



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central Missouri

December 2009

Office: (573) 874-3677
www.bigsofcentralmo.org



Match of the Month



"I encourage other guys to become Big Brothers because it's a win/win. For me it's an hour a week of pure enjoyment." That's the attitude of Curt Porter, a Big Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters school-based program in Moberly.

Curt, a design engineer for Orscheln Products, has been a Big Brother to Jeremiah, a Moberly elementary school student, for two years. They hit it off right from the beginning. "My first impression of Jeremiah," said Curt was "he's absolutely perfect. He's like me—we both have freckles!" "He has a big 'ol smile on his face when he comes out of his classroom, and though Jeremiah loves to play we need to support his studies so we read, do flash cards, and practice reading while playing basketball by looking at the signs in the gym."

The hour a week Curt and Jeremiah spend together make both feel special even if they're just a couple guys hangin' out. Sometimes people ask Jeremiah "Is that your grandfather?" He says "No, that's my brother" which to Curt indicates "he's really enjoying our time together; and I get as much out of the hour as he does."

Why did Curt get involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program? "My daughter found out about the program and encouraged me to become a Big." His daughter, Chrissandra, is also a Big Sister and an employee of Orscheln.

Big Brothers Big Sisters in Moberly as well as Mexico and Columbia all have a great need for mentors in the school-

based programs. You can have as much fun as Curt Porter just by spending an hour a week being a friend to a child? In Moberly contact Francine Nichols at 660-676-9320, in Mexico contact Lori Pratt at 573-473-8018, in Columbia contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri at 573-874-3677, or visit www.bigsofcentralmo.org.

BBBS Wins Top Award

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri was honored in November with a first place Philly Award at the 17th annual Philanthropy Midwest Conference in Kansas City. Several staff members attended the awards luncheon.

The award, for the local public service campaign *100 Men in 100 Days*, recognized excellence in nonprofit communications. The agency's first place win competed against more than 20 nonprofit agencies from the Kansas City metro area including several with budgets over one-million dollars. The Philly Awards, presented by Nonprofit Connect, recognized the outstanding work of 174 entries in 12 categories.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri conducted the very successful *100 Men in 100 Days* campaign from late October 2008 through January 2009. At its conclusion over 170 men became Big Brothers and 156 women signed up as Big Sisters. Tom Dresner and Dr. Jim Ritter served as co-chairs of the campaign, helped by a task force of 20 community leaders.



A Prayer for Children

Marion Wright Edelman

We pray for children

Who sneak popsicles before supper
Who erase holes in math workbooks
Who can never find their shoes

We pray for those

Who stare at photographers from behind barbed
wire
Who can't bound down the street in a new pair of
shoes

Who never "counted potatoes"
Who are born in places we wouldn't be caught
dead

Who never go to the circus
Who live in an X-rated world

We pray for children

Who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of
dandelions
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch
money

And we pray for those

Who never get dessert
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind them
Who watch their parents watch them die
Who can't find any bread to steal
Who don't have any rooms to clean up
Whose monsters are real

We pray for children

Who spend all their allowance before Tuesday
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store and
pick at their food
Who like ghost stories
Who shove dirty clothes under their bed and
never rinse out the tub
Who get visits from the tooth fairy
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool

And we pray for those

Whose nightmares come in the daytime
Who will eat anything
Who have never seen a dentist
Who aren't spoiled by anybody
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to
sleep
Who live and move, but have no being

We pray for children

Who want to be carried ...and for those who
must
For those we never give up on... and for those
who don't get a second chance
For those we smother... and for those who will
grab the hand of anybody kind enough to
offer it

Please offer your hands to them so that no child is left
behind because we did not act.

Schnucks Donation

When you're shopping for groceries this holiday season re-
member to Shop at Schnucks and Help Kids!

When you buy your groceries at Schnucks Supermarket they
will donate to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Just ask at the service
desk for a Community Card or contact our office. Schnucks
will donate up to 3% of monthly purchase amounts.

Tax Deductions for Bigs

It's that time of year again to begin calculating and filing
your federal income tax. BBBSA is pleased to inform you
that Bigs are entitled to the following tax deductions:

- You may deduct \$.14 cents per mile incurred in
picking up and driving the Little around.
- You may also deduct the cost of meals, movie tickets,
museum admissions, etc. which you spend for the
Little. You cannot, however, deduct the costs you
incur for your own meals, tickets, etc.

While BBBSA encourages quality time rather than money
spent on the Little to be most important in the relationship,
we trust that you will find the above information useful.

Fun Things to Do

Each month we have a Calendar of Events to give Bigs ideas about
fun things they can do with their Little Brother or Sister. But just
about anything can be fun. Here are some other ideas and these will
lead to you thinking of lots of things on your own.

Make your own unique and unusual wrapping paper—Get a roll
of white paper or just brown grocery sacks. Use markers, crayons,
stickers, glue, glitter or other interesting art materials and create
away!

Play checkers or chess—Show your Little how to play. If you don't
know how, yourself, get a book and learn together. Practice when-
ever you have time together.

Read out loud—Find a play script that has interesting characters.
Read to each others with each reading different characters. Practice
different voices and act out the parts of the play.

Go for a walk—That's it! Just go for a walk. Look at how the trees
look different now. Look at seeds along a path. Watch the squirrels
collect nuts and climb trees.

Learn about famous people—Get a calendar or book with birth-
days of famous people. Make a game of learning about whoever
happens to have a birthday on the day you and your Little meet.

Giving: Making Our Work with Children Possible

Making a gift to support matching at-risk children with positive adult role model mentors here in Central MO by BBBS is easy. Simply select a course of action:

- Write and send a check to BBBS of Central Missouri, 800 N. Providence Rd., Ste.110, Columbia, MO 65203.
- Visit our website and select "Donate." This will take you to a secure site at which you can make a contribution. If you have registered for an event of ours in the last year on our website, your information has been stored securely and will "auto fill" if you so choose!
- Sponsor or even host a BBBS event (call for various business plans available).
- Designate BBBS of Central Missouri in your estate plan. Similarly, ask others to make a memorial gift to us in your name.
- Transfer gifts of appreciated stock or real estate, using your own financial planner.
- Contribute to us in honor or memory of a loved one.

And did you know that we offer **Youth Opportunities Program tax credits at the 50% level? That's how you get half of your gift returned to you.** When you give, for example, \$5,000, you complete a form that we send to the Dept. of Economic Development. You then receive, in this example, \$2,500 of your gift back on your taxes. Plus, you still get to take the charitable tax deduction on your gift – in addition to this 50% refund. It's true. Call us with any questions you may have about this: 573-874-3677, ext. 209.

Santa For Hire

Santa Claus is coming to town and donating his fee to Big Brothers Big Sisters!

If you'd like to have Santa bring Holiday Greetings to your business or office party or stop by your home to deliver gifts to your children contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri.

Santa is available now through Monday, December 21st. His fee is just \$40.00 for a home visit; or \$90.00 for a business or office party. To schedule a visit with Santa call Mary Sloan @ Big Brothers Big Sisters, 573-874-3677, ext. 222; or email mary.sloan@bbbs.org

Busines of the Month

Moresource, the Business of the Month, has been in business 15 years and currently serves over 200 companies giving them more time to focus on running their business because they utilize the services of Moresource. Services include payroll, insurance, HR consulting, bookkeeping, and benefits administration among others. Kat Cunningham, founder and president, has been a driving force in Columbia for many, many years. Her involvement has helped many non-profit organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters who in August, with Kat as chairperson, had their most successful Countdown To Kickoff ever. **Thanks Moresource for your support.**



From left: Sheila Johnson, Peggy Eskew, Jamie Nelson, Kat Cunningham, Kim Calvin, Khristina Bustos (not shown Melissa White)

Sound Practices - Development

Ever wonder what an independent, third party evaluator of charitable organizations would say about giving to Big Brothers Big Sisters? Here's what:

Outside independent watchdog agencies, including Charity Navigator, Charitywatch.org, Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, and GiveSpot.org gave Big Brothers Big Sisters their highest ratings for fiscal responsibility and accountability.

We are proud to be affirmed by these very thorough evaluations. You should feel proud, as well, and confident that your gift will be used wisely to benefit children here in our community.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central Missouri

December Events for Bigs & Littles



BBBS Holiday Events

- Saturday — Dec 12 — 3 pm — Holiday Cookie Bake at Sweet Tooth Bakery.** Make yummy holiday cookies from scratch to decorate and take home.
- Sunday — Dec 13 — 1pm — Big Brothers Big Sisters Discount Night at MIZZOU Women's Basketball.**

Holiday Events Around Columbia

- Thursday — Dec 31 — First Night Celebration, Downtown Columbia — begins at 6:30pm**

Holiday Events Around Mexico

- Friday - Sunday — Dec 11-13 — Nutcracker Ballet, Presser Performing Arts Center — 7pm**
- Thursday — Dec 17 — Holiday Express (Santa Train) — 326 S. Jefferson — 4pm**
- Saturday — Dec 19 — Film Night — Polar Express in 3D — Presser Performing Arts Center — 7pm**

Events at Daniel Boone Regional Library

- Monday — Dec 14 — 5:30-7:30pm — Reading to Rover — Program Room, Children's Area.** This is a fun and unique way to help improve children's literacy skills. All dogs are certified Therapy Dogs.

Mark Your Calendar

University of Missouri — Semester Break
December 18 - January 18

Columbia and Moberly — Holiday Recess
December 21 - January 1

Mexico — Holiday Recess — December 23 - January 1

Columbia, Mexico, Moberly — January 18 — No Classes
Martin Luther King's Birthday

Cheap Eats

- Andy's Frozen Custard** — Free medium drink with purchase of Concrete or Sundae
- Hot Box Cookies** — The Single for half price
- Jimmy's Steak House** — 10% discounts (excludes beer)
- Pizza Hut** — 20% discount (excludes beer)

Sports at Mizzou

- Basketball (Men's)** — Mizzou Arena
- Saturday, Dec. 12 — Tigers vs. Fairleigh Dickinson @ 7pm
- Saturday, Dec. 19 — Tigers vs. Arkansas - Pine Bluff @ 7pm
- Sunday, Dec. 27 — Tigers vs. Austin Peay @ 2pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 30 — Tigers vs. UMKC @ 7pm
- Saturday, Jan. 2 — Tigers vs. Georgia @ 3pm

- Basketball (Women's)** — Mizzou Arena
- Thursday, Dec. 10 — Tigers vs. Texas-Panamerican @ 6:30pm
- Sunday, Dec. 13 — Tigers vs. Murray State @ 1pm
- Monday, Dec. 21 — Tigers vs. Arkansas - Pine Bluff @ 6:30pm
- Monday, Dec. 28 — Tigers vs. North Texas @ 6:30pm
- Saturday, Jan. 2 — Tigers vs. Duquesne @ 11:30am

Sports at Columbia College

- Basketball (Men's)** — Southwell Complex
- Friday, Dec. 18 — Cougars vs. Lyon College @ noon
- Friday, Jan. 1 — Cougars vs. Culver-Stockton @ 8pm
- Saturday, Jan. 2 — Cougars vs. Graceland University @ 8pm
- Saturday, Jan. 9 — Cougars vs. Park University @ 4pm
- Thursday, Jan. 14 — Cougars vs. McKendree University @ 7:30pm

- Basketball (Women's)** — Southwell Complex
- Friday, Jan. 1 — Cougars vs. Lyon College @ 6pm
- Saturday, Jan. 2 — Cougars vs. Missouri Valley College @ 6pm
- Saturday, Jan. 9 — Cougars vs. Park University @ 2pm
- Thursday, Jan. 14 — Cougars vs. McKendree University @ 5:30pm

Discounts & Tickets

- Columbia Entertainment Co.** — Free seat for Little with purchase of seat for Big
- Glow Golf (in Columbia Mall)** — Each person plays for \$4.00 each — all 54 holes.
- Going Bonkers** — Free admission of Big with Little admission.
- Mud Room** — \$7 for Bigs and \$3. For Littles 12 and under (not including pieces)
- Perche Creek Golf Club** — Bigs regular price, Littles free for miniature golf
- Stephen's College** — \$1. Per person at Macklanburg Playhouse (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)