

# Match Times

Aug/Sept 2011

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## Upcoming Match Activities

### Annual Picnic

Matches are invited to enjoy:

- Games
- Food
- A bounce house
- A chance to meet the Timber Rattler's fang!

Festival Foods and Triangle Distributing will be donating the food and drinks so there is no need for matches to bring a dish.

Green Isle Park  
Tuesday, August 23  
5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Please RSVP by August 15 by emailing [annp@bbbsnew.org](mailto:annp@bbbsnew.org) or calling Big Brothers Big Sisters at (920) 498-2227.**



### The DeYoung Zoo



Are you ready for some amazing animal encounters? There are Lions, Tigers, Bears, Monkeys and a petting zoo too! So join us on September 10 as we take a bus trip to the De Young Family Zoo in Wallace, MI. The cost is \$5.00 per person (cash only please) and we will collect your money when you get on the bus. Please bring your own lunches so we can eat at the zoo in the picnic areas. The bus will be leaving the Big Brothers Big Sisters office on 1345 West Mason Street at 8:30 a.m. (please arrive 15 minutes early) and we plan on returning by 4:30 p.m. Email Ann at [annp@bbbsnew.org](mailto:annp@bbbsnew.org) or call (920) 498-2227 to sign up your match!

### Chance to Chat

Tuesday, September 13  
5:30-7:30 p.m.



Matches are invited to a group discussion led by Judy Knutson and Karen Early from UW-Extension.

Topics include living a healthy lifestyle and understanding others despite differing value systems or backgrounds.

\*Meal will be provided.

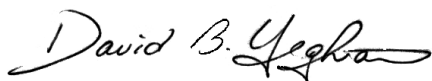
## Letter from Executive Director

As we have completed the first half of 2011 and look forward to the remainder of the year, here is an update on our Programs through June 30. Thanks to our wonderful mentors and donors, we're doing very well.

- **Children served:** Served 339 children – 4% more than the same time last year (compared to a 6% decline nationally). The growth is from our Site-based program – matches are up 21%. Community-based program has declined 5%.
- **Match length:** Community-based match length continues to increase – currently at 32 months (39% above national average). Site-based match length is 10 months (vs. 13 months for national average).
- **Match Retention:** Community-based is 85% for 6-month retention and 72.2% for 12-month – both increases vs. 2010 (compared to national data of 84% for 6-month and 58% for 12 month). Site-based is 82% for 6-month and 32% for 12 month (compared to 82% and 42% nationally).

Our outcome measures are also exceeding our goals. Children have noted improvement in 6 of 8 categories via our Youth Outcome Survey; which measures eight items related to education, life skills and risk avoidance. This includes 64% improvement in 3 categories and 17% improvement in 5 categories. Regarding our Strength of Relationship survey, we have achieved ratings of 4.0 or higher in 8 of 9 categories. More details are on the Performance Dashboard on our website at <http://www.bbbsnew.org/about-us.php>

Our mentors are impacting the lives of youth! While this is great news, our largest gap continues to be recruiting mentors—especially males—as 75% of the 100 children on our ready to be matched list are boys. We are actively recruiting mentors in companies and welcome the opportunity to schedule a “Mentor Awareness/Recruitment” meeting at your organization. Contact Ann at [annp@bbbsnew.org](mailto:annp@bbbsnew.org) to schedule this. Thank you!



## Texting for Match Support Updates

We will begin using Skype to text mentors, youth and parent/guardians for overdue match updates. The text will be a request for you to call your Match Support Specialist; **you will not be able to respond to the text.** Please respond by calling or emailing in a timely manner. If your Match Support Specialist is not available, ask to speak with another Program team member, or leave a message with a phone number and a convenient time to return your call.



## Free Bikes for Youth

We have a donation of **new** bikes to give away for youth in our program. Please call us at 498-2227 if interested. You will need to pick the bike up at the office.

- 24" Boys 21 speed, Mongoose Mountain Bike (green)
- 24" Girls 21 speed, Mongoose Mountain Bike (purple) *brakes need adjustment*
- 20" Girls BMX style



## An Easy Way To Help Us Recruit

We would like to submit an article to your High School Alumni Newsletter to provide information about mentoring with Big Brothers Big Sisters. It is our hope that your fellow Alumni will be inspired by your involvement and will want to get involved themselves! So if you graduated from High School anywhere in Northeastern Wisconsin, please email Stacie Boex at [stacieb@bbbsnew.org](mailto:stacieb@bbbsnew.org) with the name of your High School, the year you graduated, and what you enjoy most about being a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

## Packer Season

It's that time again! We will start getting **Green Bay Packer tickets** donated so please let us know if you and your Youth would be interested in going. Keep in mind that sometimes they are last minute options so give us the best number or email to reach you at. Send your name and information to Ann at [annp@bbbsnew.org](mailto:annp@bbbsnew.org) or call our office at (920) 498-2227.



## Congratulations, Matches of the Month!

### Our Outstanding Matches of the Month are Sponsored By **Chuck E. Cheese's, Arby's & Happy Joe's**

If you are chosen as an outstanding Match of the Month, you can choose from the following: 1 small pizza, 2 medium soft drinks and 10 tokens at Chuck E. Cheese's; 4 Regular Roast Beef Sandwiches at Arby's; or 1 medium pizza, 2 sodas, 2 ice cream cones, and game tokens from Happy Joe's. There are no substitutions as this is a donation to the agency.

### August Match of the Month

**Mentor's Name:** Amanda Srenaski  
**Youth's Name:** Ashleigh  
**Program:** Community-Based Program  
**Length of Match:** 2 years



**Why did you choose this photo?**

I chose this picture because it was right after we went to Home Depot on the first Saturday of the month which is a tradition we have done since we have met!

**What are your favorite activities to do with each other?**

We love getting our nails done together-quality girl time! We also enjoy doing craft projects together like designing stepping stones, painting a plant holder and creating friendship bracelets. Ashleigh has also taken tennis lessons over the summer so we have taken up some tennis time too!

**Tell us about a funny moment you shared.**

We are always laughing together...one time we were riding in the car and a song came on the radio and when I looked in the backseat, Ashleigh was dancing all cute and crazy. So we turned the music up louder, both sang really loud, danced and giggled the rest of the car ride.

**Do you have any thought or suggestions for other matches?**

I would suggest sticking with a set outing time that your youth can look forward to. They get excited knowing when the next outing is and it helps build trust that they know what to expect for the next outing. For example, we always go on the first Saturday of every month to Home Depot's free project day.

### September Match of the Month



**Mentor's Name:** Karen Konshak  
**Youth's Name:** Lexi  
**Program:** Community-Based Program

**How long have you been matched?** It will be one year in September!

**Why did you choose these photos?** Lexi and I enjoy the outdoors and trying new things. Lexi never ate a hickory nut so we went hickory nut picking. We enjoyed collecting and eating the nuts.

**What are your favorite activities to do with each other?** We like making arts and crafts, playing disk golf, fishing, swimming, visiting the Humane Society, taking walks in the woods, going to the zoo and Tundra Lodge, and cheering on the Bullfrogs baseball games.

**Tell us about a fun moment you shared together.** We like playing Madlibs where we create stories. Some stories are so funny that Lexi can hardly finish reading a story because she is laughing so much. She is a joy to be around.

**What are your summer plans?** We would like to do more fishing, swimming and bike riding to find new adventures.

**Is there anything else you would like to say?** Lexi and I are in the process of becoming volunteers at the Bay Area Humane Society. We both love animals, especially cats.



## New Site-Based Partnerships

We are very excited to announce two new partnerships for the 2011-2012 Site-Based Program! Through these partnerships we hope to build bridges between youth and mentors to strengthen the communities involved.

One program is in partnership with Oneida Nation. Oneida volunteers will be matched to youth ages 6-13 at the Oneida Civic Center (Site-1). Matches will meet during the after school hours and will be focused on friendship, academics and athletic activities.

This program is aimed at encouraging Tribal Community Members to become mentors, forging connections with Tribal youth to share their wisdom and experience and helping guide youth through an exploration of their cultural heritage and learning.

A second program is an expanded collaboration with the Howard-Suamico School District. Volunteers will be matched to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Bay View Middle School. Matches will meet on Tuesday mornings from 7:20-8:00 a.m., focusing on friendship, academics and life skills.

This partnership stems from the increasing popularity of our program at Lineville Intermediate School. At Lineville, Bay Port students mentor 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth. The new program is aimed for mentors to provide students with strong academic support; and in turn greater academic achievement, through their senior year of high school.

We have already begun enrollment for both sites, so if you know anyone that might be interested please have them contact Ann at [annp@bbbsnew.org](mailto:annp@bbbsnew.org) or refer them to our website: [www.bbbsnew.org](http://www.bbbsnew.org).

## HOWARD - SUAMICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Site-Based Corner

Check out the new [Discussion Binder](#) and updated [Match Activities Binder](#) at each site for engaging and fun activities!

Please take some time to review important Site-Based Policies and Guidelines:

- **Consistency.** Consistency and dependability build trust within the relationship. Missing more than two weeks in a row can put a strain on the relationship. If you have to miss one week or reschedule, please notify the Site-Based Coordinator and your youth's teacher so your youth receives the message and isn't left wondering if you are coming or not.
- **Contact:** The only places Site-Based matches have contact are at the site or at Big Brothers Big Sisters' supervised events (i.e., the summer picnic in August, Holiday party in December, Bowl for Kids' Sake in February, and Appreciation Dinner in April). There is no contact via phone, text, social media, email, Skype, mail or transportation. If you accidentally see each other outside of the site, call the Site-Based Coordinator to discuss how it went.
- **Match Updates:** Maintain regular contact with the Site-Based Coordinator. The Site-Based Coordinator will call you when you are due for a match update. Please respond promptly (within 48 hours) to have a 5-10 minute conversation about the match. If you have questions or concerns between match updates, feel free to call any of our program staff during our office hours M-F 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
- **Limit friends on visits:** Ideally, your youth's friends will not partake in match meetings at all, but if you feel your youth can benefit from building peer friendships you can allow them to have a friend join you once per month.
- **Limit gift giving:** It's important that your match is based on friendship, not money or material possessions. There is nothing wrong with the occasional treat or gift for a special occasion, but buying things for your youth should not be a regular occurrence.
- **Photographs:** If you want to take photos of you and your youth, please contact the Site-Based Coordinator to get parental permission. Make sure when taking photos no other children are in the background of the photo. Never post a photograph of your youth on the Internet.

## Happy Anniversary!

### 11 Years

Aeron Haynie and Mark Anderson & Stacia

### 6 Years

Sue Laskowski & Lake Sue Pike & Karina Julie Rupiper & Te Anna

### 4 Years

Casey Rentmeester & Jack Donna Rich & Linda Justin Willis & Jashawn

### 3 Years

Lori Fliss & Elissa Patrick Hermsen & Hans Kristy LeNoble & Loren Mary "George" VanStraten & Levi Jack Winn & Conor James Wolfe & Braeden

### 2 Years

Jeremy Doughty & Ryan Anna and Barbara Michaels & Julia Mark Mullins & Darius Sue Nooyen & Mia Amanda Srenaski & Ashleigh

### 1 Year

Roni Anderson & Samantha Richard Avila & Ryan Karen Konshak & Lexi Chris Ostrand & Brandon Bryan Schmechel & Jose Travis Schnell & Luis

## New Matches!

Gary Anderson & Cameron Linsay Carpenter & Vanessa Rebecca Cleveland & Gavi Kurt Hallgren & Dalton Ty Kurtz & Christopher Amanda Lang & Carly Laura Lauters & Liyonna Mary Mallien & Molly Scott Mallien & Cole Jackie Miller & Akasha Cindy Rasmussen & Priscela Janessa Schacht & Savonna Katie Schroeder & Shana Garth Webster & Dylan Mark Winters & Corbin

## A Special Congrats!

Congratulations to match Dawn Murphy and Aleah on celebrating one year together in February. We missed their names in the February/March newsletter.

## Keeping Your Kids Safe

- Know who your child is with
- Know what your child is doing
- Know where your child will be
- Know when your child is expected home
- Know who your kid's friends are
- Get to know and communicate with other parents
- Establish and enforce household rules, including a clear "no use" policy
- Be your kid's "out" when he/she is in pressure situations
- Greet your child when he/she comes home

## Taste of the Town



**Friday, November 4, 2011  
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center**

*The area's finest restaurants and caterers, entertaining celebrity chefs & a fabulous auction*  
PREMIER admission \$125  
Individual admission \$100

For ticket information, visit [www.bbbsnew.org](http://www.bbbsnew.org)

## Golf for Kids' Sake



Thornberry Creek at Oneida was host to the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Golf for Kids' Sake on Monday, June

13. With blue skies and comfortable temperatures, 144 golfers enjoyed their day in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Wisconsin.

On course events like the Prize Wheel and Challenge the Match allowed golfers an opportunity to meet some of the exceptional youth and mentors in our program. Upon wrapping up on the course, golfers had an opportunity to bid on a variety of exciting silent and bucket raffle items. During the dinner program, Youth Fantasia took to the microphone and told people how much her mentor Karen means to her.

Thanks to generous supporters, sponsors and hard-working volunteers for a successful event.

## Bowl for Kids' Sake

The votes are in! The 2012 Bowl for Kids' Sake theme is Beach Party. Mark your calendars for the 2012 event at Riviera Lanes:

- Friday, February 24:  
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 26:  
12:00 & 2:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering your time on the Bowl for Kids' Sake committee, contact Nikki at [Nikkiz@bbbsnew.org](mailto:Nikkiz@bbbsnew.org) for more information.

