

# Abilene Region

No challenge was too great for the Abilene community in 2008, as Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrated its 30th year in the area. Graced with a matching grant challenge from the Dian Graves Owen Foundation for multi-year financial commitments, Big Brothers Big Sisters supporters met that challenge just six months later. The Allstate Foundation's Your Choice Charity let Abilenians decide their charity of choice to receive \$15,000. Overwhelmingly, Big Brothers Big Sisters was chosen.

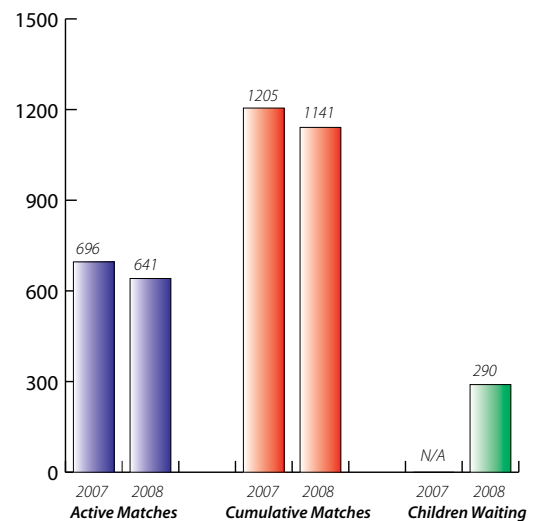
Serving more than 1,100 children in 2008, Big Brothers Big Sisters currently has mentors in every school in the Abilene Independent School District. Many of the mentors are from the local high schools and universities, while other volunteers are working professionals or retired.

More than 300 community leaders, Bigs, Littles and supporters helped us close the year with a December 4 celebration commemorating the agency's 30 years in Abilene.

"Hanging out with Darian is like hanging out with a friend. I've enjoyed getting to know his family and his mom knows she can call me if anything big happens," said Big Brother Clayton Collins. "Being a Big Brother keeps me young, and keeps me thinking about fun and exciting things to do. The reward is knowing that I am having a positive impact on his life."

- Big Brother Clayton Collins

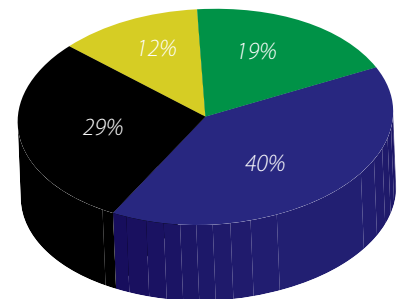
Regional Program Statistics (as of 12/31/2008)



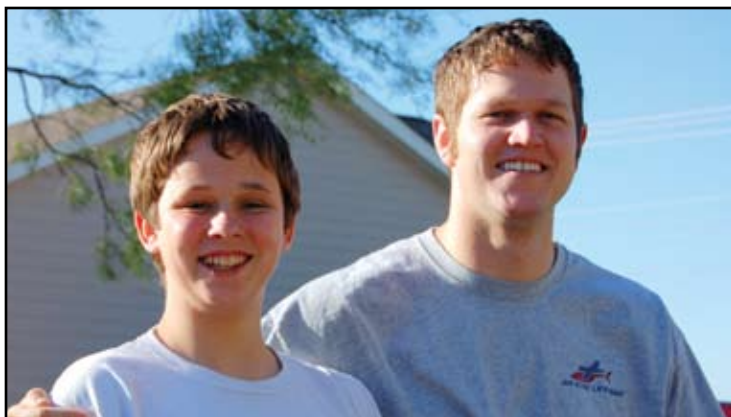
## Abilene Region Board

- |                    |                  |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Alex Eyssen        | Jack Wylie       | Mark Spurlock   |
| Bobby Grimes       | Jamie Miers      | Marci Payne     |
| Crystal Griffin    | Jason Groves     | Patrick Clancy  |
| Daniel Ortiz       | Karen Hines      | Samuel Sloane   |
| David Baum         | Kim Nussbaum     | Sheryl Kendrick |
| Gavin Ketchen      | Kyna Grigsby     | Theresa James   |
| George Pendergrass | Lawrence Bertsch |                 |
| Greg Frazier       | Linda Stanley    |                 |

Ethnic Breakdown of Children Served in 2008



- Caucasian 40%
- Hispanic 29%
- African American 19%
- Other 12%



**290** children were on the **Abilene Region** waiting list at the end of **2008**.