



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

Men Awarded for their Dedication to Children

January 26, 2010 (Eau Claire) – On January 28, 2010 at the Holiday Inn at noon Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin will award two individuals for their commitment to mentoring. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin is pleased to announce the award winners of the John Kell “Making a Difference” award – Jerry Spies, the 2008 award winner and Brandon Richards, the 2009 winner.

Jerry Spies is a CPA and the co-owner of Biesterveld & Company, CPAs and Jackson Hewitt Tax Service. He got involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin as a Big Brother when the agency was still called Kinship of Eau Claire County and was matched with Little Brother Matt for about 9 years. Spies has served as a Board Member for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin since 2001 and has served as Treasurer for over 7 years, he has also served on the Finance Committee and Partnership Committee. Program Director Janet Proctor says that “his commitment and dedication for many years and passion for Big Brothers Big Sisters has made a Big Difference in the growth of our agency for many years.” He is always willing to volunteer his time, resources, and accounting skills. His willingness to go the ‘extra mile’ for Big Brothers Big Sisters and the children we serve truly embody the John Kell ‘Making a Difference’ Award.

Brandon Richards has served as the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin Information Technology volunteer since 2001, handling all of the technical concerns in both the Eau Claire and Hudson offices. Richards moved to La Crosse in the spring of 2005 to take on the role of IT Manager for Echo Bridge Home Entertainment, an international film distribution company. Even after his move to La Crosse, Richards continues to volunteer his time and services to Big Brothers Big Sisters. He dedicates many hours each year to fixing technical problems, finding the best deals in purchasing new equipment, setting up all new computers and equipment, installing and updating software, restoring files and is always available to answer technical questions. Richards is truly dedicated to the mission and vision of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin and is a deserving recipient of the John Kell ‘Making a Difference’ Award.

The John Kell ‘Making a Difference’ Award was created in honor of the late John Kell because of his commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin and the children we serve. John understood the impact that an adult role model could have in the life of a child. This award recognizes people in our community who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of children. The recipients of this award must be passionate about children and help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin bring magic into the lives of children.

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-