

# Southern Region

Established in January 2008, the Big Brothers Big Sisters' Southern Region encompasses all southern suburbs of Dallas County south of I-20 and all of Ellis County. Department of Education grants through the DeSoto and Waxahachie School Districts over the past four years have provided a foundation for focused growth in the region that materialized in 2008.

The regions' first board of directors was established and mentoring services expanded from two school districts to nine cities. The Volunteers In Phase II program, initiated at Cockrell Hill Elementary School in DeSoto, bussed students to Grace Presbyterian Village in south Dallas where senior residents mentored the children.

2008 also saw the first Big Picture fundraising luncheon for the region and a volunteer recruitment campaign orchestrated by the Leadership Southwest Class of 2008. With the first Bowl For Kids' Sake events scheduled for early 2009, many great things will be seen from this region in years to come.

“Realizing the impact that mentoring made in the lives of my two sons through Big Brothers Big Sisters, I wanted to make a difference as well by becoming a Big Sister. Not only do I get a little ‘girl time’ with my Little Sister Smariah, but I have gained perspective of how lives are changed through the program – as a single mom, as a mentor and for the beautiful young lady whom I get to spend time with!”

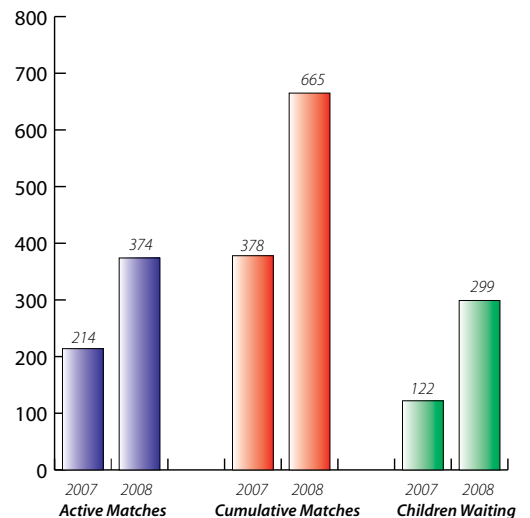
- Cassandra Mitchell, parent and Big Sister

## Southern Region Board

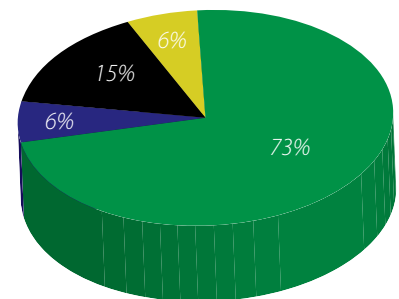
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|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Warren Adams        | Dr. Kevin Fegan        | Earle Jones    |
| Linda Barnes-Rhodes | Gary Fisher            | Sabrina Porter |
| Daphne Brown        | Kenneth Govan          |                |
| Patricia Coleman    | Camille Jackson, Chair |                |



Regional Program Statistics (as of 12/31/2008)



Ethnic Breakdown of Children Served in 2008



- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> African American | 73% |
| <span style="color: black;">■</span> Hispanic         | 15% |
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Caucasian         | 6%  |
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Other           | 6%  |

**299** children were on the Southern Region waiting list at the end of 2008.