



# Between Friends

*An investment in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto means an investment in the future of your community.*

Winter 2010/2011



Joseph Trovati 2010

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## Tim Hortons Bowl for Kids Sake 2011

Beat those winter blahs in the New Year and help us with one of our largest fundraisers of the year, **The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowl for Kids Sake (BFKS)**. In 2011 we have a goal of \$300,000 net to support our mentoring relationships and we know that with your support we can achieve it!

### Get involved...

- Lead the way by putting together a team of 4 – 6 people and raising a minimum of \$500 as a team.
- Challenge your friends and colleagues to put together their own teams and come out for some friendly competition.
- Encourage your employer to sponsor teams, lanes or provide matching gifts to those employees who participate and raise funds.

### 2011 Tim Hortons Bowl for Kids Sake Dates

**Corporate & Media Day, Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** at Thorncliffe Bowlerama; a fun afternoon for the media and corporate sectors to get together and bowl for a great cause.

**Cosmic Bowling Night, Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** at Newtonbrook Bowlerama; followed by Pub Night at The Duke of Kent at Yonge and Eglinton.

**Desjardins Community Day, Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at Newtonbrook and Bowlerama West—a wonderful opportunity for friends and families to spend a fun afternoon bowling while raising money for a great cause.

**Bank Day, Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** at Thorncliffe Bowlerama; if you are part of the banking world, get a team together and come out to Bank Day. Last year over 750 bank employees attended and raised over \$124,000.

To host your own BFKS event or volunteer, email [events@bbbst.com](mailto:events@bbbst.com) or call 416-925-8981 Ext. 4138



Congratulations to Geoff Knowles who won an LG 42" flat screen TV in a draw for bowlers raising \$1,000+ in our 2010 Bowl for Kids Sake fundraising campaign.



## President's Message



October 2010, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto at Queen's Park Reception

As the year draws to a close, we have much to be thankful for. At our Big Night Out Gala in June, many of our guests participated in our Match Auction and as a result we have matched 69 Littles with mentors and have an additional 11 in the process. Contemplating the season before us, I encourage you to remember those children who continue to wait for a mentor.

Consider a donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters – a gift of friendship is a lasting gift for a child. At this time of year, employers frequently look to their employees for suggestions and recommendations for a charitable gift. Many have employee giving programs in place, whereby employers recognize your volunteer efforts with a financial donation. Let us know if you require a letter supporting your request as we would be pleased to assist you with this process.

This past month we celebrated our Annual Queen's Park Reception with colleagues and friends from across the province. Our thanks are extended to Big Brother Chike Agbasi (seen in the photo above with his LB Dalton) who assisted in having Premier Dalton McGuinty attend. Hosted by Ministers Laurel Broten (Ministry of Children and Youth Services) and Deb Matthews (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care) the evening was a phenomenal success.

I am pleased to announce that we are now an anchoring partner at the new Mid-Scarborough Hub located at 2660 Eglinton Ave East (at Brimley). This is in keeping with our strategic direction to have services more readily accessible to families and volunteers in areas where our programs are in high demand. While our initial focus is on the Original and Youth Programs, over time it will be our goal to provide a myriad of services and programming including Orientation / Training Sessions; Volunteer / Family Assessments; Go Girls; Boys Mentoring and School Based activities. Drop by and say hello if you are in the neighbourhood. Watch for further information as it is our goal to be in additional hubs as they become available in 2011 and beyond.

Have a safe and happy holiday season from all of us at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto.

Until next time,  
Cathy

## Big & Little Fall Events



**Go Kart Derby**— This popular annual event was held during Big Brother Big Sister Month in September. Over 34 matches raced at the 401 Mini Indy Go-Karts. Many thanks to Brian Dixon who donated the venue and lunch for all participants.



**NBC Universal Studios Ball Hockey Tournament**  
On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the 3rd annual Ball Hockey Tournament took place with "Bigs" and "Littles" enjoying a fun-filled day playing in a four-on-four hockey tournament. One of the highlights of the day was a special appearance by Toronto Maple Leafs' goaltender Jonas Gustavsson. Thanks to all the Universal volunteers who made this fun day happen and congratulations to the winners: Mike Shim & Jaden; Peter Horrobin & Justin; Terry Steacy & Collin; Dean Spencer & Joshua.

## "Pauline Site" for Original Matches

This creative programmatic solution was launched October 2010 and has been implemented in response to the increased wait times for volunteers to receive their completed police clearance. The current wait time for a volunteer to receive his or her police clearance is approximately 3-4 months. This site creates a space in which potential matches can meet on a regular basis while the volunteer waits for his/her police clearance. This site is supervised and monitored by an original program staff member to ensure adherence to child-safety guidelines.

## Meet a Match - Troy and Mathieu



Invesco Trimark employee Troy and his Little Brother Mathieu volunteering at a Toronto FC on behalf of BBBST .

They have been matched for over three years.

### Why did you become a Big Brother?

Different reasons. I've heard wonderful things about the program over the years. When I was a teenager, my older brother died and my father left our family, so I know what it's like to not have good male role models at home. Most of all, the idea of being there for a younger person in a meaningful, consistent way, is a great one. It's just too bad that there are far more "little brothers" and "little sisters" out there than there are volunteers.

### What has been the most memorable moment you shared together?

That depends on what you mean by memorable. Every time we get together something good happens, whether it is a fun activity or a serious conversation. Mathieu and I both get a lot out of volunteering together. For example, every December we give out Christmas gifts to low-income families through the Toronto Star and my church. That is a hugely gratifying and very sobering experience.

### What are you and Mathieu looking forward to the most in the coming year?

We might have different opinions here but volunteering with him is certainly one of my favourite things to do. He has a lot to offer and contribute and it's great to see some of that come out.

### What has being a Big Brother taught you ?

So much, including what I can learn from someone who is younger. It has encouraged me to try new things, to consider my personal values and whether I am authentic in demonstrating them to others. And I've certainly learned that the program is easily as rewarding for a Big Brother as for a Little Brother.



## Winter Celebration

Join us for our annual winter celebration! In lieu of Winter Carnival this year, BBBST is organizing a new winter activity for our Bigs and Littles. Matches are invited to attend a dinner and show at Medieval Times on **Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 5:00pm**. Enjoy a live, 2 hour jousting tournament along with a scrumptious dinner. Due to space and cost we are only able to accommodate 200 Bigs and Littles, so we are asking for a firm commitment to attend. Please RSVP [bigandlittleevents@bbbst.com](mailto:bigandlittleevents@bbbst.com) by January 5, 2011.



## From a Little's Perspective

A year short of a decade ago I was introduced to my big sister Natasha through BBBST. Over the years, our friendship has grown exponentially and I am constantly looking to her for support and guidance. She has been there through the many ups and downs of my life, and I am forever grateful to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto for providing me such an amazing person.

BBBST not only set up a support system for me but ensured I was made aware of every available opportunity I may not otherwise have known existed. They also didn't forget the fun and games along the way.

Drawing on an easel in the office one day earned me my first opportunity at the age of 9. I still attend art classes to this day. I also applied for and was the recipient of both the Andra Takacs and the CIBC Youth Vision Scholarships. Telling you that I am grateful is an understatement to say the least. I am looking forward to going to University.

BBBST has played a very positive role in my life and Natasha has been a great influence. I look forward to offering the same support I have received to my own Little Sister in the years to come.



Mardi, Little Sister since 2001



**New in 2011—All BBBST communications about Big and Little events will come from [bigandlittleevents@bbbst.com](mailto:bigandlittleevents@bbbst.com). Please add this address to your address books.**

**We look forward to seeing you at a Big and Little event soon!**

## 2011 Fundraising Events

### Big Night Out Gala

presented by ScotiaLife Financial

Mark your calendars now and join us **Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011** at **The Liberty Grand** for the **41<sup>st</sup> Big Night Out** gala fundraiser. The 2010 Gala was sold out months in advance and raised a record \$395,000.

Big Night Out celebrates the men and women in our community who volunteer their time as "Bigs" and demonstrates how being a mentor and a friend can profoundly change a child's life. If you would like to nominate a "Big" please visit our website for more information. To reserve your table, inquire about sponsorship or join our Organizing Committee, email: [events@bbbst.com](mailto:events@bbbst.com)

### Dawn to Dusk Golf Challenge presented by Paradigm Capital

Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> is the day to show what you're made of on the golf course. Join a very select group of golfers who spend 12 hours golfing to raise funds for BBBST. To get your name on the invitation list to play, email: [events@bbbst.com](mailto:events@bbbst.com)

## Third Party Events

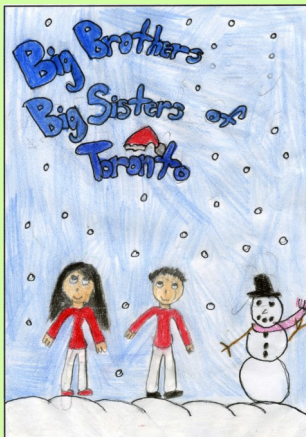
The holiday season is fast approaching and if you would like to make a difference for a child consider hosting a fundraising event. Corporate parties, neighborhood block parties, casual days are all great ways to make a difference in the life of a child this holiday season.

**The Big Ski** - February 2011. Check the website for more details.

### Bike For Tykes presented by Hicks Morley

We are excited to announce that BBBST will be the recipient of funds raised at the annual Bike For Tykes spinning event on June 22, 2011 in the TD Courtyard. Teams of four raise a minimum of \$800 and spin for one hour each to help support children who need a mentor. To get involved email: [events@bbbst.com](mailto:events@bbbst.com)

## Congratulations to Our Holiday Card Winners!



Rammiya, age 11



Karla, age 11

## Welcome New BBBST Staff!



**Darian Low**  
Coordinator,  
Match Support



**Megan Harrington**  
Coordinator,  
Go Girls/Boys  
Coordinator



**Cara Williams**  
Coordinator,  
Fundraising  
Events



**Katie Plaizer**  
Coordinator,  
Program Support  
& Go Girls



**Kiren Chandi**  
Coordinator,  
Third Party Events  
& Volunteers

## A Big Thank You To...

George Weston Ltd. Wonder+ Cares Employee Fundraising Campaign for raising **\$42,877.36** in October for BBBST. The campaign was a huge success and all funds raised by employees were matched by George Weston Ltd.



## Winter Coats for Littles



Thanks to the generosity of West49 we have received a number of "gently used" winter coats for our Littles. If your child is in need of a winter coat, please contact your Match Support Coordinator as soon as possible.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Toronto**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto supports mentoring programs for children and youth between six and 18 years of age and currently serves over 1400 children annually.

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