

## BBBST receives national recognition

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle (BBBST) received a great honor at this year's national conference. With nearly a thousand attendees representing over 400 affiliates nationwide Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) hosted its' National Conference in St. Louis this summer with a focus on "Changing how our children grow up in America". At the conference Awards Banquet, Kim Breeden, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Triangle was recognized as The CEO of the Year. Our Management Team and Board President Elect, Steve Morton were proud to join her on this occasion.

During this past year she has led our efforts to great success with over 10% growth in children served, 10% growth in revenue raised, a nearly 70% retention rate of our matches for 12 months or longer, along with an extensive list of quality outcomes for each child participant in our program. For that effort BBBST was also named as a 2008 Gold Standard Agency. In the last 3 years, she has led our organization through its' merger of BBBS of Durham and Orange Counties with the Wake County (Raleigh) YMCA affiliate program. She directed the complete re-organization and staffing of the new agency, and led the agency's significant growth. She began her local BBBS efforts 7 years ago in Durham with 32 children served. Today we serve 1,200 annually (on target for 2,000 in the next 4 years). Kim has been a dedicated leader in youth organizations for nearly 20 years, and it all began with her first "little sister" DARA; to whom she dedicated her award.

In addition, our dedicated Board of Directors was nominated for the Board of the Year. We would like to thank each of our Board Members and marvelous staff for their commitment to our mission. The National Chairman of BBBSA acknowledged to all the delegates of the marvelous work being done by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle and the example we were setting.



Left to Right: President Elect, Steve Morton - VP of Programs, Andie Thomas-Young - Director of School Based Programs, Diesha Banner - VP of Partnerships, Barron Damon - CEO, Kim Breeden, VP of Development, John Tedesco

## Mentoring Children of Prisoners

*A generation of children are abandoned as incarceration rises*



### Did You Know

**72% of Children with an incarcerated parent end up incarcerated themselves**

**We are more than just a non-profit - we are a "social profit" organization. Our profits are kids who don't turn to drugs, avoid gangs, graduate from school, and become productive members of our community.**

In February 2008, the Pew Research Foundation for the States released its US prison population report, noting that for the first time 1 out of 100 Americans are incarcerated. Recent statistics further note, approximately 2.2 million children and youth in the United States have at least one parent in a Federal or State correctional facility – approximately 1-33 children have an incarcerated parent. North Carolina has long lead the nation in many categories relevant to prison population (number of inmates, percentage of state work force and budget spent on corrections). And sadly, Durham County statistics are substantially worse than an overwhelming majority of our state. The 2006, FBI Crime Report notes Durham County crime was 46% higher than the national average across the board. Prison populations in Wake and Durham County jails are exploding faster than the population growth of our region. *As a community we are leaving a generation of high risk children abandoned in many neighborhoods.*

BBBST is committed to addressing this issue for our next generation with our Mentoring Children of Prisoners (M-CoP) program. In addition to suffering disruption in the relationship with their parent, these young people often struggle with the economic, social, and emotional burdens of the incarceration. There are gaping holes in the lives of these children beyond the absence of a parent.

**... Continued on Pg 3**



Mike and Louis



Cindy and Shayla



Rob Ryan



## Cokie Roberts headlines this years' BIG Magic Breakfast - Nov.11th

This year's Big Magic Breakfast will feature Cokie Roberts for a post election wrap up held November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the RBC Center. The annual Big Magic Breakfast reminds us that it is the little moments that create Big Magic – here we share in our success and our vision. The signature special event hosts several hundred corporate and community leaders from diverse sectors. The Breakfast brings awareness to our community about the youth we serve, while raising the critical resources to ensure our ability to reach these many children whom otherwise would not have much hope. The event is highlighted by the personal stories of a "Little" and their "Big". This year we are proud to have Cokie join us to present the President's National Volunteer Service Award to one of our proud "Bigs"- Thomas Coutouzis (featured on the back page).

It is the generosity of individuals and corporate supporters that allow us to reach the children who desperately need the support, guidance and friendship of a caring adult mentor. The role of our donors is honored with every child we serve. If you are interested in supporting, attending or sponsoring this year's Big Magic Breakfast please contact John Tedesco, [JTedesco@bbbsTriangle.org](mailto:JTedesco@bbbsTriangle.org) or 919-850-9772.

## Blue Cross Blue Shield Jumpstarts BBBS new Sports Buddies Program



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of North Carolina**

BBBS is excited about partnering with BCBS to launch their new Sports Buddies Program this fall. Big Brothers are matched one-to-one with a child as a Sports Buddy to experience a variety of participatory and spectator sports. The program provides an opportunity for building friendships between adult volunteers and youth and provides a foundation for modeling good sportsmanship. Sports Buddies is the first building block of a larger healthy child initiative that will combat childhood obesity and focuses on physical activity, wellness, and healthcare. BBBS is committed to helping children reach their fullest potential while creating healthy active lifestyles. BBBS received a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield to purchase equipment for the sporting activities that

Big's and Little's will participate in during the Fall Season. We are grateful to have a partner such as BCBS who continues to help organizations build healthier communities for our most vulnerable children. Call today to become a Sport's Buddy for a child.



## Arby's Charity Golf Tour sinks a hole-in-one

The fourth annual Arby's Charity Tour was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Hope Valley Country Club in Durham. The days preceding the golf tournament Arby's had their tour bus at different locations throughout the Triangle to raise awareness regarding BBBST. They started off with the tour bus at Green Hope High School to help kick off our High School Bigs program, Skanska, and various Arby's locations. **We would like to thank the wonderful people of Skanska for their commitment as this years' presenting sponsor.** After a challenging day on the course the day ended with an auction hosted by Eric Montross. Arby's Charity Tour was able to raise over \$60,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle. Thank you to everyone who participated and we look forward to seeing all of you next year. Anyone who wishes to join us next year should save the date for May 11th 2009, when we will be returning to Hope Valley Country Club.

## BBBST opens MIT (Mentoring In Technology) Computer Lab in Downtown Durham

The MIT Lab will address additional youth academic deficiencies and address the concern of an ever widening gap in technical proficiency in our poorest children. With technological competency viewed as a critical key to success in the 21st century, and technology education programs are priorities for our underserved communities if they are to succeed as productive members of our community. The youth friendly smart lab was put together with an innovative partnership supported by A LOT, A Legacy of Tradition, an African American male charitable giving circle comprised of community leaders, Greenfire Development, IBM, Lenovo, and local community groups. The MIT Computer Lab will allow both adults and children to learn and appropriately use technology in their daily lives. Even for those participants who have access to technology, an agency technology lab will provide them with additional technology opportunities and trainings (e.g., educational software and applications, internet, graphic and web based designs) in a learner-centered environment. The BBBST objective for having a computer lab is to provide a year-round after school "open access" technology-based program for BBBST children and their families in the Durham.

# BIG Challenge

This year we are currently (as of time of print) maintaining 153 children on our waiting list who have reached out to us for help. We will search and recruit volunteers whom we can train and support to aid these children in reaching their full potential. We are committed to reaching these high-risk children before they slip through the cracks in our community. **WE NEED YOU!**

We need volunteers and financial donations for us to support those who serve. **It cost the agency approximately \$1,000 per "match" per year for the screening, training, activities, and support provided to each relationship.** In order to serve these children. As we currently serve well over 1,000 Triangle' children, we will need to raise an additional \$150,000 in critical resources to help the children waiting to be served.

With an understanding of the BIG Challenge before us and tightening economic conditions, our generous friends at **The Steward's Fund** have made an amazing offer. In addition to a \$25,000 gift for our new expanding programs, they have committed to a **\$75,000 CHALLENGE Grant.**

**ALL new and increased gifts received by the end of 2008 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$75,000.** Please help us achieve this challenge and consider a gift to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle. If you use the enclosed envelope to make a gift of \$20, \$100, or even \$1,000, you can help us make a BIG difference in the life of a child. If you have given last year, please see if your heart could allow an increase in support to be matched as well. Supporters can also make their gift using our all new and secure web site. **Make your online donation today at [www.bbbsTriangle.org](http://www.bbbsTriangle.org).**

Thank You for your consideration and to our friends at The Steward's Fund for this commitment.



## Bowl 4 KIDs' Sake (BFKS) - Comes up with a STRIKE!

This past year's Bowl For Kids' Sake fundraising event was a great success. We had teams from American Eagle, BB&T, Morgan Stanley, Fidelity, Ohio State Alumni Group, Greenfire and White Rock Baptist Church participate along with teams consisting of BBBST Staff, volunteers and children. We had almost 200 bowlers come out and support our Bowl For Kids' Sake this year and raised nearly \$50,000. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle would like all of the Team Coordinators, Team Captains and bowlers who came out to support our 2008 Bowl For Kids' Sake.



**Save the date for Bowl For Kids' Sake 2009  
Feb. 21 - 28, 2009**

Because of overwhelming demand this year's event has been expanded to a full week. Corporate Teams, College Groups, Churches, Youth Groups, and Civic Clubs alike will come out to the bowling centers throughout the Triangle on Saturday the 21st and/or Saturday the 28th. We will work with other groups to schedule their own time during the week. **It's easy** - put together a team of 4-5 and come out for an hour. **It's fun** - competition, prizes and friends. **It's for the KIDS.** Contact Cristin Jones at [cjones@bbbstriangle.org](mailto:cjones@bbbstriangle.org) to **join the team today!**

**Congratulations to the following long standing matches for graduating from the BBBS program as the "littles" turned 18 and graduated High School. We are sure a bright future awaits them.**

**BB- David Jerose - LB-Derek McSorley - 5 yrs**  
**BS- Gina Calderano - LS-Charmayne Hinton - 6 yrs**  
**BB- Lal Chand - LB-Alex Pherribo - 9 yrs**  
**BS- Sarah Wiehe - LS-Victoria Wright - 7 yrs**  
**BB- Jim Caravello - LB-Cameron Todd - 5yrs**

## Little Moments, Big Magic

Think back to your youth. Think about the person in your childhood who shared new experiences and ideas with you. Perhaps it was a teacher, a coach, or a grandmother. Regardless, they introduced magic into your world. By becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, or supporting those who are, you too can turn little moments of magic into a big difference in a child's life.

## M-COP (Mentoring Children of Prisoners)... Continued on Pg 1

The Impact of incarceration can be devastating to these young people in many ways:

- The events actually surrounding the incarceration can be traumatic
- Their living conditions-both before and after the incarceration- are usually unstable
- They are uncertain of their future
- They often feel shame, anger or other troubling emotions
- Many express a sense of detachment

**These children are serving everyday of their parent's sentence with them on the outside.** We are partnering with our counties and state correction systems, health and human services, community and faith based organizations as we establish a comprehensive approach to providing early childhood intervention in the lives of these children. We are working with local government, corporations, our great universities, leaders in child psychology and youth development, along with our signature national mentoring organization to develop the training and resources to put caring adult role-models (educated and prepared in these unique issues) into the lives of our most vulnerable children. **We are proud to have launched this program this year and to date have 63 children participating with 7 on a waiting list hoping for us to find them a dedicated "Big".**

## 2008 BBBST Board

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*Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP*

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*Retired*

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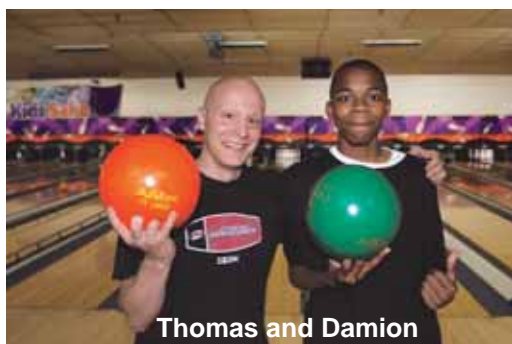
**David Weaver**  
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## Thomas and Damion - A Triumph of the Heart

Thomas Coutouzis (Big) and Damion Alford (Little-age 13) have been matched since September 15, 2006. Actually, that timing could not have been better for Thomas a two time Big. After graduating from ECU Thomas was looking for a connection to the community - a way to give back. He was introduced to JJ when he was 12 years old, and together they built a friendship that would inspire each other in a brotherhood that would last a lifetime. However after committing 6 years to his first "Little" at 18, JJ graduated from our program in 2006. Thomas was committed to helping another young man. While his heart was a willing servant life would challenge him over the next two years. He had lost his job and been forced to deal with the struggles of cancer in his body. Through his strong faith he realized that he still was blessed enough to help others. He committed to being an avid fundraiser for our annual Bowl for Kids' Sake and continued his critical role in Damion's life.

Portia Alford (Damion's mother) said that "she has been excited about the match since Day 1." As a child of an incarcerated father, she is a single mother that knew her son Damion needed a positive male influence in his life to help him grow and mature into manhood. She said, "there are just some things that she can't teach him, but that a good male role model could." That is why she brought him to the Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Thomas and Damion

Since being matched, Damion has experienced and learned many things. He has even seen change in himself. Damion exclaims, "We get to go to ECU football games, museums, Monster Jam, Frankie's, play football and basketball, and he has helped me learn how to earn money. I guess the changes I have noticed are that my grades have gone up, I have become more active in sports, and I have become more responsible by not procrastinating on schoolwork and other things." His mother backs that up by saying that "Damion's grades have gone up and now he is in advanced classes." She says that she has also seen Damion come out of his shell and become more assertive in the 2 years they have been matched. When asked, what has Thomas taught

you? He explains, "Thomas inspires me. He taught me to stay away from bullies and to not stoop to their level, when doing any job - do the best that you can, to not be afraid to ask teachers or others when I need help, and to not look differently on others that are from another race."

Thomas thinks the world of Damion and of what the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program accomplishes. "He is a wonderful and remarkable young man! When I see Damion, I see an innocent child that is in many ways like a sponge and can easily be influenced by the bad things going on around him in the world like any child. God has blessed me by giving me this great privilege to serve Damion and guide him down the path of good."

We often tell our "Bigs" - you do not have to change your life to change theirs. But we routinely hear "Bigs" tell us of the impact the relationship had on them. In the last year, our friend Thomas' life has changed significantly. While focusing on sacrifice for a young boy in need, he since beat back the effects of cancer, found a wonderful career, and met the love of his life, his new fiancé Kathy.

visit our new website [www.BBBSTriangle.org](http://www.BBBSTriangle.org)

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle

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Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of the Triangle

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