

Fall 2009

Big News



Volume 3, Issue 2

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of St. Joseph County

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

Magic Moments

In our lives, each of us shared an important connection with someone who broadened our horizons and brought a little magic into our lives.

It was the person who taught you to throw that perfect spiral, or sat in the front row to cheer you on, even when it was embarrassing. These are the little moments that Big Brothers and Big Sisters experience every day.

Meet Big Sister Erica and her Little Sister Alexia. They have been together for 9 months and are sharing special moments each visit. Alexia says "Laura is really nice and funny. We do a lot of things. I really liked going to Potato Creek this summer. We tell funny stories and laugh about everything."

Erica says they have become great friends already. "I adore her. She is so fun to hang out with and we have lots of plans for the future. I want to take her to the zoo and teach her how to swim. I am so happy we are able to be in this program."

Give us a call at 232-9958 and find out how you can start sharing the magic with a Little Brother or Sister. You can also go to our web site at www.bbbs-sjc.org and fill out a volunteer application on-line.



Studies have proven that children in our programs are **33% less likely** to exhibit **violent behavior**

OUR VIP SPONSORS

We really appreciate our sponsors who stepped up in a BIG way to financially support all of our fundraising events for 2009.

OUR 2009 GOLD SPONSOR



OUR 2009 SILVER SPONSORS



Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County held its 2nd annual fundraising dinner auction at M.R. Falcons on Saturday, September 26th. An Evening of Magic proved to be a great success, with a bottom-line profit of over \$19,000 thanks to the generous donations of 160 attendees consisting of BBBS sponsors and supporters.

An Evening of Magic featured various sources of entertainment for its guests: magician Kevin Wilson delighted audiences with reality-defying illusions throughout the night, DJ Rob Sparks from U93 acted as MC, helping to establish a pleasant atmosphere conducive to mingling and socializing, and caricaturists Terry and Penny Cline documented the smiles of the event by way of their portraits. For many, the defining event of the evening included a traditional Polish dinner, prepared by the renowned Linda Passwater and M.R. Falcon staff. The dinner culminated in an emotional video presentation demonstrating the significant impact Big Brothers Big Sisters has had within St. Joseph County.



Both silent and live auctions were held, with energetic auctioneer Doug Ostheimer keeping the live auction engaging and humorous. Hot ticket items included an autographed Jimmy Buffett guitar, VIP Grandstand Seats at the 2009 / 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and a Pacers vs. Bulls Legends Package. An especially popular piece proved to be a custom crafted Corn Hole Game, lovingly decorated by our Littles, as well as the Sponsor a Match option, which gave contributors the opportunity of making a \$100 donation to help offset the \$1,000 average yearly cost to maintain a Big and Little match.

Over 100 silent auction items were also offered, including a signed Notre Dame framed photograph

from the 1992 Notre Dame v. Penn State game and a South Bend Package featuring a one-night stay in the Marriott hotel with two tickets to a South Bend Civic Theatre performance. Volunteers from Jordon Automotive facilitated the smooth processing of both registration and checkout, assisting in guests' convenient departures at the close of the evening.

After a night full of charm and whimsy, an Evening of Magic concluded on a relaxed note, with dancing, socializing, and merriment. The success of the event stands as a testament to the strong ties established between the St. Joseph community and Big Brothers Big Sisters, demonstrating the incredible network of support present despite economically trying times.

A special thanks goes out to our sponsors: 1st Source Bank, Adams Remco, Chippewa Bowl, Indiana Beer, Key Bank, Press Ganey, Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Teachers Credit Union, and WSBT Radio Group for their continued



Let the auctions begin!



support. Our Committee Co-Chair, Michelle Peters and Fund Development Coordinator, Beth Berry, along with Committee Chairs Jennifer Farless, Melissa DeBroka, Laura Bennett, Sandy Moskwinski, Patty Thornberg, Bret Yoder, and Meg

Basker deserve special recognition for setting the stage for a captivating evening. A final expression of thanks goes to all those unnamed volunteers whose time and efforts behind the scenes contributed to the enchanted spirit of An Evening of Magic.

Breakthrough Study

finds adults mentored as children in Big Brothers Big Sisters are better educated, wealthier and more fulfilled than peers.

A study conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters finds adults mentored as children through Big Brothers Big Sisters are more likely than peers with similar backgrounds, but who were not involved in the program, to have a four-year college degree, incomes of \$75,000 or more. They also report strong relationships with their spouses, children and friends.

Previous research has been clear that Big Brothers Big Sisters helps children succeed educationally and socially while enrolled in the program. However, this is the first large-scale study of the long-term benefits of our type of mentoring and it shows we have an effect that reaches beyond the time the children are in the program.

Our brand of mentoring changes lives! Contact us today to see how you can get involved.

Coming Events

6th Annual Bonefish Grill Luncheon /Auction

Thursday, November 12, 2009

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Online reservations and list of auction items

Available at www.bbbs-sjc.org

Registration deadline is November 5th

March 20, 2010: 25th Anniversary of Bowl for Kid's Sake

at Chippewa Bowl. Planning will be underway soon for this landmark event.. Contact Beth Berry – Fund Development Coordinator at 574-232-9958 ext 112 if you would like to join our planning committee.

It's never too soon to start forming your teams! Be sure to save this date!

July 19, 2010: Annual Golf Outing

at Morris Park Country Club – Mark your calendars to save this date!

Studies have **proven** that children in our programs are **46% less likely** to begin using illegal drugs

Annual Picnic Fun

Our Littles and Bigs and their families enjoyed some end of the summer fun at Potawatomi Park in September. A Big thank you to the Notre Dame Student Association for donating the food enjoyed by all.



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105 E. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 310

P.O. Box 1632

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Did You Know?

Our organization is rated in the top 1% of all charities in America in terms of fiscal responsibility and effective use of donations? If you've made a gift to our agency, "thank you." If you would like to make a gift or speak with someone from our staff, please contact us at 232-9958. With your help, we will continue to serve more youth and fulfill our mission of developing mentors committed to helping boys and girls grow into the next generation of caring, confident and competent adults.

Our Mission

To provide children who lack sufficient adult support with the opportunities and skills necessary to develop positive personal growth. This is achieved through one-to-one relationships with volunteer mentors and maintained with supervision and support services provided by the professional staff of the agency.

Our Staff

Deborah Burrow, Executive Director

Beth Berry, Fund Development Coordinator

Erin Hershberger, School Mentor Program Coordinator

Laurie Morlan, Case Manager

Debra Walker, Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager

Gene Wroblewski, Bookkeeper

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