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MAGIC.



Between Friends

NOVEMBER 2009

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Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto invites you to participate in our largest fundraiser of the year, **The 38th Annual Bowl for Kids Sake (BFKS)**. Over \$275,000 was raised in 2009 to help provide mentoring relationships for children and youth in our community. In 2010 we are striving to reach \$300,000 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 raise a minimum of \$500 per team.
- Challenge your colleagues to put together teams to come out and represent your company.
- Encourage your employer to get involved by sponsoring teams, lanes or providing matching gifts to those employees who participate and raise funds!



Cosmic Bowling and Pub Night **Thursday, February 18th**

Join us at Newtonbrook Bowlerama to be followed by Pub Night at The Duke of Kent at Yonge and Eglinton.

Media & Corporate Day, **Saturday, February 20th**

Join us at Thorncliffe Bowlerama for a fun afternoon when the media and corporate sector get together and bowl for a great cause!



Desjardins Community Day **Saturday, March 6th**

Newtonbrook, Rexdale and Rouge Hill Here's a wonderful opportunity for friends and families to bowl in support of BBBST

Bank Day **Saturday, March 27th**

If you are part of the banking world this is the day for you. Last year over 700 bank employees attended and raised over \$85,000.

*To host your own BFKS event or volunteer, email events@bbbst.com or call 416-925-8981 Ext. 4138

President's Message



Dear Friends,

We have certainly faced some challenges in 2009; however, we are beginning to look optimistically at 2010 and beyond. Planning is well underway across the entire agency with a continued goal of increased service to children and a sustainable funding base.

This fall has seen significant growth across our School Based Programs. With funding from the Ministry of Education for 2009/2010 we have welcomed an additional staff person to the School Team and formally launched Jump Math and School to Work. In addition we are currently piloting a Boys Mentoring Program in partnership with BBBSC, TDSB and TCDSB.

I am also pleased to report that BBBST received its formal Accreditation status through BBBSC in September, achieving 100% in Service Delivery and Organizational Management Standards. My thanks and congratulations are extended to the entire BBBST staff team for a job extremely well done!

The holiday season is upon us. It is my hope that you would consider a financial contribution to Big Brothers and Big Sisters again this year. At the close of 2008 we had successfully reduced our wait list to 225 children. With the economic downturn and the significant loss of jobs this year, families have turned to us looking for assistance. The number of children waiting has grown to almost 300 and an additional 70 schools are requesting our programs to meet the demand. Help give the Gift of Friendship this year with a one-time gift or ongoing monthly donation. A child will thank you.

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

Cathy

School To Work

BBBST is delighted to announce a new pilot program in partnership with Burger King Restaurants of Canada and Kipling Collegiate Institute. Modeled after a similar partnership with BBBS of Greater Miami and Burger King in the USA, the School To Work program matches employees from the Burger King Head Office with high school students for a three year career-based mentoring relationship. This November, eight Kipling high school students will be boarding a bus and making their way to the Burger King headquarters in south Etobicoke to meet with their Bigs for a morning of career-based training, activities, and one to one time. The matches will meet in

person once a month until June, and will stay in touch by phone and email in between.

This is an incredible opportunity for our Littles to see what office work is like in one of the few remaining corporations that allows employees to climb the ladder of success without a higher education degree! Our Littles will also have the chance at summer jobs and scholarships.

If you think that employees at your company might be interested in setting up a School To Work program at your workplace, please contact Amanda Hickman at 416-925-8981 ext. 4112.

Jennifer's Story

I have been with BBBST, as Coordinator of the Big Bunch program, for three months now. My special relationship with this organization, however, actually began 11 years ago! Back then I was an excited yet apprehensive thirteen-year-old, about to be introduced to my own new Big Sister, Sally, in London, Ontario. We were different on the surface: I was very athletic, and Sally was an English and Music student at UWO. Over time though Sally introduced me to music, foods, places, and so much more that I would

have missed without her. She also gave me a taste of what university life is like; on campus we watched plays at Talbot Theatre, and browsed the enormous main library. Being there with Sal helped me to see myself at university in a natural way. That vision was useful when I applied (with Sal's support) for the BBBS and CIBC Youthvision Scholarship – and also when I won it!

Sally and I each went on to graduate from UWO. She moved to Toronto, but we remained close. When we meet for dinner

this evening to celebrate the anniversary of our match, I'm sure we'll discuss how much we've both grown over eleven years. Our friendship has never wavered, and as a reminder I keep the card Sally gave me when I started at BBBST above my desk. It cheers me on every day with the message, "it seems that whenever you put your mind to something and set a goal, you achieve it! I'm so proud of you!" Sally herself, however, played such a great part in helping me to believe in those goals I have achieved.

New College

What a success! The opening reception of the New College welcomed 21 new mentors and 33 Littles. The night was a meet and greet, with games and great food. BBBST and New College staff have been busy recruiting students from New College, University of Toronto, to be matched with high

school students who have been awarded scholarships from the Andra Takacs Scholarship or the Beland Honderich Award Program. The students will spend time together on Campus on an individual basis, as well as participate in group activities such as Amazing Race, sample labs, and financial seminars to name a few.



BBBST is still actively looking for 12 mentors from New College to be part of the program. If you or someone you know would be interested, please call Mary Burton at 416.925.8981 Ext. 4124.



Congratulations to Little Brother Kenneth on receiving the **Planet Africa Athletic Award** at their 2009 Awards Gala. Kenneth was joined by BBBST caseworker, Drupatee Aziz, his brother Kevin, Big Brother Glenn Trotman and his mother Lilly.

Past award recipients include William H. Osborne, President & CEO of Ford Motor Company of Canada; Nobel Prize Winner Professor Wole Soyinka, and Olympic Gold Medalist, Daniel Igali.

Interested in one of our mentoring programs? Know someone who might be? Visit www.bbbst.com and register today!



The Big Ski

Announcement

On **Friday, Feb. 12th**, Armstrong Partnership will host the **annual Ski Day** at Georgian Peaks Ski Club in Collingwood to benefit BBBST. If you would like to attend or would like more information please email: marisa@armstrongpartnership.com



Join us **Thursday, June 3rd 2010** at **The Liberty Grand** as we "Honour the Past, Celebrate the Present and Embrace the Future."

If you have pictures from years past, would like to join our BNO organizing committee or would like to reserve a table, please email events@bbbst.com or call 416-925-8981 ext. 4122.

Do you know a Big Brother or Big Sister who should be honoured for making a profound difference in the life of their Little? Nomination forms for the Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year Awards will be available in January 2010.

Recipients will be honoured at the 40th Anniversary Big Night Out Gala.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, July 8th 2010** if you would like to be one of a very select group of golfers who will spend 12 hours golfing to raise funds for BBBST email: events@bbbst.com or call 416-925-8981 ext. 4138



Bigs for Bigs

We are group of Big Brothers and Big Sisters who believe that if a lot of us give a little, we can achieve something big and be a great asset to the BBBST organization. If you are interested in getting more involved and would like to join us for a meet and greet information evening, at the end of November, please email Brian Miller : brianmiller199@gmail.com



Give the gift of music this holiday season – download digital music from FundTunes and support BBBST! With thousands of songs to choose from, it's gifting made easy and a portion of the cost goes directly to BBBST. For more information or to purchase music, please visit www.fundtunes.com.

Holiday e-bay Charity Auction

Here's a great opportunity to do some holiday shopping and support BBBST! We will be holding our first online charity e-bay auction the end of November. Bid on some fantastic items, gift certificates, autographed teddy bears and much more. Check our website for updates!

Third Party Events

The holiday season is fast approaching and if you would like to make a difference for a child this holiday season, consider hosting a holiday event to raise \$1,500 to 'make a match.' Corporate holiday parties, neighbourhood block parties, casual days are all great ways to make a difference. For more information on how you can host a third party event, please email events@bbbst.com.

Big Blues Bash

On Wed. Oct. 7th, The Central Blues Australian Football Club hosted a fundraiser at the Gladstone Hotel that raised more than \$3,000 for BBBST. Many thanks to Krista Han and her volunteers for organizing a fantastic third party fundraiser and thank you to sponsors Grant Thornton, Remax, O.A.F.L. and Cobs Bread for your support.

A Big Thank You To...

Over the Rainbow on Yorkville for raising over \$500 with their annual Father's Day BBQ Fundraiser.

Kids of Tomorrow for their recent Jazz, Art, Soul event in support of BBBST.

Diana, Bailey, Alyssa and the **Seneca Event Marketing** Program for the half-time Soccer fundraiser.

Winter Coats for Littles

Thanks to the generosity of West49 we will be receiving 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 and Little Events



Looking at the smiles on Karoulin Babakhanian and her Little Sister Tiffany, our annual **Big Picnic** was a huge success. Thank you to **Scotiabank** for their continued support of this terrific celebration of friendship!



Thank you to **Midas Canada**, **401 Mini Indy** and **Tim Hortons** for a very successful **Go Kart Derby** attended by over 125 Bigs and Littles, including Little Brother Alex and his Big Brother Alex Shaw.



Congratulations to the winners of the **2nd Annual Universal Studios Ball Hockey Tournament!** They will be watching an upcoming Maple Leafs Game from box seats courtesy of TSN! Thank you to **NBC Universal Studios** for organizing such a fun day!



Little Brothers Matthew and Spencer did a great job at the **Scotia Hope Hockey Tournament** organized by **Scotiabank** in support of **United Way** and their agencies. Both represented **BBBST** enthusiastically, skating with NHL alumni Darryl Sittler and Mark Napier. Congratulations to Matthew for scoring on a penalty shot and winning his team's MVP award!

Wonder what you're missing? Check out www.bbbst.com



Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto supports mentoring programs for children and youth between six and 18 years of age and currently serves over 1,400 children annually.

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