

April 2012  
Volume 6, Issue 1

# Big News



Start  
Something™

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of St. Joseph County

(574) 232-9958  
www.bbbs-sjc.org

## Inspirational Role Models

One of the many hopes of every parent is for their child to have the opportunity to explore new horizons with someone who could be a positive influence in their life. Erica, parent to 3 sons, had that hope for her boys. She realized they needed the steady guidance of a man in their lives so she enrolled them in our Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Program.

*"I chose the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program for my children because I knew it would be inspiring. My 3 boys were making wrong choices in life and their grades were dropping. As a single mother I could only do so much. I felt that my children needed a positive male role model to be able to improve their lives. Unfortunately two of my kid's father was incarcerated and the other one is deceased.*

*The program has changed my children's lives! Their grades are improving and the positive attitudes from their Big Brothers are great. I was blessed to get loving, caring, and inspirational mentors. I would recommend this program to other parents who feel that their child needs a positive role model in their life."*



back: Deontre, Ms. Erica (parent)  
front: Deizmond, DeErion

### OUR 2012 GOLD SPONSORS



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### OUR 2011 SILVER SPONSOR



MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 VIP SPONSORS

*We appreciate our VIP sponsors who stepped up to  
Start Something™*

If you would like to be featured as one of our VIP Sponsors for 2012, opportunities are now available. Please contact Beth Berry at 234-7444 for more information.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of St. Joseph County

**Start Something™**

**BOWL**  
**FOR KIDS' SAKE**



*It's not about bowling . . . It's about the kids!*

Chippewa Bowl was the setting for a high energy bowling party on Saturday, March 24th, with more than 300 bowlers filling all 70 lanes.

Individual and corporate donors raised over \$37,000 to fund our one-to-one mentoring programs.

**Corporate sponsors included:**

- 2012 VIP Gold Sponsor Jordan Automotive Group
- 2012 VIP Gold Sponsor Teachers Credit Union
- 2012 VIP Silver Sponsor AM General

**Event Day Sponsors included:**

Adams Remco • American Eagle Outfitters • Four Horsemen Brewing Company • Kohl's Department Store (Grape Road) • Martin's Supermarket • St. Joseph Regional Medical Center • Texas Roadhouse • Walmart

*Teachers Credit Union was well represented at this year's event with a total of 14 teams!* Other companies who joined us for the afternoon to show their support: 1st Source Bank, Advanced Imaging, Advanced Water Solutions, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, CBRE/Bradley, Grubb & Ellis/Cressy & Everett, Inovateus Solar, Jimmy

*Highest pledge winner Russell Ford accepting his Chicago Get-a-Way prize from Executive Director Deborah Burrow.*



Johns, Ladue Curran Kuehn LLC, Lake City Bank, McGladrey, Meridian Title, Mutual Bank, PJ Marketing, State Farm-Calvin Johnson, UAW Local 5-Veterans committee and United Federal Credit Union.



*TCU teams*

We appreciate the volunteer assistance provided by Jordan Automotive Group, The Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore as well as the Chippewa Ambassador Club. A special thank you to Bob Hayden from Jordan for doing a wonderful job as our M.C. this year.

Many children will benefit from the generosity that was shown through this event and we are very grateful for such outstanding support from all our bowlers, donors and volunteers.



*Thanks to 2012 VIP Gold Sponsor Jordan Automotive, this Big and Little team were able to join the fun. Picture left to right, Big Brother Garrett Brooks with Little Brother Eric and Little Brother AJ with Big Brother Jim Pickley.*

*The Texas Roadhouse Armadillo was a big hit this year.*





*Board President Mark Criniti with our Master of Ceremonies Bob Hayden.*

*Our 2012 VIP Silver Sponsor AM General always brings the smiles and fun every year. Pictured is team "The Domers"*



### Our Top 5 Fundraisers

- Russell Ford – \$1,995.00
- Mike Lewandowski – \$1,600.00
- Beth Berry – \$1,496.01
- Taryn MacFarlane – 51,110.85
- Frank Eisemann – \$620.00

### Top 5 Teams

- Bayer Grylls: Man vs. Pins | Bayer Health Care – \$2,565.01
- Cloudy with a Chance of Strikes | Qumulus Solutions – \$2,245.00
- Match Made In Heaven – \$7,496.01
- Big Time Bowling – \$1,235.85
- HR Rollers - AM General – \$1,052.00

### Congratulations to our incentive prize winners: \$50 Martin's Supermarket gift card

- Keith Aichele | Pati Andizejcwakl | Theresa Badge
- Joe Haase (2) | Donna Houghton | Benjie Paul

### Top Fund Raiser

Russell Ford was awarded a Chicago get-away Package with hotel accommodations, 4 VIP passes to Shedd's Aquarium and a \$150 Visa gift card.

### \$100.00 Best Buy Gift Cards

- Donovan Hawkes | Nathan Vogel | Hilary Yordy (2)

### \$200 Best Buy Gift Card

- Frank Eisemann | Mike Lweandowski

### Grand Prize Winner - \$400 Best Buy Gift Card

Drew Lord

## Match Snapshots

Our wonderful Big Brother Big Sister mentors and their Little Brothers and Sisters have been busy having a great time together and making wonderful memories. Want to join in on the fun? Just give us a call at 232-9958 or fill out our on-line volunteer application at [www.bbbs-sjc.org](http://www.bbbs-sjc.org).

- **Big Brother Jim Pickley** played piano at the opening of the Kroc Center and brought his **Little Brother AJ** with him. They had a great day enjoying the facilities together.
- School Mentor **Big Sister Ashley Jones** helped **Little Nick** with his Science project and he received a ribbon!
- **Big Brother Gavin Ferlic** has been cheering on **Little Brother Izaiah** at his wrestling matches this school year.

- Some of our Littles from our partnership program with the Augustus Hawkins after school reading program at the Charles Martin Youth Center put on a play for the Red Ribbon campaign "Just Say No to Drugs". Pictured from l to r; **Imani, Grady and Brooklyn.**



- **Big Brother Rich Mullins** and **Little Brother Jaden** enjoyed ice skating on one of those rare days we actually had cold weather this winter.



### Coming Events - Watch for details



July 23, 2012 ~ **Annual Golf Outing**

Morris Park Country Club

Friday, September 28, 2012

**5th Annual Evening of Magic**



## Board Members of the Year Honored

Outgoing Board President Sam Roule honored two Board Members, Taryn MacFarlane and Mark Criniti, for their outstanding commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County by designating them as the 2011 President's Choice Board Members of the Year.



*Sam presenting Taryn her appreciation plaque*



*Sam presenting Mark his appreciation plaque*



*Incoming President Mark Criniti presents outgoing President Sam Roule with an appreciation plaque for his two years of service as Board President.*



### Big Brothers Big Sisters

of St. Joseph County

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## Did You Know?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America recently released a new Youth Outcomes Report that shows statistically significant improvements for youth during the first year of enrollment in the organization's nationwide mentoring program in three targeted areas; educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, and socio-emotional competency.

Youth progress in these areas is linked to longer-term outcomes, such as high school graduation, avoidance of juvenile delinquency, and college and job readiness.

### Our Vision Our Mission

Our vision is that all children achieve success in life.

Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better – forever.

## Our Staff

**Deborah Burrow**, Executive Director

**Beth Berry**, Fund Development Coordinator

**Laurie Morlan**, School Mentor Program Coordinator

**Debra Walker**, Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager

**Gene Wroblewski**, Bookkeeper

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