



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin

Administrative Office
312 S. Barstow Street, Suite S1
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Phone: 715-835-0161
Fax: 715-835-2636

St. Croix Branch
82 Coulee Road
Hudson, WI 54716
Phone: 715-381-7289
Fax: 715-531-0862

Contact: Ashley Bobka
Day Phone: 715-835-0161
E-mail: ashley.bobka@bbbs.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Big Brothers Big Sisters to Host Internet Safety Seminar

January 19, 2009 (Eau Claire) – In an effort to continue ensuring the safety of the children of the Chippewa Valley, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin is hosting a child internet safety seminar on Monday, January 25 at 312 S. Barstow St. in Eau Claire from 6:30-7:30 P.M. The presentation, entitled “Cybersafety and Cyberbullying,” will be conducted free-of-charge by Dr. Justin Patchin.

Dr. Justin Patchin, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire along with his colleague, Florida Atlantic University Professor Dr. Sameer Hinduja have been studying cyberbullying since 2002.

In 2005, these two professors developed the Cyberbullying Research Center to provide individuals with information about the risks of cyberbullying among teens. Together they hope to educate parents, educators, law enforcement officers, and counselors about the dangers of child internet use.

With the continued increase of new media such as social networking sites, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin has seen the need to help educate parents on how to keep their children safe.

Dr. Patchin, after receiving his Ph.D. and M.S. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and his B.S. in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Superior, has traveled the country giving educational presentations. His topics include juvenile justice, school violence, policy and program evaluation, and adolescent internet use and misuse. His first book, *The Family Context of Childhood Delinquency*, describes how parents can affect the delinquent behaviors of children. His most recent book, *Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying* (co-authored with Sameer Hinduja), studies how adolescents can misuse technology to harm their peers and the preventive measures parents can use to discourage this behavior. He has also been published in an array of academic journals including *Crime & Delinquency*, *Journal of Adolescence*, *Criminal Justice Review*, *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, *Western Criminology Review*, and *Deviant Behavior*.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin requests that anyone wanting to attend R.S.V.P by calling 1-800-648-1696 or 715-835-0161 or email ashley.bobka@bbbs.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin is a donor-driven youth mentoring organization that currently serves five counties: Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix. The largest youth mentoring organization in Western Wisconsin, the agency serves almost 600 children annually in one-to-one mentoring relationships. The organization's mission is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measurable impact. Learn more at www.bbbsnw.org.

-end-