



talkBig

Celebrating the Holidays in a Big Way

BBBSMC Matches Celebrate the Holidays



The holidays are a time for families to gather, give thanks and celebrate, and that is just what the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago (BBBSMC) family did to celebrate 2007. BBBSMC hosted holiday parties at 24 locations for more than 900 children during two weeks in December. Thanks to the very generous support of our many sponsors and donors, every Match received a holiday gift, entertainment, food and drinks at each party.

Our community-based Matches celebrated at Renaissance Hotel in the heart of downtown Chicago. More than 450 people attended and enjoyed an afternoon of holiday fun and merriment, including special gifts for each

child, food, games, holiday card making and dancing. We were thrilled to welcome our special guests, Chicago Bulls Mascot Benny the Bull and Santa Claus, who greeted the children and joined in the festivities.

All of our School and Boys and Girls Club of Chicago based program participants enjoyed their own holiday parties at our partner school and club locations across the city and suburbs. These special events would not have been possible without the hard work of our BBBSMC staff and volunteers.

We thank each of them for their support in creating such meaningful holiday memories for our children and their mentors. ■

Gifts and in-kind donations courtesy of:

*Mr. John Fell and Advantage Packaging
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A NOTE FROM...



Our CEO Art Mollenhauer

Dear Friends,

As we start another year together, I want to thank each of you – our donors, volunteers, Board members, staff and partners – for the tremendous gifts you have shared with BBBSMC to improve the lives of the children who need us most. Over and over, I hear stories of the great strides our children are making to better their lives, thanks to the confidence and positive direction they receive from their mentors and the extended BBBSMC family. These are not isolated stories. We track the progress of each one of our Matches month by month and we know our program is making a real difference in these children's lives. Program outcomes from this year alone indicate that children who participate in our programs have improved academic performance, are more likely to stay in school, better refrain from risky behaviors and have more positive peer and family relationships.

FOURTH QUARTER DONORS: OCTOBER 26, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007

BBBSMC Thanks Our Quarterly Donors for Making a Difference

Our donors contributions change the lives of our Littles everyday.

The following donors are recognized for their gifts of \$500.00 or more to BBBSMC between October 26, 2007 to December 31, 2007.

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Indeed, your investment of time, talent and treasure is making the future brighter for our children and our community!

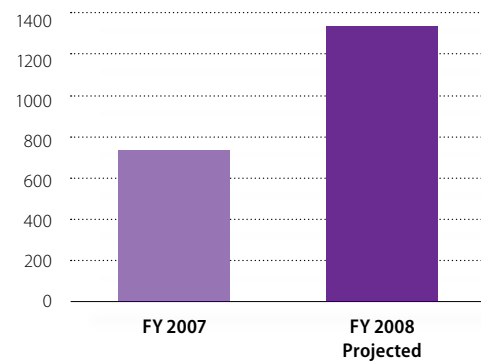
However, as CEO, I struggle with the staggering number of children we are not yet reaching. Estimates indicate there are 300,000 children in 200 communities across Chicagoland who would benefit from the support of a positive adult role model, yet we currently serve less than one percent of them. These children face overwhelming obstacles including crime, drugs and isolation. Sadly, the future of many of these children may be quite bleak.

But there is hope! We know our program works, so we must grow to meet this vital need.

While maintaining our commitment to quality and safety, we are embarking this year on an ambitious plan to grow our programs and address strategic issues vital to our success, such as:

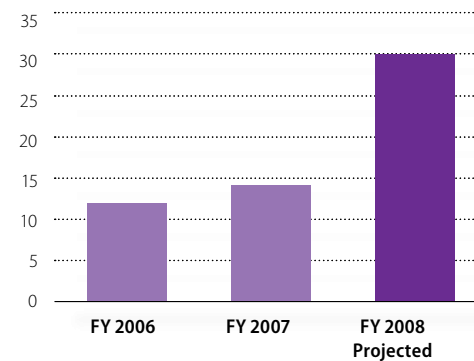
- 1) Making it easier to volunteer by offering a variety of options to participate
- 2) Improving our recruitment efforts in the African American, Hispanic and suburban communities where our need for mentors is most acute

Growth in Children Served



- 3) Continuing to improve the experience for our participants in order to further lengthen Match relationships and cause an even more profound and lasting benefit to our children
- 4) Increasing our access to community resources through strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations, including some of our newest partners: McDonald's, Home Direct, JP Morgan Chase, University of Illinois-Chicago and Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago
- 5) Maintaining credibility with donors and partners through responsible spending and measurable program outcomes – *81% of our Revenue is invested directly in Programming!*
- 6) Positioning the organization for success through the recruitment, development and retention of talented and committed staff, volunteers, donors and Board members

Growth in Partnerships



This is just the beginning. I challenge you to set your sights on even greater growth! To increase our reach and serve additional children, we need your continued support and leadership.

I believe in this mission and our execution plan so fully that my wife and I have made a long-term personal financial commitment to our cause. Please join me by investing your time and/or money to support the expanded vision of BBBSMC. Call me at 312-427-0637 or visit us at www.bbbschgo.org to learn how to start the process.

Sincerely,
Art Mollenhauer, CEO BBBSMC

MATCH ACROSS CHICAGO CAMPAIGN UPDATE

\$600,000 Already Raised Through the Match Across Chicago Campaign

Due to the terrific support of individuals, corporations and our Board of Directors, we have already raised \$600,000 through our Match Across Chicago (MAC) Campaign. The Campaign, launched in November 2007, gives donors the opportunity to link their donations directly to our programming in the specific Chicago neighborhood or suburb of their choice. All donations received before December 31, 2007 were also matched at 50 percent through a \$100,000 matching fund provided by an anonymous donor and our CEO, Art Mollenhauer, who personally contributed \$20,000. MAC donors will have an immediate connection to Matches in their chosen neighborhood through photos and updates provided by the Matches, themselves.

"We are committed to expanding our reach to children in communities throughout Metropolitan Chicago," said BBBSMC Board Member Brian Wrubel. "Money raised through the Match Across Chicago Campaign will allow us to do just that."

\$600,000 is just the start. "We are excited by the momentum created by The Campaign," said Director of Individual Gifts Gerri Cicchinelli. "However, The Campaign is not over! To reach our goal of one million dollars by June 2008, we need additional donors to invest in our children by contributing today."

Funds raised through MAC will support 1,000 new Matches through a number of focused and measurable new programming efforts:

- 125 new Matches in Dupage County, an area of growing need
- Expansion of our Boys and Girls Clubs and Better Boys Foundation partnerships with programming at five new Club locations, creating 100 additional Matches
- 100 new Matches in our five new school and corporate programs
- 675 new community based Matches

For more information or to join MAC now, contact Gerri Cicchinelli at 312-427-0637, extension 117. ■

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