



## Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region

November 6, 2008

### E-Newsletter

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*"A candle loses nothing of its light when lighting another."*

*~ Kahlil Gibran*

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## BIG News!

### So Many Ways to Give

It takes many resources to match children with a Big Brother or a Big Sister, and our success depends on the generosity of donors and volunteers. There are so many ways for you to help! Here are a few examples:

- **Become a Big:** Your positive influence and one-on-one attention can transform a life forever. All it takes is friendship! [Click here](#) to read more about our programs. Men, [click here](#) to read about our drive for more male volunteers and the "[Average Joes](#)" who are Big Brothers.
- **Serve on one of our event committees:** Be a part of the planning for our annual Bowl For Kids' Sake, Golf For Kids' Sake or Annual Dinner. These fund raisers help us keep matching children with Bigs, and they take a lot of work.
- **Help plan monthly activities for matches:** Coordinate or provide resources for free or low-cost activities in the community.
- **Provide financial assistance. Donate, or sponsor an event or activity:**
  - Jackson National Life Insurance Company held a 'Payday Jeans Day' fund raiser in our name and raised over \$1,500! Thank you!
  - The Dart Plant Process Improvement Team chose us to receive a gift from the Dart Foundation for the second time this year.
  - The Uplift Our Youth Foundation provided a grant of \$1,500 to help meet our funding match requirement for our Mentoring Children of Prisoners program.
  - Employees of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation collected pop cans and donated the proceeds to our agency.
- **Donate in-kind.** Have a gently-used or new item that you want to get rid of? Consider donating it to us. [Click here](#) to see a list of needed items. A BIG thank you to the Committee to Re-elect Judge Collette for donating

a gently-used laptop computer! With the recent addition of our three AmeriCorps workers, this almost-new, high quality laptop will be put to good use!

- **Nominate us for your company's financial assistance:** Thank you to Nick Norris at Allstate - The Norris Agency, who obtained a \$500 grant for us from the Allstate Foundation in recognition of his commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Not only is Nick a dedicated Big Brother, but a generous contributor as well!
- **Donate prizes and awards for events:** Share your logo items as give-aways or donate larger items for auctions or prizes.
- **Consider joining our [Board of Directors](#):** Work with other community leaders to guide the direction of our agency.
- **Recruitment:** Arrange for speaking engagements to clubs, organizations or your place of business so we can tell our story. Or, visit our [Web site to learn](#) how you can do recruiting yourself.
- **Have your own idea? Bring it to us!** No matter how you give, you'll be making a BIG impact on children and on our community.

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### **College Road Trip Info Session**

*Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.*

*Black Child and Family Institute ([map](#))*

This opportunity might be good for some of our high school Littles and even some of our high school Bigs! Get information on:

- How to prepare for college
- How to choose which college is best for you
- How to apply to college
- How to pay for college

All grade levels welcome; refreshments will be served. Students and parents encouraged to attend. For more information, call Kierra Hill at (586) 718-0054.

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### **6th Annual Wine Tasting Fund Raiser**

Tickets are going fast for the 6th Annual Wine Tasting on November 19 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Uncle John's Cider Mill. Purchase your tickets for \$15 each by calling (517) 372-0160, toll free (877) 483-7145, by contacting any Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Member, or by stopping by the St. Johns Big Boy.

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### **Big Brothers Big Sisters Products**

Looking for a Big Brothers Big Sisters logo shirt or calendar? You can now find Big Brothers Big Sisters products on our [Web site](#). Make sure to check back regularly for updates.

## **For Parents in Clinton County**

### **Annual Clinton County Coat Collection**

*November 11 & 12*

*9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wilson Center ([map](#))*

Coats will be distributed to those in need of assistance who live in Clinton County. For more information, please call (989) 224-1173.

## Just For Matches

### Volunteer Opportunity - Owosso

The Arc is looking for volunteers to help wrap and deliver gifts for their *Operation Friendship 2008*, a gift-giving program for individuals and families with developmental disabilities in Shiawasee County. Gift wrapping is Thursday, December 11 at 6 p.m. and delivering is during the week of December 15. Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 21 at (989) 723-7377.

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### Free Magic Show for Matches

The Michigan Jaycees are holding their first annual Jaycee Magic Show at the Eagles Club #1039 ([map](#)), on Thursday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m., and offering tickets to Big Brothers Big Sisters! Interested matches should contact the office by Tuesday, November 11.

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### MSU Hockey Tickets

Tickets are available for all MSU home hockey games ([complete schedule](#)).

**Upcoming games at Munn Arena: Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15**, both against Miami of Ohio and both at 7:05 p.m. Call BBBS office to sign up: (517) 372-0160 or toll free (877) 483-7145. Thank you Ms. Sharon Debar and Orchid Orthopedic Solutions, LLC for donating the tickets!

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### MSU Men's Basketball Tickets

Michigan State University Men's basketball tickets are available for all home games for the season ([complete schedule](#)). **Upcoming game at the Breslin Center: Sunday, November 16** at 6 p.m. vs. Idaho. Please sign up by calling the agency at (517) 372-0160 or (877) 483-7145 **by Wednesday, November 12**. Tickets provided by Gary A. Smith.

## Things To Do!

### Community Events

**November 8 ~ Lansing ~ Static Electricity Super Saturday** at Impression 5 Science Center from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Activities free with \$5 admission price.

[Check out the entire schedule here.](#)

**November 8 ~ Okemos ~ Saturday @ the Movies** at the [Capital Area District Library in Okemos](#). Free movie (First Kid, rated PG) and snack at 1 p.m. Call (517) 347-2021 for more information.

**November 8 ~ Owosso ~ Saturday Art Classes** for K-8th grade at the [Shiawasee Arts Center](#). This Saturday is 'From the Ground Up' pottery. Create your own pottery piece on the wheel. \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members. Call (989) 723-8354.

**November 11 ~ Perry ~ Veterans Day Parade** at 6 p.m. starting in downtown Perry. Ceremony and casual dinner to follow at the VFW. Call (517) 625-6155.

**November 13 ~ Mason ~ Teen Music Club** at the [Capital Area District Library in Mason](#) at 3:30 p.m.(grades 9 -12) Listen to and discuss great music, share your favorite songs and artists, and more. Pop, chips and cookies will be

provided. (Call the library for details about appropriate musical content.) (517) 676-9088.

**November 13 - 16 ~ East Lansing ~ [An Environmental Film Festival & Fair](#)** at Michigan State University. The four-day event on the MSU campus will showcase films on important environmental issues that will inform, entertain and inspire. Highlights will include feature films, family-friendly films, documentaries, student productions, special guests and much more.

**November 15 ~ East Lansing ~ Creative Kids: I Spy...Animals**, for ages 5-8 at the Kresge Art Museum on the campus of Michigan State University. From 1 - 3 p.m. see how many animals can you find at the museum then sculpt or paint your favorite. Creative Kids is a free ongoing series of art-making programs for children accompanied by an adult. The series provides interactive experiences with visual arts and other modes of communication and are taught by a professional artist or art teacher. Following a guided tour in the museum, kids respond to their viewing experience with a hands-on art-making activity. All materials are provided. Registration required: please call (517) 353-9834.

### **Washington Park Ice Skating Complex Now Open**

Public skate available 7 days a week Saturday and Sundays 3:15 - 4:45 p.m. and 5 - 6:30 p.m., call for weekday schedule. \$4 for adults, \$3 for children. Skate rental \$2. (517) 483-4232

## **Frequently Asked Question**

### **Appreciating Differences**

Young people of all ages, particularly teenagers, believe adults do not respect them. They may feel insecure and even embarrassed about the problems in their lives. You can help your Little feel comfortable and appreciated, just by showing interest!

Remember to be yourself. Sometimes we try to relate to young people and even try to use their slang and be like one of them. You may learn a lot about your Little's culture, lifestyle and age group but, most likely, you will not be from that group.

Don't over-identify with your Little. You will never know exactly what or how s/he is feeling or experiencing. There is a big difference between statements such as "I know exactly what you are feeling" and "I think I have a sense of what you are going through."

You and your Little may share the same cultural heritage. More often than not, however, your backgrounds may be quite different. What a superb opportunity to gain understanding of your Little's heritage and to share your own! It is possible that your Little may not know about his/her history. This is a great time to do some research. Here are some tips:

- Talk about your background and your culture. Share your special traditions, typical foods of your heritage and where your family came from. Ask your Little to do the same.
- Share food, clothing and other aspects of heritage with each other.
- Research your cultures, the origin of your name and the number of individuals representing your culture who now live in this state or country.
- Write a little story about the cultural heritage of your respective

ancestors.

**If you have a question about your match or about being a Big, send it to [megan.bensette@bbbs.org](mailto:megan.bensette@bbbs.org) and look for it answered in future editions of the E-news!**

*The FAQ column is not a substitute for match support. Please remember to return monthly calls from Match Support Staff. Your Case Manager is available Monday - Friday by calling (877) 483- 7145.*

## Match Support

You have questions. We have answers.

Call [Match Support staff](#):

Monday - Thursday until 7 p.m.

Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(517) 372-0160 or toll free at (877) 483-7145.

Or send an e-mail to [0196matchsupport@bbbs.org](mailto:0196matchsupport@bbbs.org).

## Resources for Matches!

[Just for Matches activities](#)

**[Check out](#) where your Match Discount can take you now!**

### Contact Information

email: [0196info@bbbs.org](mailto:0196info@bbbs.org)

phone: (877) 483-7145 or (517) 372-0160

web: <http://www.bbbs.org/michigancapitalregion>

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