

August 2011  
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Start  
Something™

# Big News

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of St. Joseph County

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



## All in the Family: Family Match Changes Lives

Nelson Zounlome did not have an easy childhood. He, his three brothers, and his single mother Sophie faced many challenges as Sophie navigated life in South Bend, a community vastly different than the one in which she had grown up in her native Africa. For many young men in his circumstances, graduating from high school alone would be a remarkable accomplishment. Nelson, however, is writing his own life story, and it is a tale that is rich with achievement. In addition to graduating Cum Laude as John Adams High's Senior Class President, he is also the recipient of this year's Maurice and Mildred Frank Scholarship and heading to study at Indiana University in Bloomington this fall.

Sophie acknowledges that she and her sons received a lot of helpful support from the community over the years, and she is particularly thankful for Nelson's experience with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint Joseph County. Eight and a half years ago, Nelson was matched with Steve and Christina Hunter through the BBBS Family Match program, and their relationship has endured to this day. Of the match, Nelson says, "I am glad for all of the wonderful experiences I have had in this match relationship, all of which were in a warm and loving family atmosphere. Over the course of our friendship, Steve and Tina took me

to New York three times on vacation, and each time was a great experience. I never would have had the opportunity to do that without them. Having Steve and Tina as my Family Match has not been just a wonderful experience, but the greatest experience of my life."

Nelson's relationship with Big Brothers Big Sisters also made him eligible to receive the Maurice and Mildred Frank Scholarship. Big Brother Bill Frank started the scholarship in honor of his parents. The scholarship provides financial assistance to a Little Brother or Little Sister entering college or technical school after graduating from high school.

Nelson is not the only one who has benefited from his long-standing relationship as a Little Brother. Big Brother Steve, a Vice President for Quality Dining, says, "Nelson has become a part of our immediate family and our extended family. Tina and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time with Nelson, and our children, who were both born after our match with Nelson started, have gained a different perspective than they might have had without their relationship with him."



"It has given our family great pleasure to watch him mature from a kid into a productive, successful young man and we are extremely proud of his accomplishments. He has persevered in a tough environment and never complained. Nelson is a great young man and we are better people because of our match with him."

Our **Family Match Program** is available to married couples with or without children of their own. Studies have shown that family volunteerism strengthens families and communities while teaching values and encouraging civic engagement across generational lines. In addition, we have observed that successful match relationships often involve the Big's entire family.

By participating in the **Family Match Program**, family members can spend quality time together in an activity that transmits values and models compassion. Our Littles benefit from the extra support and our volunteers do not have to take time away from their own family in order to mentor a child. Start Something Big in your family's life and call us today at 232-9958 to enroll in this program.

### OUR 2011 VIP SPONSORS

We appreciate our VIP sponsors who stepped up to Start Something™

OUR 2011 GOLD SPONSOR



Teachers Credit Union

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# 11th Annual Golf Outing

The 11th Annual Golf Outing was held at Morris Park Country Club on July 18, 2011. We would like to thank our 2011 VIP Sponsors **Teacher's Credit Union-Gold** and **AM General-Silver** for their continued support this year, along with our Ace Sponsors Demmer Corporation, Modineer, and River Bend Hose for making this a banner event!

It was a great day for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Thanks to all our golfers and sponsors we raised over \$22,000 for our mentoring programs. A big thank you to Mark Criniti, this year's Golf Event Chairperson. Great job, Mark!



Teachers Credit Union Team



AM General Team



### 1st Place Team - Lithotone - Ferlic Team

left to right: Steve Priebe, Dean Catanzarite, Gavin Ferlic, Paul Phair & Sam Roule, Board President



### 2nd Place Team - AM General

front: Sam Roule, Board President, Kyle Dentino, Deborah Burrow, Exec Director, back: Matt Davis & Drew Jeffrey



### Special Donation:

Frank Julian with Sam Roule, Board President and Beth Berry, Fund Dev. Coordinator. Special thanks goes to Frank Julian for his generous contribution to BBBS.



### Putting Contest AND Closest to Pin:

Matt Davis



### Longest Putt:

Matt Benassi



### Longest Drive - Women:

Karen Haun with Beth Berry

### Longest Drive - Men:

Ivory Jackson, picture not available

**THANKS TO ALL OUR PLAYERS AND ESPECIALLY TO ALL OUR GOLF SPONSORS...**

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**Vendors:**  
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## Match Happenings

Congratulations to our High School graduates; **Nelson Zounlome, Elias Micozzi and Shante Gunn**. Elias is going to college in Louisville Kentucky, Nelson will be attending IU Bloomington and Shante will be going to Anderson University, where she will be on the track and soccer teams.

**Shante Gunn's** Big Sister **Chrissy Wilford**, who graduated from ND and went home to California this spring, surprised her by flying back to town for Shante's High School graduation ceremony and reception in June. *(see photo)*

**Elias Micozzi** represented Riley High School in the boys state



*Little Sister Shante Gunn with Big Sister Chrissy Wilford at Shante's graduation*

track and field finals in June. Elias finished 5th in the discus competition.

Big Brother **Dan Delgado** is teaching his Little Brother **Jonah** to drive this summer. Way to go Dan!

### OOPS

We would like to acknowledge Cheryl Wentzel as one of our most appreciated donors. She was inadvertently left off of our 2010 annual report. We apologize for the error.

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### In Memoriam

We wish to express our condolences to the family of **Edward Hab**, a former Big Brother who tragically passed away recently. Big Brothers Big Sisters has received many memorial contributions in Edward's name, and we appreciate the Hab family's consideration at this difficult time. Many children will benefit due to the outpouring of such generosity.

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## Generosity At Work

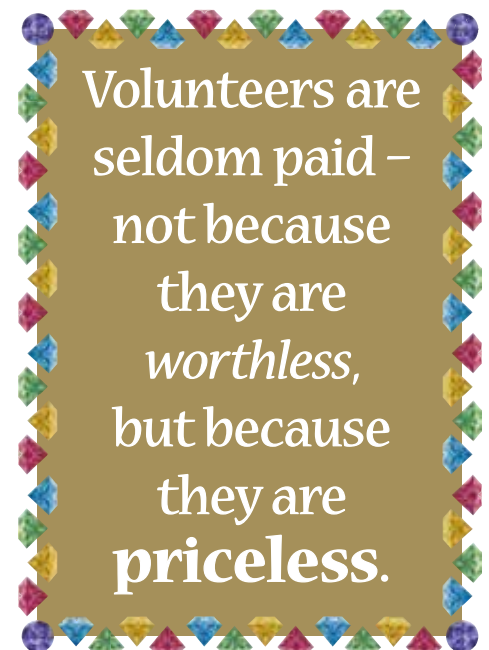
**The Marine Corps League, Det 095**, held their annual golf outing on July 31st, with proceeds benefitting our mentoring programs. The funds raised from this event will help us to place more children off our waiting list with a Big Brother or Sister mentor.

Thank you to all the wonderful members of the Marine Corps League for helping further our mission to transform the lives of children facing adversity, and we thank you for your service to our country.



*(l to r): Marine Corp member & Big Brother Rich Mullins, BBBS Board President Sam Roule, and Marine Corp Member & Golf Event Coordinator Mark Salaiz at this year's League Golf Outing.*

We want to acknowledge **Fairington Apartment residents and staff**, the **Gene B. Glick Company** and **Robin Skarritt**, Property Manager, for their generosity in collecting and donating school supplies for our Littles through the Fresh Start Campaign. This campaign will help our children be better prepared for success by having adequate supplies for the new school year. Thank you on behalf of all our Littles who will benefit from such generosity.





## Cheering for Da Bears!

Four tickets and a prime parking pass to the Chicago Bears

home game against the Eagles last Thanksgiving weekend was one of our amazing auction items at last year's Evening of Magic Dinner. The **Pinkepank** family enjoyed the day and Jennifer sums up the experience:

"We had an amazing time at the Bears game over Thanksgiving weekend.

Tailgating before the game was great- the parking pass that came with the tickets allowed us to park in the perfect spot in the middle of all the pre-game action. The seats were so close to the field and perfect for watching the Bears beat the Eagles!"

This package will be available again at this year's dinner/auction, so get your ticket early Bears fans so you don't miss out on this unique opportunity!



**ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR THE 4th Annual Evening of Magic**  
**Friday, Sept. 30, 2011**  
 Gillespie Conference Center at Hilton Garden Inn

**Silent Auction • Live Auction**  
**Dance to the music of "Blammo"**

Call Beth Berry at 574-234-7444 for more information and to purchase your tickets or purchase online at [www.bbbs-sjc.org](http://www.bbbs-sjc.org)



## Big Brothers Big Sisters

of St. Joseph County

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South Bend, IN 46634

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## Did You Know?

For over 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been helping change kids' perspectives and giving them the opportunity to reach their potential.

It all began 1904, when a young New York City court clerk named Ernest Coulter was seeing more and more boys come through his courtroom. He recognized that caring adults could help many of these kids stay out of trouble, and he set out to find volunteers. That marked the beginning of the Big Brothers movement. The Big Sisters movement soon followed. And we have been helping our local youth right here in St. Joseph County since 1968.

So when you think one person can't make much of an impact, think how one young man in 1904 started a movement that has helped millions of children for over a century.

Ernest Coulter Started Something Big. Start Something in our own community and volunteer to mentor a child today. Call us at 232-9958 or visit our website at [www.bbbs-sjc.org](http://www.bbbs-sjc.org) for more information and to fill out a volunteer application.



## 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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