



Big Brothers Big Sisters

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS REQUESTS COMMUNITY TO START SOMETHING™ TO HELP KIDS SUCCEED IN, OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

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(Green Bay, WI) President Obama declared January 2011 as National Mentoring month. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Wisconsin is inviting all adults to *START SOMETHING™* in support of quality youth mentoring to help children facing adversity beat the odds.

Big Brothers Big Sisters impacts the lives of youth age 6 and up through 1-to-1 mentoring relationships that have a measurable impact on youth. In 2010, 63% of youth served lived in homes headed by a single parent, and up to 20% lived with a grandparent. When compared with their peers, youth matched with a mentor in the program showed:

- 71% improvement in Risk Attitudes
- 71% improvement in feeling of Social Acceptance
- 57% improvement in Educational Expectations
- 43% improvement in Grades

In 2010, mentors and staff invested nearly 60,000 hours of 1-to-1 time with youth, which equates to 115 hours of 1-to-1 time with each youth. Through having a mentor, children facing adversity become responsible, productive citizens able to achieve lifelong success, communities are safer, and organizations benefit from a better prepared workforce.

Youth self-confidence improves, they believe in their abilities, and they are more apt to handle obstacles. Matched youth attend school more often and are more engaged in the classroom, leading to academic achievement and graduation. They avoid risky behaviors that may endanger them, keeping them out of the criminal justice system.

Site-Based mentor Tina Jacqmin has been mentoring her youth Demi for the past year. They meet during lunch, once a week. Tina has noticed a difference in Demi since they were first introduced a year ago, "I am very proud of Demi. She has so much energy and is so enthusiastic about school. This year she is involved in 3 or 4 extra curricular activities. She was selected for Quiz Bowl – which means that her teacher's recognize her as a good student. She has been selected for Safety Patrol and Kid Reps – which means she is viewed as very responsible."

More than 100 youth are ready-to-be-matched to a mentor. Mentors can choose from several programs that best fits their interest and schedule:

- Community-Based/Couples for Kids Program
 - o 1-to-1 interactions in the community
 - o Low or no cost activities (fishing, baking, games, movies, reading, scrapbooking, etc.)
 - o 12-month commitment
 - o Meet 2+ times a month
- Site-Based Program
 - o Meet at youth's school during lunch or neighborhood-based facility after school
 - o Low or no cost activities (eating, academics, games, etc.)
 - o 9-month commitment (school year)
 - o Meet once a week for 45+ minutes

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- Sports Buddies Program
 - o Tickets to sporting events during the year
 - o Low or no cost activities (one activity provided per month)
 - o Participatory activities such as swimming, weight lifting, basketball, bike riding, etc.
 - o Meet 2+ times a month

The community can *START SOMETHING*[™] by visiting www.bbbsnew.org or by calling (920) 498-2227 for more information on how to get involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Wisconsin.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Wisconsin is the premier youth mentoring organization in the area, serving Brown, Oconto and Door counties. The agency's mission is to help children reach their potential through one-to-one relationships with mentors that have a measurable impact on youth. Since 1972, this non-profit organization has expertly matched children ages 6 and up with volunteer mentors.