

# The Big News

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast

Spring 2010

### Goals – Challenge – Dedication – Hard Work – Achievement – Making Dreams Happen A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, FRANK EASTON

It's May & I am writing this beside a nice warm fire. Why? Because it's 30 degrees, the wind is blowing & a light snow is in the air (is it really May ... or someone's idea of a bad April Fools joke)?

As I thought about what I wanted to write, the words above came to mind. Our work is driven by the goals we set for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast. While there are several, they boil down to mission ... to provide positive adult role models (we call them "Bigs") for children so they might achieve their fullest potential. It is a lofty goal & one not easily achieved.

Along the way, we face many, many challenges. It begins with demonstrating to the families of the children we serve, that our services are effective & that no one takes the safety of their child any more seriously than our staff & volunteers do. We must find volunteers, complete thorough background checks & match them with the most appropriate child. And the challenges continue for the life of the match in the form of how to best support Bigs & Littles to ensure the best outcomes.

And if those were not sufficient challenges, our nation & state are in one of the deepest recessions in a long time, highlighted by lost jobs & homes. It is a time fraught with uncertainty about the future & is presenting difficult decisions for businesses, federal, state & local governments & individuals throughout our community.

Today, I want to thank everyone involved in our success including the families who entrust their children to our program & the staff who work tirelessly each & every day, to accomplish the goals we've set. This is the most challenging fund raising environment I've ever experienced, so I want to extend a special thank you to people who's dedication to the cause is critical to our success ... our donors, sponsors & fund raisers. Our work requires funding to pay staff & for the many services necessary for our agency to do its work well. Without funding, it would be impossible to do what we do. As I think about the economy, I am reminded of a saying I first heard as a young Marine ... "When the going gets tough ... the tough get going." This clearly exemplifies our supporters.

But donations only come after a terrific amount of hard work put forth by countless volunteers, laboring tirelessly for months to organize events like the Bowl For Kids' Sake event held in April. From the organizing committee to the many volunteers, bowlers & fund raisers & of course our very special sponsors & donors, all of whom, in spite of the challenges highlighted above, dedicated their energy to making the event a success. As with any event, the proof is in the pudding. Event day arrived along with stomach butterflies & the inevitable questions. Will they come? Will we raise the money we need in order to continue doing what we do?

Well drum roll if you please Maestro ... just as the Iowa corn farmer who heard a voice telling him in the 1989 movie "Field of Dreams" if you build it, they will come ... they did in fact come ... by the hundreds!! And you raised nearly \$50,000!! In the face of the worst economic conditions I've witnessed during my 8 or 9 years with Big Brothers Big Sisters, that was an outstanding achievement. In fact, this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most successful bowling event we have ever put on ... with more bowlers

than we've seen in recent years. I find that amazing.

Finally, I am humbled by the unflappable commitment of the people involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters. You are the reason the final words ... making dreams come true ... come to mind. You are helping to ensure that the children we serve have the best opportunity to reach their highest potential. I believe there is no cause more noble than serving & investing in our youth.

I want to thank each & every one of you who make this possible. You are making a difference.

*Frank Easton*



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Mission Statement

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast is to provide successful mentoring relationships for children who need them, promoting a brighter future, better schools and stronger communities.

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Dear Friends,

It has been an incredibly glorious spring filled with the brightest greens, the most brilliant pinks and an incredible cacophony of bird song.

Each morning as I awake and look out my window, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to live in such a beautiful part of the world. Despite the very real economic struggles our community is facing, the Piscataqua continues to flow past the banks of Prescott Park, the magnolias continue to lift up their petals to the brilliant blue sky and many of us begin to get a little bit antsy as we look forward to the summer ahead. There is a very real feeling of rebirth in the air, even as we all experience the financial pinch. Here at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast, we feel it too and yet despite that, we remain connected to the work that we are doing, the children we serve and the heady intoxication of the promise of spring.

Last week, I had the privilege to attend the wake of a stalwart supporter of our agency and the children we serve. Pete Robinson, walked among us as a Big for almost twenty years and during that time he served as a mentor for two "Little" Brothers. Both of his "Littles" aged out

of the program with Pete and the successful, kind and compassionate men they have become are a testament to the successful, kind and compassionate man, Pete was.

Here at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast we often highlight the children we serve and it is true that they are the reason that our mission is to provide successful mentoring relationships for all children who need them, promoting a brighter future, better schools and stronger communities. From time to time, however, it is very important to lift up those that really make our mission happen: the kind and compassionate volunteers who give the incredible gift of themselves and their time. Pete is one of many and we are so proud to have been able to represent the love and gratitude that we as an agency feel for him, for in doing so we are not just paying tribute to Pete, but to all the "Bigs" who surely make a difference in the life of their "Littles" and our greater community.

Rest in Peace, Pete Robinson. And a big expression of gratitude to all of our mentors, past and present.

Sincerely,

## 1 YEAR LATER: TESS AND LINDSEY'S STORY

Lindsey, 14; Tess, 25  
Matched 1 year

Lindsey was being bullied and had many learning disabilities. She struggled in school both socially and academically. As an overweight child, Lindsey never felt that she fit in with her peers and she would often run home in tears after school.

Tess is a kind and gentle young woman who at an early age, lost her mother, but gained a wealth in knowledge about strength and family. She came to BBBS as a volunteer who was excited to be matched with a child who she could connect with.

Tess and Lindsey instantly became good friends. They

enjoy outings to the mall and movies. Tess worked closely with her match support to promote better self-esteem and get bullying advice.

"She reminds me of a young version of myself," Tess said beaming after the first couple months. "She is a true friend."

Recently, Tess helped Lindsey redecorate her bedroom and organize all her belongings. She brought her to Bath and Body Works and surprised Lindsey by buying her body wash and some toiletries.

"She is a real friend and I can tell her anything," Lindsey described of Tess.

The two girls have a wonderful bond, which only gets stronger

as the months go by. Mom describes Lindsey as being more social and having friends sleep over.

"This has been such a wonderful program for our family," said Mom. "Lindsey just loves Tess."

Tess and Lindsey continue to meet weekly and enjoy every minute of the visit.

"I feel like I am part of Lindsey's family," Tess recently confessed. "I love meeting with her because we laugh and have a great time together."

To become a volunteer or enroll a child in our programs, contact Christine at 603-430-1140 x 305 or Christine.thiel@bbbs.org

# SEACOAST COMMUNITY RAISES OVER \$47,000 AT BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE GOES HOLLYWOOD!

Spring 2010

On April 10th, over 200 people walked the red carpet at the Portsmouth Bowl-O-Rama not only to have a star-studded experience but to help raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast.



Participants came dressed as their favorite celebrities, enjoyed a magic performance by BJ Hickman, music and karaoke by Party Time DJ of Exeter, limo rides by Great Bay Limousine, and caricatures by Carol Leach. Many thanks to our bowlers,

donors and volunteers and a special thanks to our event committee which included Brian Keane, Dana De Niro, Jerry Rudinsky, Jill Horgan, Kim Buxton and Stefanie Guzikowski.

Check out our website for incredible articles featured in the Portsmouth Herald and Foster's Daily Democrat.



## ★ THANK YOU TO THE STARS OF OUR EVENT ★

### \$5,000 Box Office Sponsor

**Sprague**

### \$2,500 Producer Sponsor



### \$1,000 Cast Sponsors

**Matt Becker**



**Joanna and Darren Young**

### \$500 Director's Chair Sponsors

Access Sports Medicine • Cobham Sensor Systems  
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### \$250 Red Carpet Sponsors

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RESCON Basement Solutions • Stewart Title • Vary Technologies  
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### \$100 Walk of Fame Sponsors

Northeast Credit Union • Great Island Realty  
Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café • Philbrick's Fresh Market  
Pre Tech Industries

### In-Kind Donors

Bagel Works • Bowl-O-Rama • Breadbox • Chipotle  
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### EVENT DAY CONTRIBUTORS

- ★ Bill Christo Photography ([billchristoblog.com](http://billchristoblog.com))
- ★ BJ Hickman Magic Shows ([bjhickman.com](http://bjhickman.com))
- ★ Caricatures by Carol Leach
- ★ Great Bay Limousine ([greatbaylimo.com](http://greatbaylimo.com))
- ★ Party Time DJ ([yourpartytimedj.com](http://yourpartytimedj.com))

# A BIG Thank You to Our 3rd Quarter Donors\*

## \$1,000+

Matthew & Katie Becker  
Scott Church  
City of Portsmouth  
Lynne Cote-Joyce  
Fidelity Corporate Services  
Give With Liberty  
Liberty Mutual Foundation, Inc.  
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United Way of the Greater Seacoast  
Unitil Service Corporation  
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Wheelabrator Technologies  
Darren & Joanna Young

## \$500 - \$999

Cobham Sensor Systems  
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Federal Savings Bank  
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## \$250 - \$499

Peter Allen  
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## \$100 - \$249

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Jennifer Walsh  
Bonnie Ward

\*The above are donations received between January 1, 2010 and March 31, 2010

**For a complete listing of donors under \$100, please visit our website.**

## I EAT LOCALLY Making Diners Into Donors

Purchase gift certificates to local restaurants at a 50% discount in the month of May! 30% of gift certificate sales will be donated back to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast.

Visit [www.ieatlocally.com](http://www.ieatlocally.com) to purchase your discounted gift certificates today!

i eat locally 



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