

April 2011
Volume 5, Issue 1

Start
Something™

Big News

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of St. Joseph County

(574) 232-9958
www.bbbs-sjc.org



2 Sisters + 2 Bigs Sisters = The Start of Something Great

As sisters, Allyson and Breyanna are used to sharing –but thanks to Big Brothers Big Sisters, each one has an individual relationship with her own Big Sister. Allyson, the older of the two Little Sisters at age eleven, has a Big Sister with plenty of experience. Autumn first volunteered as a Big Sister when she was an undergraduate student at Indiana University in Bloomington. Because it was such a rewarding experience, she re-engaged with Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County when she returned home after college. This time, becoming a Big Sister enabled her to be matched with friendly Allyson. Both Big and Little are busy scholars; Autumn is pursuing a master's degree in social work and Allyson is a busy sixth grader at Battell School.

Allyson isn't the only one in her family to benefit from having a Big Sister; in addition to being Allyson's biological little sister, nine year old Breyanna (Bre') is Aimee's Little Sister through Big Brothers Big Sisters. And, like Autumn, Bre's Big Sister also knows the role well. Aimee first became involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County while she was a high school student through the Penn High School Mentor Program. She continued as a Big Sister during her years of college at IU Bloomington. After college, Aimee taught music

in South Korea and Iraq for several years; when she returned to South Bend, she also returned to her role as a Big Sister mentor, this time with energetic and enthusiastic Bre'.

The individuals making up this Big and Little foursome share many similarities, but their relationships and how they spend time together are unique. Allyson and Autumn's favorite ways to spend time together include shopping, cooking, eating out, and doing arts and crafts projects; if they are able to talk and hang out, they're happy. Bre' and Aimee like to cook together too, and they also spend time playing board games, biking, and listening to music. As with all Big Brother and Big Sister relationships, no two are exactly alike, but spending quality time together is one priority they all have in common.



Autumn and Allyson



Aimee and Bre'

There are dozens of children in St. Joseph County like sisters Allyson and Breyanna who are hoping and waiting to have an adult come into their lives as a role model and friend. If you think back to your own childhood and the people who opened the world wider to you, you will likely be met with a sense of gratitude and some great memories. After all, where would you be without that special teacher, elderly neighbor, work supervisor or other adult who took a special interest in you? As you know, it really doesn't take a unique talent or specific aptitude to give this gift. Instead, what's required is a little bit of time and commitment. Is this something you might be able to give to a child? Doing so will make a world of difference... in their life and in yours. Start something big in your life today – volunteer. Call us at 574-232-9958 or visit www.bbbs-sjc.org to get started.

BOWL

FOR KIDS' SAKE

A *Striking* Success!

Our 26th annual Bowl for Kids' Sake was anything but a strike out! 185 supporters laced up their shoes and took to the alleys of Chippewa Bowl on Saturday, March 19. Together 42 teams, along with the support of over 36 area businesses and organizations, raised over \$25,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint Joseph County. "Bowl for Kids' Sake brings the whole community together in support of a positive future for our kids," said Deborah Burrow, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County.

Why would somebody give up a sunny Saturday to do this? For

Kevin Smith, who bowled alongside his Bayer Healthcare co-workers, the reason was simple. "It's fun, and it is a great cause."

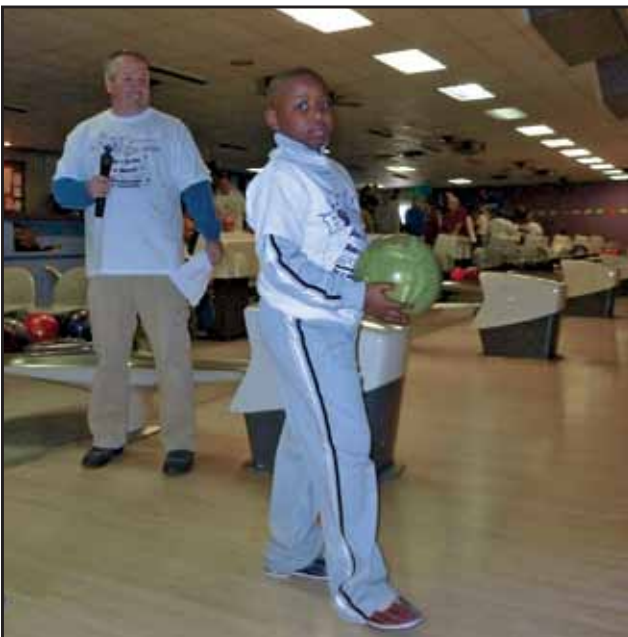
Kyle Dentino, a four time participant and former Board Member, echoed that sentiment. "We know this organization does great things so we are happy to help them raise money."

Special thanks to our 2011 VIP sponsors, who not only supported this event, but all of our special events for the year. Teacher's Credit Union is our Gold VIP sponsor and AM General is our Silver VIP sponsor. Our four Bowl for Kids Sake event spon-

sors were Adams Remco, Chippewa Bowl, Jordan Automotive Group, and St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. American Eagle Outfitters is the National Sponsor of Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Many businesses also showed support by backing corporate teams made up of their employees. Christine Newcomer, team captain for Meridian Title, said her company is very supportive of the event and encourages employees to participate so it's never hard to put together a team. Once there, the co-workers have a great time with each other and with their customers who come to cheer them on. "This is a great

Little Brother Ervin throws out the first ball to kick off 2011 Bowl For Kids' Sake.



2011 Silver Sponsor AM General's team, H.R. Rollers, exhibit the excitement that filled the lanes this year.





Board President Sam Roule with the Highest Pledges winner Taryn MacFarlane, who won a weekend in Chicago prize package for raising \$1,486.

fundraiser,” Christine said. “I would strongly recommend doing it.” Christine should know; Meridian Title’s team has participated the past five years.

Still other businesses supported Bowl for Kids’ Sake by donating door prizes, enabling us to thank some lucky volunteers in generous fashion. A total of 18 door prizes were awarded, with the grand prize, a \$400 Target gift card, going to Drew Lord. In addition, a weekend in Chicago prize package was awarded to bowler

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Business / Organization Teams

1st Source Bank	Advanced Imaging Solutions
Advanced Water Solutions	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
AM General	Bayer Healthcare
CBRE/ REMC	Crossfit of South Bend
Daman Products	Grubb & Ellis/ Cressy & Everett
Indiana Beer	Ladue, Curran, & Kuehn
Meridian Title	Ordered List, Inc.
PJ Marketing	Teacher’s Credit Union
UAW Local #5	US Post Office
Veteran’s Committee	WNDU Morning News
Yellow Book USA	

Incentive Prize Winners

\$50 gift certificate to area restaurants:

Dan Adgent	Keith Aichele
Kim Carlisle	Darrin Chapman
Noah Davey	Joe England
Deb Kamm	Bob Lewis
Christa Nayder	Pat Ellis-Martin

\$100 gift card to Martins:

Frank Eisman	Matthew Shambry
Garrett Gingerich	Jennifer Wagnerowski
Jamie Ruiz	

\$200 gift card to Best Buy:

Kyle Dentino	Taryn MacFarlane
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Grand Prize – \$400 gift card to Target- random drawing for all bowlers:

Drew Lord



Gold Sponsor for 2011, Teacher’s Credit Union, put the FUN in fund raising and came out to support the day with several teams. Pictured here, Team TCU Five.



Some of our Board, Staff and volunteers who helped to make Bowl For Kids’ Sake a success. Jennifer Pinkepank, front row, third from right, our Event Volunteer Chair, did a great job once again. Thank you Jennifer!

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE *continued*

and Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County board member Taryn MacFarlane for bringing the most pledges with \$1486.54.

Pledges, sponsors, and prizes all added up to a great day for our kids' future. "We are very grateful to everyone who chose to be involved in this year's event – bowlers, pledge sponsors, team captains, corporate sponsors, board members, and all of our event volunteers – each person had a hand in helping to start a child on the right path," said Deborah. "Every dollar raised through Bowl for Kids' directly funds our mentoring programs and helps to maintain and sustain our mentoring relationships, increasing kids' chances for success."



Board President Sam Roule and Executive Director Deborah Burrow gratefully accept a check from Chippewa Manager Kim Stachurski in the amount of \$1,920 for their efforts in raising funds to support this year's Bowl For Kids' Sake.

2011 Bowl for Kids' Sake Volunteers

Jennifer Pinkepank – Event Chair
Planning Committee:
Dana French, Jamie Ruiz,
Taryn MacFarlane, Sam and Cathy Roule

Event Day Volunteers:

Julie Banks	John Lukaszewski
Melissa Bishop	Joni Nedderman
Melissa DeBroka	Joe Pavich
Lindsey Downey	Michelle Peters
Mary Jane Elias	Eric Pinkepank
Pam Ender	Matt Pinkepank
Larry Englebert	Deb Sardi
Cindy Frushour	Julie Sparazynski
Amy Golichowski	Chuck Stout
Cindy Hensley	Don Stout
Dick Hensley	Don Torok
Juliana Herring & Tara	Laura Waite
Josie Kingsberry	Jim Waterman
Kathy Klabusich	James Wolf
Jacob Lenfestey	Jim Woodworth
Yazi Lord	Bret Yoder

2011 VIP Gold Sponsor:

Teacher's Credit Union

2011 VIP Silver Sponsor:

AM General

2011 Bowl For Kids' Sake Event Sponsors

Adams Remco, Chippewa Bowl,
Jordan Automotive Group,
Saint Joseph Regional
Medical Center

National Sponsor

American Eagle Outfitters

2011 Bowl for Kids' Sake

Door Prize Donors

AJ's Pub, AM General
CBRE/ REMC
Hacienda, Red Lobster,
Teacher's Credit Union
St. Joseph Regional
Medical Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

11th Annual Golf Outing

→ New Date! ←

Monday, July 18, 2011

Morris Park Country Club

4th Annual Evening of Magic

Friday, September 30, 2011

Gillespie Conference &

Special Event Center

at Hilton Garden Inn

We are forming planning committees for this event now. If you would like to be a part of planning this fun event call Beth Berry at 574-234-7444.

Match Happenings

Big Brother Robert Memmen and Little Brother Geovohni enjoy pizza and board games at our February match activity night.



Big Brother Mark Robertshaw & Little Brother Brandon enjoyed a trip to Chicago this winter. Pictured here checking out the big bean-shaped sculpture in Millennium Park

Big Brother Mitch Kochanski and Little Brother Jayquan have been putting the fun in learning at our School Mentor Program at Muessel Elementary School.



Big Sister Denise Baron and her Little Sister Jannae play Uno at the agency board game night.



Our L.E.A.D. matches have been busy working on a special project for our silent auction at this year's Evening of Magic dinner. Debra Walker, staff coordinator for L.E.A.D., goes over the instructions with everyone.



Swing for Success!



Like to swing a club? Ready to hit the green? Join us **Monday, July 18** for our annual golf outing. While golfing in a beautiful setting with great company, you'll be raising money for an excellent cause: our mentoring programs.

The fun is being held at Morris Park Country Club, one of our area's premier courses, starting at 11:30 a.m. Each team receives a round of golf with cart and range balls. In addition, each player is provided with a buffet lunch, opportunities to win great prizes, and a surprise gift.

Every swing you make will increase our kids' chances for success. So what are you waiting for? Put together your team and get ready to register! Registration and sponsorship opportunities open soon at www.bbbs-sjc.org. Questions? Give Beth Berry, Fund Development Coordinator, a call at 574-234-7444.

Can't wait to see you on the course!

MUSTACHES FOR KIDS



For the third year in a row, Graduate students in the Notre Dame Biology Department hosted a Mustaches for Kids fundraiser, with proceeds of \$2,232 going to our mentoring programs. We really appreciate everyone's continued support!



Giving Tree Update

Thank You to all who answered our call to visit and vote for our decorated tree at University Mall over the holidays! Because of the generosity displayed, Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County received over **\$600** in donations **AND WON the contest for the most donations collected.** This enabled us to receive an additional **\$300!** We'd like to thank WSBT for sponsoring the event and inviting us to participate. It was a great way to bring in 2011 with the start of Something Big!



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of St. Joseph County

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Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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Did You Know?

Studies show that students that are retained a grade or more are two times more likely to drop out of school. Early intervention in grade school with personalized involvement from a caring adult is the most commonly recommended strategy to prevent students from dropping out of High School. Our School Mentor Program that serves elementary-age children is part of the solution. We are helping kids stay in school and ultimately achieve academic success.

Our Vision Our Mission

Our vision is that all children achieve success in life.

Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better – forever.

Our Staff

Deborah Burrow, Executive Director

Beth Berry, Fund Development Coordinator

Laurie Morlan, School Mentor Program Coordinator

Debra Walker, Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager

Gene Wroblewski, Bookkeeper

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