to remember! Our last gala was featured in Twin Cities Business as one of "Four Memorable Events", and we expect an even more dazzling event in 2007. Call now to reserve your table!

To learn more about the gala, or how you or your organization can be a sponsor, please contact Angela Wren at 651.789.2431 or events@bigstwincities.org. Individual tickets go on sale Monday, October 2!

"Hero In Our Midst"

Ron Hunter, an executive at Cargill and a Big Brother, was named a "Hero In Our Midst" at a ceremony at the BBBS main office in April. Ron mentors Rashad, a 14-year-old boy from north Minneapolis. He committed to being a Big Brother because he wanted to show a young man that even in the midst of difficult circumstances, education and belief in oneself could be life-changing.



The two friends play basketball, go to the library and the Science Museum of Minnesota. In Ron's words, they "blend a little serious talk in with the fun." They spoke together at the Minneapolis Rotary Club, where Rashad made his Big Brother proud when he stood in front of a large group to tell about how his match with Ron had affected his life.

Heroes In Our Midst is a nationwide initiative designed to honor the everyday heroes who make a positive impact on the lives of others. Ron received a bronze medallion and \$1,000 dollars has been donated in his name to BBBS. The program encourages the community to honor everyday heroes, like Ron, by sending cards or notes of thanks.

Annexstad Scholarship

We are proud to announce Little Sister Molly has been honored with an Annexstad Scholarship to attend the University of Minnesota. The scholarship helps a Minnesota-based Little Brother or Sister attend one of seven colleges, ensuring that expenses for tuition, books, fees, room and board are covered.

In 1995, Molly's mother contacted BBBS for her nine-year-old daughter. Before meeting her Big Sister, Randa, Molly was shy and scared of new situations and people. She hid her feelings to please others and was led by stronger personalities. Now Molly is confident, assertive and maintains a B+ average. Randa has helped draw her out of her shell and discover her talents.

Al Annexstad, President and CEO of Federated Insurance Companies, believes that all children deserve the same encouragement and opportunities that he received as a child from members of the community. To date, he has raised over \$4.5 million for children in Minnesota.