



A donor-driven youth mentoring organization.

December 2010

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Big Brothers Big Sisters is Starting Something NEW!

With the New Year comes new changes to our organization. National Studies conducted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, have shown that many people do not fully understand what Big Brothers Big Sisters accomplishes. To lessen this confusion, **Big Brothers Big Sisters is changing our look and our messaging** in hopes that we can change *your* perspective. We want you to help us Start Something BIG in 2011.

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps children *realize their potential* and *build their futures*. Each time Big Brothers Big Sisters pairs a child with a role model we Start Something incredible: a one-to-one relationship built on trust and friendship that can blossom into a future of unlimited potential. We are able to nurture children and *strengthen communities*, all through professionally supported one-to-one matches.

Here's the proof. National research has shown that positive relationships between Littles and their Bigs have a direct and measurable impact on children's lives. After participating in our programs, former Little Brothers and Sisters have shared the following impacts:

- 81% said their Bigs changed their perspective on what they thought was possible in life
- 65% said they reached a higher level of education than they thought possible
- 77% said they set higher goals than they would have on their own because of their 'Big'

We know that mentoring is very important and that the more people who are involved, the better the program will become. Because of this, we want to make it clear that there are many ways to get involved in our organization and that it takes both donors and volunteers to change the lives of children. There are a number of ways you can get involved:

1. Donate money
2. Become a Big Brother or Big Sister
3. Join a committee
4. Participate in Bowl for Kids' Sake

This New Year help us Start Something BIG. Encourage your friends, family members, and co-workers to get involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters through donations, committees, Bowl for Kids' Sake, or by becoming a Big. And help us reach our vision of successful mentoring relationships for all children who need or want them contributing to better schools, brighter futures, and stronger communities for all.

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Funded in part by:



Start Something



" Our **vision** consists of successful mentoring relationships for all children who need and want them contributing to better schools, brighter futures, and stronger communities for all."



The Country Inn Cares Event was a Big success raising \$1500!



A fierce competitor winds up to knock some pins down at the 2010 Wii Bowl for Kids' Sakes.

" Our **mission** is to help children reach their potential though professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measurable impact."

December Match Anniversaries

7 YEARS

Leah & JoAnn Wert

5 YEARS

Jewel & Barbara Brandt

4 YEARS

Ryan & Nick Griepentrog

3 YEARS

CJ & Jim Flory

Matthew & Ryan Hicks

2 YEARS

Paige & Julie Stensen

Ceryck & Brianna Passofaro

Kristopher & Rory Ginther

Joanne & Samantha Larson

Rachel & Rachel Godbout

Stacia & Colleen Duffy

1 YEAR

Erika & Jane Barstad

Chy-Ann & Bethany Mitch

Aliana & Brittany Thayer

Ivy & Natalie Motzko

Samantha & Holly Forst

Donna & Jean Moore

Carissa & Megan Gulan

Jayden & Derrick Hackel

Kyler & Kayla Macrafic

Noah & Rebecca Rouse

Raise money while you shop online!

When you shop using GoodShop, you can find coupons at more than 1,600 top stores (including Amazon, Macy's, Toys R Us, Best Buy and more) AND a percentage of your sale will be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin. It's simple and easy and costs nothing for you to do! All you have to do is:

- Visit the website: <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>
- Enter in that you are shopping for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin
- Start Shopping!

There's no easier way to support us this holiday season! Please spread the word!

Two Successful Fundraisers

A BIG Thank You goes out to Country Inn and Suites in Chippewa Falls for hosting this year's Country Inn Cares event on our behalf. It was a big success and raised \$1500! Great job to all involved!

Another BIG Thank You goes out to the Happy Hollow for letting us host our 1st Annual Wii Bowl for Kids' Sake Tournament. This was also a success and raised over \$500.

Donors

Magic Maker (\$5,000-\$9,999)

United Way of Greater Eau Claire

Match Maker (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Country Inn Cares

Sharon Monson

Nor-Lake Inc.

United Way St. Croix Valley

Friend (\$500-\$999)

Craig Monson

Helping Hand (\$250-\$499)

Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire Early Risers

Julie & Nathan Novak

Supporter (\$100-\$249)

Allan & Ruth Hofland

Donald & Kathleen Weber

Donor (\$1-\$99)

Mike Falk

GoodSearch & GoodShop

Michael Lubke

**Donors set up on monthly or quarterly payment plans will be recognized for their 2010 annual donations in the January 2011 newsletter.*

Currently seeking 2011 Bowl for Kids' Sake Sponsors

Interested? Want more info?

Call Christina at 715-835-0161

This holiday season YOU can give the gift of mentoring and help impact a child's life!

Simply visit

www.bbbsnw.org/donate.html

or send your check to:
312 S Barstow Street, Suite S1
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Chippewa Valley

Eau Claire, Chippewa, & Dunn Counties

Raise Money & Feel Better

A unique fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters is happening now until the end of the year! Any new patient that goes to see Tammy Amoth at Radiant Health Chiropractic (534 Water Street) will pay only \$30 for the initial consultation and screening (A \$70 value!). The full \$30 will be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters. See [this flyer](#) on the front page of our website for more details or call Radiant Health Chiropractic at 715-838-9432.

Calling All Matches

We are looking for matches that are interested in starring in Public Service Announcements for National Mentoring Month. Filming will be in December. Please contact [Rachel](#) for more information 715-835-0161.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Events Calendar

Winter Blast (SB, CB & Families)

Saturday, December 4th from 5pm-8pm

Eau Claire YMCA

Our annual winter event is almost here! There will be refreshments, cookies, decorating, dancing, swimming, dodge ball and much more! To RSVP call 715-835-0161 or email rachel.murray@bbbsnw.org. Reminder: Site-Based matches need a [transportation waiver](#). You can find them on our website on the front page under Winter Blast.

Polar Bear Plunge

Saturday, January 1st

Registration starts at 9am, Jumping starts at noon

The View on Lake Wissota

Challenge family and friends to raise money and Start Something BIG on New Year's Day with a plunge into Lake Wissota! Hot chocolate, coffee and a place to warm up will be provided. Prizes, games and raffles will take place all day long, so even if you don't jump, come on out and support! All proceeds for this event go to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin. Visit [website](#) to get registered today!

**CB = Community-Based Matches, SB = School/Site Based Matches*

Community Events Calendar

(all events are open to the public)

Christmas Time in the City

Saturday, Dec. 4th

Activities start at noon in downtown Eau Claire

Come out to this holiday event for some hot chocolate, treats, caroling, free horse-drawn wagon rides and much more all afternoon. The Christmas Tree Lighting will take place at 4:30 pm. For more information visit www.nothingartificial.org.

WinterDaze Parade

Thursday, Dec. 9th 4pm-8pm

Downtown Menomonie

Holiday activities including a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus and the reindeer! There will be hot chocolate, and a parade with over 65 floats, followed by a fireworks show. Non-Perishable food items will also be collected for Stepping Stones of Dunn County.

Irvine Park Christmas Village

Open from 7am-9:30pm until New Year's Day

Irvine park comes alive with more than 100,000 lights and illuminated displays to celebrate the holiday season. Dress warm to walk through the park, or fill up your car and take a drive through the lights.

BIG Benefits

Action City:

(2402 Lorch Ave, Eau Claire)

When Big pays for a Play Pass, Little gets a Play Pass of equal value for free.

Eau Claire Children's Theatre:

(1814 North Oxford Ave)
Little is FREE when Big pays. Please call for tickets in advance.

TICKETS

Jaycees Magic Show:

FREE for Littles 12 and under.
Dec. 2nd
6:30pm- at Americas Best Value Inn in Eau Claire.

Dec 3rd
6:30pm- at Chippewa Falls Middle School Auditorium

Call Erin for more information and to reserve your tickets today!
715-835-0161

St. Croix Valley

St. Croix & Pierce Counties

Big Brothers Big Sisters Events Calendar

O'Keefe Toy Day (CB, SB)

Saturday, December 11th

10am-2pm

O'Keefe Manufacturing Company

Experience toy making with Santa! Spots are limited to 4-5 matches, so please RSVP if interested!

For more information, to reserve a spot for this event, or for Site-Based matches to get a transportation waiver to attend the event, please contact [Michel Tigan](#) or call 715-381-7289.

SAVE THE DATE for the Pancake Breakfast and Annual Appreciation (CB & SB)

Saturday, January 22nd

8am-10am

Green Mill in Hudson

Join us in raising money for Big Brothers Big Sisters Northwestern Wisconsin with a Green Mill Pancake Breakfast! Come out and help us recognize the volunteers and donors who impact the lives of children. For more information, or for Site-Based matches to get a transportation waiver to attend the event, contact [Michel](#) at 715-381-7289.

**CB = Community-Based Matches, SB = School/Site Based Matches*

St. Croix Valley Community Calendar

(all events open to the public)

Candlelight Stroll

Friday, Dec. 3rd

6pm-9pm

Downtown Hudson

Carriage rides through the streets of downtown Hudson along with luminary candles to set the mood for this holiday event. Festively decorated shops and bistros will greet you with the sights and sounds of the season.

Reindeer in the Park

Saturday, December 4th

Noon to 4pm

Lakefront Park in Hudson

Come out to Lakefront Park in downtown Hudson to spend some time with Santa and his reindeer. Live reindeer will be available for pictures and Santa will be ready to hear your Christmas list. This event is FREE, so bundle up and come on out!

Phipps Center for the Arts: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Dec. 9-12

Show starts at 7pm

The Phipps Center for the Arts, in Hudson

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson. Grace Bradley agrees to direct the church pageant, despite having to cast the Herdmans, "the worst kids in the whole history of the world!"

Salvation Army

Mondays-Saturdays

Various times and locations in the St. Croix Valley

There are several opportunities to ring bells for the Salvation Army during the holiday season Contact Lynn Berg for site locations and to schedule a time to spread some holiday cheer. 715-247-2944

BIG Benefits

St. Croix

Lanes:

(1153 N St. Croix Street)
Monday thru Friday, Big pays and Little is free! Buy one game and the second is free!

YMCA:

(2211 Vine St, Hudson)
Big and Little free when together, during any open hours!

Hudson Bagel & Coffee Co:

(800 Carmichael Rd, Hudson)

Buy one sandwich, get the second one for free!

TICKETS

Minnesota Timberwolves

Tickets:

Available on a first come first serve basis. Please contact Michel at 715-381-7289 to get a pair before they are gone. Thank you to Nancy Sorenson and Document Solutions Inc. for their generous donation!

Holiday Reminder

Holidays are a busy time for families. The winter break from school often involves plans of vacation and traveling. If you are going to be gone for an extended period of time, remember to communicate your schedule with your Little and their family!

If you are a Big and you attend college, please understand that your winter break is often much longer than your Little's. Be sure to let your Little know when you are returning, and make an effort to stay in touch. Consider sending a holiday card or simply calling to check in.

Gift Ideas:

Many matches like to exchange gifts during the holiday season. Big Brothers Big Sisters does not prohibit gift giving, however we do have a few helpful tips!

1. Talk to the parent of your Little to approve all gifts and prevent any overlapping.
2. Do not overspend! Think of thoughtful ideas for your Little rather than expensive ones.
3. Discuss gift exchange with your Little.
4. Talk with parents before taking your Little out to shop for their family members.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters Night at the Museum

Below: Elijah and his Big Brother Marc, had fun trying on clothes kids may have worn a long time ago!



Above: Jayda and her Big Sister Elke loved learning about the Chippewa Valley's history!

17 Matches had a ton of fun at this year's Big Brothers Big Sisters Night at the Museum. Activities included a scavenger hunt, movies, milk mustache photos, prize drawings, card making! Matches were even able to enjoy some ice cream in the old time ice cream parlor! Upcoming Big/Little events include Winter Blast (Dec. 4th) and Action City (Jan. 20th).

NEW Staff Emails

All Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin staff have new emails. The emails have been changed from `firstname.lastname@bbbs.org` to `firstname.lastname@bbbsnw.org`. Please note the change! Staff will **only have access to old email accounts until Dec. 31st, 2010.**

`craig.monson@bbbsnw.org`
`janet.proctor@bbbsnw.org`
`michel.tigan@bbbsnw.org`
`erin.andresen@bbbsnw.org`
`christina.thrun@bbbsnw.org`
`rachel.murray@bbbsnw.org`
`nicole.benson@bbbsnw.org`
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