



A donor-driven youth mentoring organization.

January 2011

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January Marks 10th Anniversary of National Mentoring Month

National Mentoring Month is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year! Each year our nation spotlights the importance of mentors and the need each child has for a caring adult in his or her life. When you serve as a mentor, volunteer for a mentoring organization or donate to the cause of mentoring you are assuring a brighter future for our youth.

National Mentoring Month also draws attention to the ability of every individual to help promote mentoring in their community. Our nation's youth are our nation's future. At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin, we know the impacts mentoring has not only on the child, but also on the community as a whole.

Of our Littles:

- 84% have more self confidence
62% have improved academic performance
46% are able to avoid substance abuse
69% have a better relationship with their peers

Former Littles say:

- 81% said that their Big changed their perspective on what they thought possible in life.
77% said that they set higher goals than they would have on their own because of their Big.
81% said that their Big changed their perspective on what they thought possible in life.

Craig Monson, CEO of Big Brothers, "We know the problems – drop out rates, juvenile crime, teen pregnancy – the list of what happens when we do nothing goes on. By everyone taking a stand and Starting Something in our community, it is an easy way to become a part of a proven solution. When our kids improve in and out of school, the entire community succeeds." Start investing in everyone's future today by promoting mentoring. Here are a few ways to get involved:

Become a Big Brother or Big Sister

Learn more about National Mentoring Month at www.nationalmentoringmonth.org

Put together a Bowling team for Bowl for Kids' Sake

Ask your business to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Make a donation

Realize the impacts of mentoring at www.mentoring.org

Join a committee

Donate, volunteer and get involved!

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To learn more about National Mentoring Month or Big Brothers Big Sisters, visit www.bbbsnw.org or call 800-648-1696.

Funded in part by:



January Match Anniversaries

" 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."



This little dresses BIG while setting his sights on conquering the obstacle course at the Winter Blast.

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

11 YEARS

Mark Rasmusson & Joshua

5 YEARS

Deborah Kaiser & Savannah

4 YEARS

Kaila Poehnelt & Carissa

3 YEARS

Carla Hansen & Nikolas

Danielle Widmer & Shakayla

2 YEARS

Lindsey Knutson & Michael

Kayla Loew & Jesse

Todd Nordwig & Christian

Rhonda Schlieve & Taylor

Vicki Mayer & Mackenzie

John Dulaney & Spencer

1 YEAR

Matthew Reddy & Jalen

Robert Milne & Justin

Kristen Banz & Franklin

Dalene Crandall & Brett

Deanne O'Mera & Candace

Dan Hanson & Tristen

Melissa Fitzenberger & Ella

Amber Johnson & Maggie

Brittany Hentsch & Jillian

Hannah Noser & Brooke

David Hopkins & Devyn

Lauryn Engleman & Chassedy

Michael Laatsch & Geno

Nathan Servey & Jacob

Jared Ley & Jacob

Fong Vue & Clayton

Kailin Anderson & Julianna

Donors

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

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Janice Lemminger

Nancy Major-Olson

Craig Monson

Tim & Myrna Murphy

Northwest Pathways to Independence, Inc.

Joe Walter

In Honor of David Robson & Brian Zeller

Helping Hand (\$250-\$499)

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Dan & Jill Everhart

Great Northern Corporation

Hershey Company

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M&I Wealth Management

James & Sharon Manz

Nestle Employees

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Supporter (\$100-\$249)

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Mudge, Porter, Lundeen, & Seguin, S.C.

Barbara Rasmussen

In Honor of John & Rose Knutson

2010 Multiple Donation Donors

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

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Heidi Liedl

Craig Monson

Nathan & Julie Novak

Brent Sirianni

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Michelle Loe

Pamela Speckien

ShredAway USA

Cori Wahl

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Chippewa Valley

Eau Claire, Chippewa, & Dunn Counties

Big Brothers Big Sisters Events Calendar

Action City Big/Little Event CB & SB*—Matches only please!

January 20th, 2011 5:30-8pm
Action City at the Metropolis Resort, Eau Claire
\$25 per match

All matches are invited to Action City for pizza, soda, and 2 hours of unlimited play! There are tons of things to do, including: mini bowling, laser tag, go-carts, rock climbing, games, and more!

Be sure to wear tennis shoes and comfy clothes and don't miss out on the most popular Big/Little event of the year!

RSVP by calling 715-835-0161 or by emailing erin.andresen@bbbsnw.org. Reminder: Site-Based matches need [transportation waivers](#).

MAKING A DIFFERENCE LUNCHEON

Sponsored by The Optimist Clubs of Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and Lake Hallie

January 27, 2011
Noon- 1:30pm
Holiday Inn Campus Area (2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire)
\$15/person



Join us as we honor those who have impacted the lives of children through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin. We will be recognizing those who have gone above and beyond to support Big Brothers Big Sisters. All Bigs will be recognized with a special recognition for those who have been a Big for 5 or more years!

The John Kell "Making a Difference" award will be presented to the 2010 recipient Jeremy Hawke, Shawtown Productions.

Please RSVP by January 19th to reserve your seat by calling 715-835-0161 or emailing christina.thrun@bbbsnw.org.

Save the Date for the 2011 **BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE**

Chippewa Falls: April 28th, 5:30
Menomonie: April 29th, 5:30 & 8:00
Eau Claire: May 3rd-6th, 5:30 & 8:00
Big/Little Bowl: Tues. May 3rd, 5:30pm (Eau Claire) **CB & SB* Matches welcome**

The 2011 theme is **SPORTS!** A Win for a child is a Win for your community! So start thinking jerseys, helmets, pom poms and more! We're looking forward to the fun costumes!

And don't forget about the Kick-off events! A free gift for everyone who attends and all team captains who attend will receive a free long sleeve t-shirt!

Menomonie: Tues. March 1st 12-1pm & 5:30-6:30pm
UW-Stout: March 1st, 8:00-9:00pm
Eau Claire: Thurs. March 3rd, 12:00-1:00pm & 5:30-6:30pm
UW-Eau Claire: Tues March 8th, 6:00-7:00pm
Chippewa Falls: Thurs March 10th, 5:30-6:30pm

Presented by:



BIG Benefits

Micon Cinema:
(Eau Claire & Chippewa locations)
Stay warm in the theater with popcorn and a holiday movie!
Big pays and Little is FREE!
(*Deal is not valid on 3D movies.)

Oakwood Mall Café Court:
(4800 Golf Road, Eau Claire)

While you are at the mall holiday shopping stop in the food court for some great deals!
Rocky Rococo's & Taco John's offer a FREE kids' meal when Big buys a combo meal!

Hoffy's Skate America:
(3120 Melby St, Eau Claire)

Inline and roller skating.
Little is FREE when Big pays!

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

St. Croix Valley

St. Croix & Pierce Counties

Big Brothers Big Sisters Events Calendar

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND ANNUAL APPRECIATION (CB & SB* Matches welcome)

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 mi-chel.tigan@bbbsnw.org at 715-381-7289.

Save the Date for the 2011 **BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE**

Baldwin: Fri. April 15th, 6:00 & 8:00pm

River Falls: Sat. April 30th, 6:00 & 8:30pm

Hudson: Fri. May 13th, 5:30 & 8:00pm

Big/Little Bowl: Sat. April 30th, 3:00pm (River Falls) **CB & SB* Matches welcome**

The 2011 theme is SPORTS! A Win for a child is a Win for your community! So start thinking jerseys, helmets, pom poms and more! We're looking forward to the fun costumes!

And don't forget about the Kick-off events! A free gift for everyone who attends and all team captains who attend will receive a free long sleeve t-shirt!

Thurs. Feb. 24th, 12:00-1:00pm & 5:30- 6:30pm

Green Mill, Hudson

UW-River Falls: Date & Time are TBD

Presented by:



Wild vs Red Wings Hockey Game Tickets Available—CB* Matches only please

Sunday, Feb. 20th, 5pm

Xcel Energy Center

We have tickets for 2 matches to attend the Wild vs. Red Wings hockey game! They are great seats and will be gone fast! So hurry up and grab them while you still can!

First come, first served! Call Michel at 715-381-7289 to reserve your tickets today!

A **BIG Thank You** goes out to Xcel Energy for donating the tickets to us! Thanks so much!

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

St. Croix Valley Community Calendar

Looking for something to do with your little this winter?

Try checking out our list of [101 things to do with your Little](#).

You could try 5, 10, or even all of the ideas, but there is sure to be at least 1 idea that will strike your fancy this Winter! Happy Winter!

BIG Benefits

YMCA:

(2211 Vine St,
Hudson)
Stay active this winter! Come down to the YMCA and warm up while working out. Little is FREE when Big pays.

Green Mill:

(2410 Gateway
Ct, Hudson)

Buy an adult entrée and receive a kids' meal FREE!

St. Croix

Lanes:

(1153 N St.
Croix St, River
Falls)

Come out with some friends and develop a new winter hobby. Buy one game and get the 2nd game FREE!

Not-So-Average Hot Cocoa

Is your match tired of the same boring hot cocoa mix? Spice things up a little with this easy, home-made peppermint cocoa! A fun (and delicious!) activity to do after a cold day of fun outside!

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 quart milk
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips (3 ounces)
- 7 peppermint sticks; 3 crushed (1/4 cup), 4 left whole
- Pinch of salt

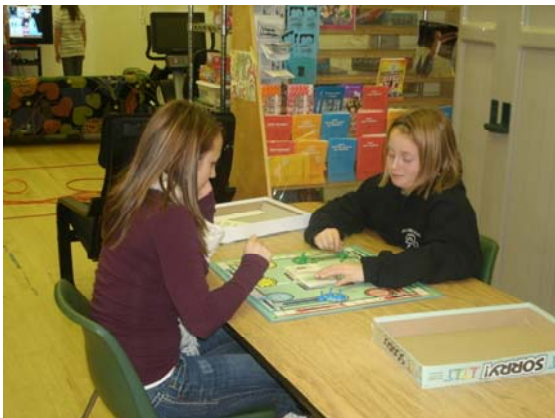
Directions:

1. Place cocoa in a medium saucepan. Gradually whisk in milk until cocoa has dissolved. Add chocolate chips and crushed peppermint; simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until chocolate and peppermint have melted, 8 to 10 minutes.
2. Bring to a boil & immediately remove from heat. Add salt. Ladle into mugs; serve each with a peppermint stick. Enjoy!

What a Blast!!

Over 50 people (Big, Littles and families) came out for some holiday fun at the 2010 Winter Blast at the Eau Claire YMCA.

Next Big/Little event: Action City on January 20th!



Above: A Big Sister and Little Sister playing a game at the Winter Blast!

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Below: Expressing appreciation for the friendship Big Brothers Big Sisters has given them, a match makes Thank You cards for donors!

