



talkBig

A Quarterly Newsletter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago

Agency Makes Great Progress

Measuring the power of every match

Committed volunteers and gifts from generous donors have helped BBBSMC to:

- Expand our program staff to average **20** new matches every month
- Increase our reach to over **900** children this year
- Support **500** matches:
 - 300** in the community based
 - 200** matches active in **16** school based programs
- Develop **8** corporate partners in our school based programs
- Process **3,000** inquiries and conduct **600** interviews

Research shows that mentoring works!

A child matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister is:

- **46%** less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- **52%** less likely to skip school
- **33%** less likely to hit someone
- **27%** less likely to begin using alcohol

New Partnerships

AthletiCo & JP II Newman Foundation to Make a Difference in the Maywood and Pilsen Communities

BBBSMC is proud to announce **AthletiCo**, has agreed to host a school based program for Fall 2007 at Garfield Elementary School. Garfield Elementary is a grade school located in Maywood, Illinois. AthletiCo is the largest provider of orthopedic outpatient rehabilitation in the Chicagoland area and longtime supporter of our organization.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, the **John Paul II Newman Foundation** has signed on to mentor children at Saint Ann Catholic School in the Pilsen Community. This is our first program in Pilsen, an area that has been underserved by our mentoring programs.

Your company or organization can help make a difference in the community! Contact Dianne Amos, Director of Partnerships at 312-427-0637 ext. 116 to get started.

The BIG Difference

Meet new match Diamond & Todd

To show the impact that a gift to BBBS makes in the life of a child, we want to highlight one of our new matches. Diamond was just matched with his new Big Brother, Todd, in February of this year. Following are excerpts of a letter that we received from Diamond's mother:



"I have noticed a change in my son since their first outing. He's a happier child...he's not angry. He'll say 'Ma, Todd called' and his face lights up. Todd is a God send, his sincerity is so overwhelming, his personality is vibrant, I can't begin to thank each and every one of you guys involved enough. I am very confident that Todd will guide and teach my son to become a man. I just had to write and let whoever matched the two together know that they did an excellent job, I couldn't have chosen a better match if I did it myself. My sincere gratitude for making a difference in a lonely child's life."

Your gift can make a child smile, gain self-esteem, learn trust and provide the support necessary to match a committed and caring adult with a deserving youth. "Mentoring takes a child out of their everyday environment for just a few hours a month, and shows them there is hope for a different way of life," explains CEO Art Mollenhauer.

Matches of the Year

Congratulations to our 2006 Matches of the Year which were announced in December, 2006:

BRIAN ISRAEL & KIMANI
Community Based Match of the Year

ANNETTE MAMBUCA & MERCEDES
Community Based Match of the Year

SCOTT HIEMSTRA & TAMARIS
School Based Match of the Year

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Match Events Focus

Sailing the Mystic Blue

BBBS & Kimball Hill Homes “build” a beautiful evening

It was a “Big” night of dinner, dancing and memorable experiences for 40 matches on board the Mystic Blue Chicago dinner cruise this past January. This dinner cruise was donated to our matches by Kimball Hill Homes, a major US homebuilder based in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. We would like to extend a big thanks to the team at Kimball Hill Homes.

If you would like to create “once in a lifetime experiences” for our matches on behalf of your company, contact Dianne Amos, Director of Partnerships at amos@bbbschgo.org or call 312-427-0637 ext. 116



BIG LIFESAVERS: A Big Sister and Little Sister take charge of the Mystic Blue; bottom right, Bigs & Littles make waves on the dance floor

A Successful Year in 2007

School and Site Based Programs Gearing Up for the Fall

Our School and Site Based Programs are completing a successful year after serving over 400 students throughout Cook County. During the past year, students enjoyed meeting their mentors and participating in a variety of activities including arts and crafts, homework, board games, team building projects, and listening to motivational speakers. Most recently, Littles had the opportunity to take field trips to their Big’s workplace or University. In addition, high school seniors in two of our programs, **GGP Choices** and **Chase Leadership Academy**, celebrated their program graduations this month. Our School and Site Based Programs would not be possible without the mentors and support from our corporate and University partners: **CDW, GGP, Follett, Harris Bank, JP Morgan Chase, Loyola 4 Chicago, OCE, Quaker-Tropicana-Gatorade (QTG), a division of PepsiCo.**

Thinking about mentoring at a School or Site Based Program or getting your company involved? Here’s your chance! For only an hour a week, you can mentor a child in a BBBS program. Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters by visiting www.bbbschgo.org. The life you change may be your own!



“Mad” about Mentoring

BBBS Leadership Board Event Raises Funds at Mad River Bar & Grille

On March 22nd, nearly 200 people gathered at Mad River Bar & Grille for Big Brothers Big Sisters. The 2007 "March Madness BIG Party," was a successful event where guests enjoyed a night of Final Four Games, a Raffle and a special Silent Auction for a Cubs Skybox! The event raised over \$7,000 to benefit BBBSMC mentoring programs. We're looking for a few good men and women to become part of the most energetic young professionals group in Chicago!



BBBS LB Member, Rebecca Weinberg sells the auction prize of the evening

For more information about joining our Leadership Board, contact Janet Alikpala at 312-427-0637 ext. 123 or email her at ibe@bbbschgo.org.

The Gift of Theatre

Chicago Family Theatre Network offers new experiences for Bigs and Littles

Live theatre performances created lasting memories for Bigs and Littles who participated in “A Month in the Theatre”. Chicago Family Theatre Network provided free theatre performances every weekend in April. Special thanks to Ben Thiem and the contributing theatres: **Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Chicago’s Children’s Theatre, Vittum Theatre, Barrel of Monkeys, Merle Reskin Theatre at DePaul and The Noble Horse Theatre.**

Want to be a BIG or Little?

Call Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago at 312-427-0637 or visit us online at www.bbbschgo.org and find out what it takes to become a Big or Little in our program.



Generous Supporters

Thank You for making a difference

Your contributions change the lives of our Littles everyday

July, 2006 – April, 2007



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Mr. and Mrs. Art Mollenhauer
Anonymous

Dream Maker Circle - \$10,000 - \$25,000

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Magic Maker Circle - \$5,000 - \$10,000

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To make a donation to our agency, contact Gerri Cicchinelli, Fund Development Manager at 312-427-0637 ext. 117 or visit www.bbbschgo.org for more details.

*Denotes BBBSMC Board Member

A Match Made in Bowling

Over 2500 Bowlers Strike it Big and raise over \$175,000 for BBBSMC

Over 2,500 bowlers dusted off their bowling shoes and participated in Bowl for Kids' Sake Events throughout the City of Chicago. The Chicago Police Department (CPD) celebrated their 25th Anniversary with BBBSMC this year and raised over \$68,000 with over 1,100 bowlers participating. With the help of individual donors who matched a portion of Chicago Police Officers contributions, the total amount raised with CPD was **\$100,730**.

The sales team from CDW Chicago's offices in January raised a record breaking **\$15,000** in their second annual bowling event, which attracted over 150 bowlers.

Chicago Teachers Union raised over **\$21,000** with over 800 bowlers and Cook County Sheriffs raised **\$15,000** with over 250 bowlers.

Weiss Memorial Hospital's Resident Program raised an impressive **\$11,000** for their very first bowling event with over 100 bowlers.

Can you SPARE a little time for the life of a child? Bowl for Kids' Sake is one of Big Brothers Big Sisters largest fundraisers and a great way to build your employees' team morale. If your company or organization is interested in putting together a Bowl for Kids' Sake event, please contact **Janet Alikpala, Manager of Marketing & Communications at 312-427-0637 ext. 123**



Chicago Police present a check for over \$100,000 to BBBS



CDW Chicago raises a record breaking \$15,000 for 2007



BBBS Highlights

Meet our Board of Directors for BBBSMC

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New Board Spotlight

We would like to welcome our newest additions to the Board of Directors: Dean Teglia of Accenture, Jamie Kieffer of Leo Burnett USA, Inc., Linda Allen of JP Morgan Chase Treasury Services, Callie Baird, Larry Pearlman of Corven, Inc., Christopher Macke of GE Equity Investments, and Greg Watson of McDonald's Corporation.

Upcoming Events

**Bowl for Kids Sake
with American Eagle Outfitters**
Sunday, June 10, 2007
Waveland Bowl

**Bowl for Kids Sake
Cross-town Challenge with AthletiCo**
Friday, June 15, 2007
Diversey Bowl (Chicago) &
Suburbanite Bowl (Westmont)

**Little Moments Big Magic Golf Classic
at Harborside Golf International**
Monday, June 25, 2007

**Bigs & Littles Picnic
sponsored by Spencer Stuart**
Saturday, July 2007 (TBD)
Grant Park

**Step Up to the Plate Game Day
with the Chicago White Sox
Sponsored by Holiday Inn & MLB**
U.S. Cellular Field
Saturday, September 8, 2007

For more information about our upcoming events go online to www.bbbschgo.org



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago

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Chicago, Illinois 60661
www.bbbschgo.org

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