

The Big News

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast

SUMMER 2011

BBBSGS RECOGNIZED AS GOLD STANDARD AGENCY

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast is proud to announce that it is the only agency in New Hampshire to receive a Gold Standard Award from the Nationwide Leadership Council of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Out of more than 450 agencies across the United States, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast is one of 18 that has been recognized for growing its revenue in a down economy, maintaining its mentoring programs for children and building a stronger community.

"It's such an honor to achieve this recognition from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America" says Tawnee Walling, Executive Director. "In just two years, the agency has grown more than 17 percent, providing one-to-one mentoring services for more than 450 children each year."

Janet Sylvester, President of the Board of Directors adds, "I am so proud of the agency for receiving this award as it's our mission to provide children facing adversity

with strong and enduring mentoring relationships that forever change their lives for the better, and today Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast has been recognized for all its hard work and the dedication it took to get here."



YP4M INAUGURAL MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast recently hosted a celebration sponsored by Rudi's of Portsmouth for the 10 inaugural members of the "Young Philanthropists for Mentoring" (YP4M) group.

YP4M, a new local initiative of the agency is designed to offer an attractive opportunity for young professionals in their 20s and 30s to contribute their talents to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast and to promote a commitment of philanthropy among the next generation of professionals. As an arm of the agency's development initiatives, YP4M will plan and implement at least one fundraising event each year and will be responsible for shaping the future of the group.

Development and Marketing Associate, Briana Marshall who is overseeing the initiative states, "We see this group as being a strong liaison for the agency to attract a younger demographic to our mission and to promote a culture of volunteering and donating within them. There



are a lot of eyes on this program, locally and nationally and we believe this will be something other agencies seek to emulate."

The Executive Council is comprised of Chair Travis Grieb, Financial Planner at Ameriprise; Vice-Chair Katharine Crawford, attorney at Tober Law Office;

Secretary Angela Mitiguy, PhD candidate and graduate assistant at UNH; VP of community relations Evan Mullen, Architectural Designer at Goudreau Architects; and VP of Events Joe Kennerson, Senior Financial Advisor at Darling Consulting Group. General members include Brittney Anzalone, Educational Coordinator at Enterprise City; James Brewer, Assistant Vice President at TD Bank North in Newington; Andrew Chace, Financial Advisor at Ameriprise Financial; Margaret Langsenkamp, Campaign Coordinator at York Hospital; and Drew Stadterman, statistical analyst at Liberty Mutual.

Many thanks to Blue Dolphin Screenprinting, Nin Dell Isola and Rudi's for their early support of YP4M.

To learn more about YP4M and their efforts, visit www.bbbsgs.org

The Big News

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.

Board of Directors

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Executive Director
Tawnee R. Walling

A MESSAGE FROM THE AGENCY

Dear Friends,

I love poetry. I love the poetry of starry-eyed children, angst-filled teenagers, and the complicated but wonderful poetry of adults who have lived rich and courageous lives... In times of challenge and joy, I return again and again to my favorite poets who are too numerous to name...and in this time of great challenge and joy I embrace the words of Mary Oliver, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" I find myself overcome with the reality that every day when we wake up, we are faced with new opportunities to live life more fully, to seek out our own compassion, to live our own dreams and to contribute to the dreams of others with whom we share this earth.

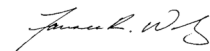
At Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast, we *attempt to be dream makers everyday*—we feel fortunate to do this work—to help children build relationships with adults who care about them, to contribute towards new experiences and new possibilities, to help transform our world... The joys and challenges inherent in mentoring are sometimes overwhelming and yet, our littles and our bigs continue to show up and do the hard work of opening up to a stranger, finding commonalities, building friendships and doing it all without any guarantee that it will work... You see, mentoring

is a risk—whether you are the mentor or mentee. It is a risk for the child—who wonders if this grownup will actually stick around and become a friend; it is a risk for the adult—who wonders what they will talk about and will s/he like me? Mentoring is a beautiful and courageous opportunity for two people to find their place together in a world that can too often seek to separate us.

Over the coming months, we have many opportunities for you to use your "one wild and precious life" to help Big Brothers Big Sisters continue to fulfill our mission. Whether you volunteer to become a Big Brother/Sister, don your high heels for the Stiletto Race, attend one of our Little Soirees, run the Seacoast Half-Marathon or volunteer to help in a non-mentoring capacity, you can make a difference.

In gratitude,

Tawnee



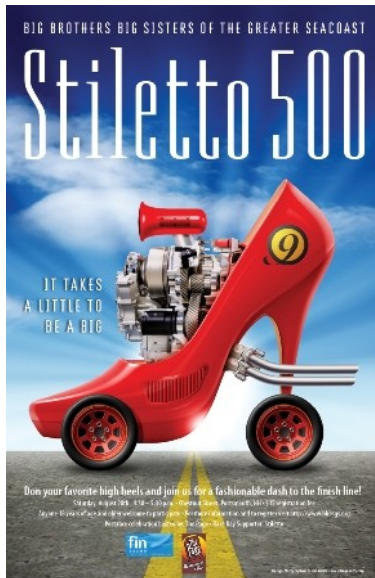
Fun, Safe, Educational and Self-Esteem Building:

match support activities help set BBBSGS apart

Approximately 75% of the children in our program come from low income households and their parents/guardians do not have the ability to provide them with allowances or money for activities. 50% of our bigs, likewise, do not have a great deal of expendable income and while the other 50% have more financial resources we do ask that they are mindful of the amount of money that they spend while with their littles. The last thing that we want to encourage is a situation where a parent/guardian is made to feel less than because of their financial situation in relation to that of the big. In order to help combat this, we speak with our volunteers about issues surrounding class and encourage them to take advantage of the free and low-cost activities of which we make them aware. Each month we send out a newsletter that includes a researched list of activities in

which matches can partake in our community. Plus, we offer at least two activities ourselves. Past events have included game and craft nights, a movie and popcorn, collaborating with the Coastal Conservation Association on a fishing trip each June, "It Takes A Gingerbread Village" party where our matches were asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to Seacoast Food Pantry and a woodworking presentation by two Home Depot employees. Each year, we spend an average of \$12,000 on programming for our matches and for many of our littles these activities are the high point of their month. If you have an idea for an activity please contact Joan Barretto at 603-430-1140 x. 300.

EVENT CENTRAL



Saturday, August 20th at 4:30 p.m.
Chestnut Street, Portsmouth, NH

Don your favorite heels, collect pledges, and join us for a fashionable dash to the finish line! Anyone 18 years of age and older welcome to participate.

Register at :

<http://seacoast.kintera.org/stiletto>

Become an event sponsor for any of our events by contacting Briana Marshall at briana.marshall@bbbsgs.org or 603.430.1140 x 308



◆ Saturday, September 10th (Rye, NH)
Dana De Niro & Tommy Moulton

◆ Saturday, September 24th (New Castle, NH)
Janet Sylvester & Scott Pettis

◆ Saturday, October 1st (Portsmouth, NH)
Sean & Kirsten Mahoney

\$100—Individual ticket (1 ticket for entrance to 1 soiree)
\$250—Party Pass (2 tickets for entrance to all 3 Soirees)

Buy raffle tickets for our wine raffle! \$20 a ticket or 6 for \$100. Winner takes home 5 cases of wine (each bottle valued at \$20 or more). Drawing will be held on October 1st — need not be present to win!

To purchase Soiree tickets and/or wine raffle tickets, visit <http://seacoast.kintera.org/soirees>

Participate in a series of “soirees” at private residences around the Seacoast! Each soiree celebrates the mission of BBBS with a custom theme while guests enjoy cocktails, fine food, live music and unique auctions!



This past May, the Seacoast Half Marathon Organizing Committee announced Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast as the beneficiary of the race on November 13, 2011.

Each year, the committee reviews applications from several non-profit organizations from the Seacoast and

York County with a focus on health and human services and elects a single beneficiary to receive race proceeds. In the six years since its inception, the event has raised more than \$265,000, averaging \$65,000 the last two years.

Runners in this year’s Seacoast Half Marathon are invited to collect pledges

on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Register for your free online pledge-collecting page: <http://seacoast.kintera.org/shm>

Register to race in the Seacoast Half Marathon: www.seacoasthalfmarathon.com

A BIG Thank You to Our 3rd & 4th Quarter Donors*

\$5,000+

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Liberty Mutual Foundation, Inc
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Rouse Family Charitable Trust
Sprague
The Rite Aid Foundation
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Town of Seabrook

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Lifetime Benefits Group
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\$500-\$999

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Rochester Rotary Charities
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Brian Weego
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UNH Interfraternity Council

**TO MAKE A DONATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.bbbsgs.org
OR CONTACT BRIANA
AT 603.430.1140 x 308**

*The above are donations received between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011

Wrapping up Bowl for Kids' Sake!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast hosted its annual "Bowl for Kids' Sake" event in May, drawing in hundreds of participants and supporters to Bowl-o-Rama for our western-themed fundraiser.

"We were able to raise about \$60,000 through this event," said Briana Marshall, Marketing & Development Associate. "That will support over 57 children for one year so we're really happy with the success of this year's event."

Chris Brown, owner of RESCON Basement Solutions and an event sponsor

told Foster's Daily Democrat, "We like to do what we can to give back to the community." Brown admitted he and his employees were not the best bowlers, but that it didn't matter as long as they were having fun in a way that would benefit those in need.

Big Brothers Big Sisters would like to extend a BIG thank you to this year's bowlers, donors, event sponsors, volunteers, Brian Keane, Holly Davis, and the event "Poster Match" Joe Kennerson & Jacob.

YEAR FOR YOUTH GOLD PARTNER
\$10,000



LEADING SPONSOR
\$5,000



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR EVENT SPONSORS:

Strike Sponsors:

Black Rock • Cobham Sensor Systems • Ocean Properties • RESCON Basement Solutions • Sam's Club (Seabrook) Waste Management • Wheelabrator

Lane Sponsors:

Access Sports Medicine • Aerie (Newington) • American Eagle (Newington) • D.F. Richard Energy • eCoast Sales Solutions • Federal Savings Bank • Heritage Plumbing & Cooling • Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café • Optima Bank & Trust • Tidal Media Group • Walmart (Newington) • Walmart (Portsmouth) • Walmart (Rochester)

Pin Sponsor: Proulx Oil & Propane

BIGS NEEDED!



Big Brothers greatly needed in: Durham, Lee, Dover, Barrington, Rochester, Raymond, Somersworth, Farmington, Kingston, Portsmouth, Newmarket, Epping.

Big Sisters greatly needed in: Rochester, Epping, Hampton, Somersworth, Northwood, Nottingham, Kingston, Dover, Barrington, Exeter, Seabrook.

With a commitment as little as 4 hours a month, you can be a positive role model in the life of a child! The schedule can be flexible to meet the needs of mentors and young people in different kinds of situations. Some Bigs meet their Littles on the weekend or in the evening. Others get together with their Littles after school.

A lot of things have to happen before we make a match. All Bigs go through a thorough background check and careful interview process. Then we match Bigs and Littles based on location, personalities and preferences. We provide full support for our volunteer programs along the way so that matches can grow into lasting friendships.

Littles come to our program for a variety of reasons. Maybe they come from a single parent home or have two working parents; maybe they are falling into bad patterns at school; or maybe they are the only boy in a house with three sisters—what they all share in common is the need for friendship with a caring adult.

To become a Big, contact Danielle at schoolmatchsupport@bbbsgs.org or 603.430.1140 x 307

To enroll a child in our programs, contact Jenn at admin@bbbsgs.org or 603-430-1140 x 307



WE'VE MOVED!

Thank you to
Mike Carlton at
CALLING ALL CARGO
for donating moving services!

1-800-914-2462
www.callingallcargo.com



Additional thanks to:
Bernie Christopher, Great North, Banana Republic, and the "Hands On Committee" with the Portsmouth Rotary Club



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(Applewood Building)
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Phone: 603.430.1140

Fax: 603.430.7760

www.bbbsgs.org

Help us to save the environment! If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in a digital format, please email Briana at briana.marshall@bbbsgs.org