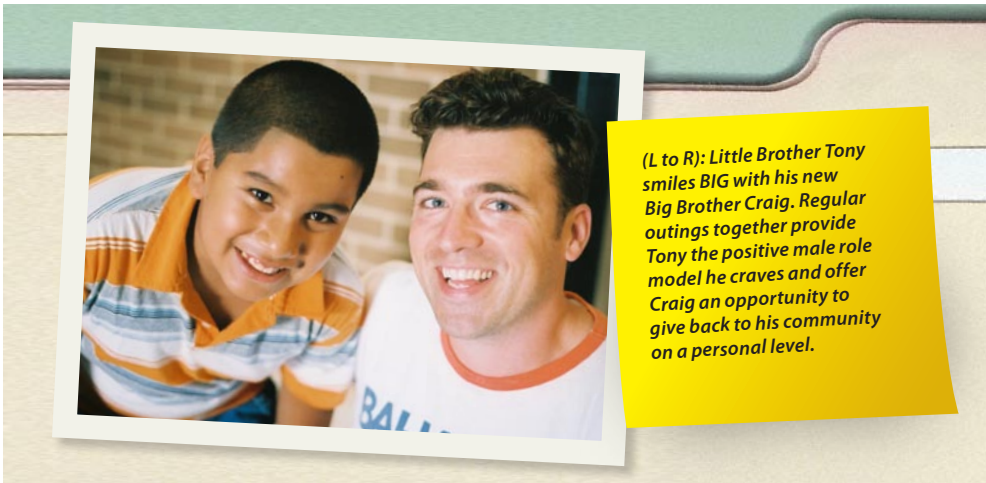




talkBig

A New Match Offers Strength and Connection for Little *and* Big Brothers

Match Highlights: Tony & Craig



(L to R): Little Brother Tony smiles BIG with his new Big Brother Craig. Regular outings together provide Tony the positive male role model he craves and offer Craig an opportunity to give back to his community on a personal level.

A Boy In Need of a Male Role Model

Nine-year-old Tony has not had it easy. Since his father left at age three, Tony has lacked a male role model and has been more emotionally vulnerable than other boys his age. Tony's mother, who is raising him and his sister Jessica alone, works late two evenings each week, leaving Tony to find activities to keep himself busy... typically at the local YMCA.

"It's been difficult to balance working as a single mom and raising two children," said Tony's mother, Sayonara. "I try to teach them to be more active and to get involved in activities instead of watching TV and playing video games all day. Since their dad left, Tony has longed for a male figure in his life."

Like thousands of other parents, she turned to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago (BBBSMC) to help her child. BBBSMC Enrollment

and Match Specialists set out to find Tony a Big Brother who could provide the supportive friendship he needed. They found that match in Craig.

A Man Who Wanted to Give Back

"I wanted to do something where I felt like I was making a difference on a more personal level than just contributing money. This program offers a fun and easy way to make a difference in the life a child right in my community," said Craig Lewandowski, a Commercial Editor from Optimus here in Chicago. "Also, my parents divorced when I was young so I felt I could identify with a child who is lacking that male role model. I finally made my decision while watching an episode of Oprah with my wife."

Making the Right Match

Like many of the children on the BBBSMC waiting list, Tony lives in one of the areas where there are fewer volunteer male mentors.

"Tony waited for two long years for a Big Brother and attended activities for children on the waiting list on a regular basis just to stay involved," said Sayonara. "Now he's excited to start a new friendship with Craig."

Craig and Tony have already had several activities together including hanging out at a White Sox Game sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters. "I myself was excited to see the smile on Tony's face at the event," said Art Mollenhauer, CEO of BBBSMC. "It makes what we do worthwhile, matching Littles like Tony, with Bigs like Craig."

"Mentoring a little brother in this program is still really new to me, but I like Tony a lot," said Craig, who is committed to helping Tony face his challenges. "This is not a standard type of relationship you come across in life, so it has been a learning process for both of us. I am glad to help Tony in any way I can. And I enjoy our time together. We have a lot of fun."

With Tony – and more recently, Tony's sister Jessica – matched with a Big, the BBBSMC program has helped the whole family. "Being a single mom with barely any family to help is difficult," said Sayonara. "If Tony's Big Brother and Jessica's Big Sister can step in and be that extra reinforcement, then this program makes a big difference in our family's future."

If you would like to become a mentor or know someone who can make a difference for a child on the waiting list, please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters at 312-427-0637. ■

A NOTE FROM...

Our CEO Art Mollenhauer

This autumn, as we reflect on the important role BBBSMC currently has on more than a thousand children in our community, it is important to remember that there is so much more to do. While we are proud of the matches we've made and the commitment of our volunteers, dedicated staff members and generous donors, we look ahead to the thousands of additional area children who are currently waiting to be served.

With a successful program like ours, why are there so many children on our waiting list?

Like so many things in life, it takes resources of time and funding to make our work possible. Due to gentrification patterns in the past decade, more of our target families are dispersing into different neighborhoods and suburbs where we do not yet have established recruitment programs. In addition, most volunteers are concerned about the time commitment needed for our Program. As you read in the attached story about Tony and Craig, we work to alleviate these concerns by matching a volunteer with a child in close proximity to them and asking for a time commitment of only five to seven hours a month.

We are always working on creative solutions to serve more children in our region who need our help and have identified a number of programming partnerships, including the one with the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago you will read about in this newsletter. Through these new programs, we anticipate more than doubling the number of children we serve in the next year alone.

To make all of this possible, this month we announced the "Match Across Chicago" Campaign to raise one million dollars to fund and sustain this growth. We invite you to join. If you're interested in sponsoring a match like Tony and Craig or a program like the BGCC/BBBSMC mentoring program, please go to our website at www.bbbschgo.org or call Director of Individual Giving Gerri Cicchinelli at 312-427-0637, ext.117 for more information.

Thank you for your past, present and future support. Remember- you can make a difference! It means the world to the children we serve.

Sincerely,
Art Mollenhauer, CEO BBBSMC

CORPORATE MARKETING PARTNER

A Reason to Celebrate

Annual BIG Picnic Hosted by Spencer Stuart Celebrates BBBSMC Community



The Annual BIG Picnic held at Grant Park, sponsored by Spencer Stuart, provided more than 400 Bigs, Littles and their families the chance to come together for games, food and good, old-fashioned summer fun.

You may think hundreds of people coming together for food and fun at one of Chicago's great parks is the epitome of a typical summer picnic. Well, on July 21st when more than 400 Bigs, Littles and their families came together at Grant Park for our Annual BIG Picnic, the event was much, much more than typical.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago plays a tremendous role in enriching the lives and development of so many of the region's children."

For many of our children and their families, a day together surrounded by a supportive and accepting community is all too rare. Yet, in late July, hundreds of family members joined us for a day of fun and camaraderie – enjoying activities from water balloon tosses, to exciting door prizes and delicious picnic fare – to celebrate their relationship with their matches and the value the BBBSMC extended community brings to their family.

An important part of that extended family was the team from Spencer Stuart, who generously sponsored the day's events for the second year in a row.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago plays a tremendous role in enriching the lives and development of so many of the region's children," said Bob Shields, head of the global executive search firm's Chicago office. "We feel privileged to support BBBS as the Annual Picnic Sponsor and to work directly with children and their matches at this wonderful event. For our own team, the event promotes teamwork, fun and a greater sense of connectedness with our local community. We hope to be able to sponsor the event in future years."

Thank you to Spencer Stuart for their generous financial sponsorship and for the tremendous volunteer support they provided to make the Annual Picnic a celebration like no other. ■



The Boys and Girls Club of Chicago (BGCC) location in Uptown is one of five BGCC sites to be used for a new Big Brothers Big Sisters club-based mentoring program. The two organizations have formed a partnership to deliver high-quality mentor programming to more at-risk youth throughout the area.

CORPORATE PROGRAM PARTNER

A Life-Changing Collaboration

Boys and Girls Club + Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago

When it comes to supporting at-risk youth in Metropolitan Chicago, few organizations have a stronger track record for established, successful programming than Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters. That's why a new partnership between the two offers so much potential.

"By combining the resources and expertise of our two great organizations, we are able to deliver high quality mentoring at multiple locations across the city," said BBBSMC CEO Art Mollenhauer. "It is an ideal partnership and one we look forward to building in years to come."

Beginning October 2007, Boys and Girls Club of Chicago and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago have partnered to further expand a mentoring program to be held at BGCC sites throughout the City and Suburbs. The program, based on the BBBSMC "club based

mentoring" model, will pair adults with local children to participate in a structured mentoring program at the clubs one evening each week. The program will initially serve approximately 50 children at five clubs located throughout the area. However, the organizations hope to expand the program to serve hundreds of children at local BGCC locations over the next year.

"Through our combined efforts BBBSMC and BGCC will be able to serve more of Chicago's youth by encompassing a greater effective area of outreach, and ultimately co-creating a deeper community impact through our shared mentorship program" said Robert Howard, President and CEO of BGCC.

If your organization is interested in partnering with BBBSMC, call Dianne Amos, Director of Partnerships, at 312-427-0637 ext. 116. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORNER

Mark Kaufmann Receives President's Distinguished Service Award

People make Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago great. And one of those tremendous individuals is Board of Directors Vice President **Mark Kaufman**, winner of the **2007 President's Distinguished Service Award**. The award, which is given each year to an exceptional Board member who has served for three years or less, recognizes Mark's commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters and his outstanding initiative and leadership in many areas.

President of AthletiCo, an outpatient rehabilitation and fitness services company committed to providing exceptional, progressive and cost-efficient care that emphasizes patient education and injury prevention, Mark has generously shared his keen business skills and concern for the community to better BBBSMC. He is a member of the Board's executive committee and has taken personal initiative to lead multiple fund raising activities resulting in more than \$75,000 for the agency. Finally, he has shared his passion for BBBSMC with his employees, creating a work environment that supports employees' interests in becoming mentors.

Mark lives in Oakbrook, Illinois with his wife, Mary Ann, and three children. We congratulate him on this award and thank him for his compassion, time and leadership. ■

THIRD QUARTER DONORS: JULY 1, 2007 TO OCTOBER 26, 2007

BBBSMC Thanks Our Quarterly Donors for Making a Difference

Our donors contributions change the lives of our Littles everyday.

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*Denotes BBBSMC Board Member

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