



Big Brothers Big Sisters

THIRD EDITION

February 24, 2009

Editors: Ms. Rhonda Robati, Ms Allison Caulk



BBBS OPENS NEW OFFICE, PARTNERS WITH FUSION WAREHOUSE IN ANDERSON

On February 13, 2009, BBBS Upstate officially opened its new office in Anderson County. It is located inside the Fusion Warehouse, an innovative youth center whose mission is to provide resources, education, training and development to prepare youth for success. Through a partnership with Fusion, we hope to reach a vast pool of both children and potential volunteers within the center and increase our presence in the community at the same time.

This is an exciting move for our organization. By opening a new location, we hope to serve even more at risk youth in the upstate area by offering those in Anderson County a more community based office that they can easily access. Prior to our presence in the area, those individuals who wanted to serve as volunteers as well as at risk youth and their families had to travel to our location in Greenville, an inconvenient and impossible trip for many.

Although the office is currently operated on a part time basis, plans to expand operating hours to full time are in the works for later in the year. An open house, both to celebrate the opening and advertise our presence is also planned for the near future.

Our sincerest thanks go to the United Way of Anderson County and the staff and Management of the Fusion Warehouse for their support and assistance in making this new office possible.

For information on our services in Anderson County, please call Ms. Farrah Norris, Program Coordinator/Anderson County at 864-483-0180, our Greenville Office at 864-242-0676 or you may go to our website at www.bbbsupstate.com. Please check out the Fusion Warehouse website as well at www.fusionwarehouse.net.

“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”

Rachel Carson

February 2009

In This Edition:

Arby's Charity Tour	2
Volunteer Social	2
Christmas Parties	3
Our Staff	3
Volunteer Spotlight	4
Match Support	4
Looking For Men	4
Staff Spotlight	4
Fun Ideas	5
New Board Member	5
Website News	5
Upcoming Events	5
Board Members	5

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ARBY'S CHARITY TOUR SET FOR APRIL 13 WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The 2nd Annual Arby's Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 13, 2009 at the Cliffs at Glassy. Last year's event raised \$25,000 and was instrumental in helping us increase our community based match program by 73%. It is the largest fundraising event to benefit BBBS each year and we need your help. In terms of money it cost \$1000 per year to help one child. As many of you know, our organization is a 501C3 non-profit and relies solely on donations and support like this from the community. While donations to non-profit organizations are down across the country due to the current financial crisis, this same crisis directly affects the underprivileged and mostly low-income families that we serve more than anyone else. It is imperative that we as a community support them and allow our children to become productive and self assured citizens.

It takes just \$500 to support one player or \$2000 for a team of 4. We are in great need of players, teams, hole sponsorships and volunteers to work the event. It really is not that much when you consider the fun you will have, the food and drinks provided, and the satisfaction of knowing that you helped a child in need.

Please contact Mr. Terry Hypes or Mr. Derrick Sullivan at 864-242-0676 or visit our website, www.bbbsupstate.com for more information. You may also visit the Arby's website at www.arbysfoundation.org.

PLEASE HELP US IN OUR MISSION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE!

**“Bitter are the tears of a child-sweeten them
Deep are the thoughts of a child-quiet them
Sharp is the grief of a child-take it from him
Soft is the heart of a child-do not harden it”**

Pamela Glenconner



VOLUNTEER SOCIAL A GREAT SUCCESS

The 1st Annual Volunteer Social was held October 17, 2008 at the Embassy Suites in Greenville. More than 40 of our Volunteers attended the event and along with staff and guests, more than 100 people enjoyed the night of food, drinks, door prizes, fun, and appreciation for our volunteers. BBBS Upstate took the opportunity to honor all of our volunteers and give special recognition to those volunteers who have served 4 years or more as well as those who have gone above and beyond in their service to the organization. A special new committee was also formed with Mr. Chris Collins agreeing to chair

The Volunteer Fundraising Committee which has already began its work by raising funds through their employers, friends and families. Please contact Chris at 864-569-5520 if you are interested in the committee.

The event is planned to be an annual get together to not only honor our volunteers for their service but to also provide them with them opportunity to get to know each other and exchange thoughts and ideas.

Our many thanks to the staff and management of the Embassy Suites for the care they took to make the occasion a success!





CHRISTMAS PARTIES A LOT OF FUN

Greenville Party a Blast at Gattitown

Greenville held their Christmas Party on December 6 at Gattitown in Greenville again this year. With over 180 in attendance, the event was full of food and fun as the children and volunteers ate lots of pizza then got their game tokens to play and ride in the game room at the restaurant. Although not necessarily the traditional Christmas event, the children didn't seem to mind too much as they ran from game to game and ride to ride with big smiles on their faces. I think their Bigs had a great time as well, as many were noted with big smiles on their faces too! Many thanks to Gattitown for their great service as well as the Greenville staff-Derrick Sullivan, Lamont Sullivan, Rhonda Robati and Farrah Norris for all their help in making the party a success!

Spartanburg Holds Traditional Party

Spartanburg held their traditional Christmas party last year on December 6 at the First Baptist Church of Spartanburg with over 150 in attendance. The party was described as the "best one yet" by Charlene Cheeks, Site Director. All children received fruit bags and a gift and food and drinks were also provided. Santa was there to hand out candy canes and take pictures with all the children. A DVD was shown highlighting events of 2008 and the children were thrilled to see themselves on the "Big Screen". Many thanks to the sponsors of the party including Chick-Fil-A, Dominos, Papa Johns, Arby's, Brusters, Coca-Cola, the Beacon, and First Baptist Church as well as all Spartanburg staff-Charlene Cheeks, Sarah Prosser, Allison Caulk, Annie Gordon and Martha Barnet for all their efforts on making this a first class event for our kids!



OUR STAFF

“When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments; tenderness for what he is and respect for what he may become.”

Louis Pasteur

Mr. Terry Hypes, CEO

Mr. Derrick Sullivan, Program Director

Mr. Lamont Sullivan, Site Director, Greenville

Mrs. Rhonda Robati, Executive Assistant

Mrs. Charlene Cheeks, Site Director, Spartanburg

Ms. Allison Caulk, Jump Start for Active Living Program Coordinator

Mrs. Sarah Prosser, Volunteer Recruiter/Intern

Ms. Farrah Norris, Program Coordinator, Anderson County/Intern



GREENVILLE BIG MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Glen and Ray Quan

When Glen Johnson decided to become a Big Brother he had no idea how much fun it would be. A young married executive with one young son, he wanted simply to “help a child”. Then he met Ray-Quan, an extremely shy young man who lived with his Mom and desperately needed a positive male role model in his life. He barely said two words during that first meeting and didn't crack a smile. Well, that did not sway Glen. He plunged into the relationship and he and Ray-Quan became fast friends.

Glen was always there for him and he began to blossom. The more they were together, the closer they became and the happier they both were. When they attended the BBBS annual picnic after being matched only a few months, they were both changed people. Glen was having the time of his life but Ray-Quan was hardly recognizable—a happy, smiling child who talked up a storm.

Congratulations Glen for making a difference in a child's life!

HELP US MAKE YOUR MATCH A SUCCESS!

As many of you know, national standards for Bigs and Littles who are matched require that staff speak with both the Volunteers and Parents on a monthly basis for the first year of the relationship, then every 3 months thereafter. This requirement is essential not only to offer support but to assist in solving any issues or offering advice to our participants as they continue to grow in their relationship. As a reminder, it is imperative that staff be contacted for any changes in contact information such as address, telephone number and e-mail addresses as soon as possible. It is also important to reply in a timely manner to any messages staff may leave for you. And, as always, thank you for so much that you do in making a difference in a child's life!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT MR DERRICK SULLIVAN

Derrick is a Greenville native who graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2000 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. He joined Big Brothers Big Sisters staff in 2002 and was instrumental in opening our new office in 2006. He was named Program Director in 2007 and through his leadership has helped increase the community based match program by over 73 percent in 2008.

Derrick is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc and attends Bethlehem Baptist Church where he coaches the 6-8 year old basketball team. He is married and has 2 daughters, Lisa and Sydney and enjoys golf and basketball.

Congratulations Derrick for making our program such a great success!

BBBS UPSTATE STILL LOOKING FOR BIG BROTHERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters is still short of male volunteers and currently has 38 boys on our waiting list, some whom have been waiting for up to a year. Please keep in mind that we can do a couple's match for a little boy, so any females who are waiting who have a male in their lives can probably shorten their wait and get involved in helping a child by participating in a couples match. We hope that each of you can find a way to encourage a male, whether it be a friend, brother, father or co-worker to make a difference in a child's life by volunteering to be a young man's Big Brother. As all of you who currently volunteer for the program know, you can make a difference in a child's life and end up making a difference in your own life as well. Thanks for all that you do!



Derrick



FUN IDEAS

With the weather getting warmer and the economy shrinking, we thought you all would appreciate some suggestions for free or low cost activities in the Upstate area. Both Home Depot and Lowes have free workshops for children that include some type of project and are generally free and held on Saturdays. Please check their websites at www.homedepot.com or www.lowes.com for further information. There also plenty of festivals, indoor and outdoor activities going on throughout the year in all cities in the upstate as well as some in western North Carolina that may be of interest. Some websites to check are www.greenvilleonline.com, www.greenvillemetromix.com, www.exploregreenville.com, www.greenvillesc.gov,

www.upstateparent.com, www.cityofspartanburg.org, www.cityofgreer.org, and www.cityofandersonsc.com.

Of course, there are many other areas close by that have lots going on such as the Apple Festival in Hendersonville, NC held every summer and the Flat Rock Playhouse in Flat Rock, NC which runs from April through December and is an excellent place not only to visit but to enjoy one of their shows. You can check them out at www.faltrackplayhouse.org. We hope that you can use this information to find many fun things to do with your Little throughout the year!

BBBS UPSTATE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Rick Cauthen, who has lived in Greenville since 1980, joined BBBS Upstate's Board of Directors in January, 2009. Rick graduated from Clemson University in 1979 with a BS in Civil Engineering and an MBA. He works for Coldwell Banker as a Commercial Broker and also serves on the Global Trade Consortium Board of Directors. Rick is married with 4 young boys and is an active member of Brookwood Church. He enjoys sports and spending time with his family. Welcome Rick, we look forward to working with you!

“While we try and teach children about life, children teach us what life is all about”

Angela Schwindt

“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other is wings.”

Hodding Carter

Upcoming Events

- April 13, 2009 Arby's Charity Tour, Cliffs at Glassy
- 2nd Annual Poker Run, June 2009

BBBS UPSTATE UPDATING WEBSITE

As many of you may already know, BBBS Upstate is in the process of updating and localizing our website. Although the website serves us well, all of the pictures and stories were not local until now. We will gradually be adding pictures and stories of our local Bigs and Littles to the website, giving it more local appeal and highlighting all the special people who are part of our program. Please check it out at www.bbbsupstate.com and let us know what you think!

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Jonathon Pinson-Chair | Mr. John Darrohn |
| Mr. Brandon Rich-Vice Chair | Mr. Michael Herlong |
| Ms. Emily Whitney-Treasurer | Mr. Rick Cauthen |
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