

BIG News - April 2009

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Centre County



April Activities

Call to
sign up!
237-5731

For Bigs Only!

Thursday, April 16 from 6:30-
7:30pm at the HUB, Room 324

*A discussion with BBBS staff and
other Bigs about mentoring.

Pajama Party at the Village

Thursday, April 2 from 7-8pm

*This event will include
storytelling and a snack.

Wear your pajamas!!!



BBBS Spring Fling Rummage Sale

This year, on April 4, BBBS is pleased
to be a part of the 12th Annual Citizens
Bank Spring Fling Rummage Sale. This
event sells donated items at lower
costs. The proceeds from this sale
benefit BBBS of Centre County. The
event is held from 8am-1pm on April 4
and is free! You can bring your Little to
this event as a fun way to see one of
the ways BBBS is funded.
We hope to see you there!



Easter Party hosted by Phi Gamma Nu

Thursday, April 9, 6-8pm
on the PSU campus
Snacks provided!
For Littles 13 and under!

Our program would like to extend a special thank you to Kathy Suhey. Kathy has generously shared her time, talent and creativity with many children involved with both the BBBS program, as well as the youth centers. Kathy has introduced kids, volunteers and staff to the fascinating process of creating Pysanky eggs. She has lent her time and supplies to Bigs and Littles at school-based sites and at both the Bellefonte and Mountaintop youth centers over the past month, instructing and encouraging kids and adults alike. She has plans to continue her instruction with more school-based Littles in April. It has been incredible to see our kids put such time, patience and attention to detail into their beautiful egg creations. Thanks, Kathy, for sharing this wonderful artistic experience with BBBS kids, volunteers and staff!

Check out pictures of our kids focusing on their egg design on page 2, and to learn more about the art of Pysanky egg design, check out:

<http://www.pysankyshowcase.com/how-made.htm>

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/high/Sue-Pysanky.htm>



BBBS Ambassador for April is Becca Isham!



Big: Becca

Little: Kylee

1) How long have you been matched with your little? Did you get off to an easy start?

My little and I have been matched a little over a year, since February, 2008. Kylee and I got along right away, but she was a little worried that I would disappear after seeing her a few times. Since she lives about 25 minutes from State College, other Bigs she had been matched with decided the drive was too far. After Kylee and I spent more time with each other, she realized that I was not going to disappear. Kylee and I share a love of animals, cooking, and being outdoors, so we had no trouble quickly finding activities that we could both enjoy.

2) What are some of the qualities that you admire most in your little?

Kylee is a very sweet and caring person. She always puts others before herself. When we plan activities for our weekly visit she often chooses to make cards for her family or bake something she can share with her family. She is also very helpful. Kylee always volunteers to clean up after we make a craft or bake something.

3) Have there been any rocky moments? If so, how did you handle them?

Sometimes I encounter problems when Kylee's younger sisters want to come along during our time together. When I first became Kylee's big, one of Kylee's sisters did not have her own Big yet, so she always wanted to come with us. I solved this issue by allowing Kylee's sisters to spend time with us about once every six weeks. Kylee and I plan what we will do with her sisters the week before. Most of the time, these visits go well, but occasionally Kylee and her sisters argue the entire time. When this happens, I remind them that we are together to have a fun day, not to fight.

4) What is a typical activity like with your little? Where do you go, what do you do together? Any favorites?

Kylee and I enjoy activities involving animals, such as visiting pet stores, animal shelters and horse barns. One of our favorite places to visit is Wildside Pets where we look at all of the animals and play with the puppies. Another favorite is attending horse related activities at Penn State. Kylee and I have toured the Penn State horse barns and met many of the

horses, including newborn foals! We often bake or cook together as well. Kylee is a great cook! We have made smoothies, brownies and cookies. We've even cooked entire dinners including pizza and pasta with garlic bread. Kylee and I have also been working on a scrapbook filled with pictures of the activities we have done since we were matched. I will be graduating from Penn State in May and leaving the area, so I wanted Kylee to have something that documents all of the fun times we have had. Kylee is very creative and loves to fill the scrapbook pages with pictures and lots of stickers. Since we are making a scrapbook, we try to take pictures everywhere we go!

5) Why would you recommend BBBS to a friend?

I would recommend BBBS to a friend because being a Big is an extremely fun and rewarding experience. Each week I look forward to the time that Kylee and I spend together. Besides being a positive role model for my little, I enjoy being able to have fun doing activities that I would probably not otherwise experience.

**BBBS THANKS BECCA FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HER LITTLE!
GOOD LUCK IN THE FUTURE!**



Check out Ty's concentration! And look at all those beautiful eggs!

Happy Birthday to you!

Kyle Rapposelli
Russ Ferguson
Terry Dickson
Doug Sherman
Abbey Brier
Rosalyn Han



Welcome NEW Bigs!

Tim Beekley, Jen Hinkle, Stacy Newburg, Lindsay Halverson, Cliff White, Seth Shreckengast, Kristen Silvestri, Len Codisport, Lindsay Wells, Bob Caverly

Safety First!

Children have the right to be safe at all times. The safety of the children in our program is our #1 priority. We expect everyone associated with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau to support children's safety and well-being.

Match Anniversaries!

Heather E. and Ariel
2 years
Kimberly P. and Ashley
1 year

THANK YOU!

State College YMCA (for activity space)
Center for the Performing Arts
(for ticket donations)
The Village (for activities)
Calvary Baptist Church (for activities and food boxes)

Activity Ideas for April for you and your Little!

- *Go roller skating! PennSkates has free admission on Wednesday nights if you take their "item of the week." Check out their site <http://www.pennskates.com/> for more information! (Please remember: no paintball allowed!)
- *Head to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center on April 18 for a free event involving activities, music, animals and more! Call the CRPR office at 231-3071 if you want more information!
- *Have lunch and play Frisbee at one of the parks in the area (Tudek Park, Lederer Park, Spring Creek). If you're near Bellefonte, spend the day feeding the ducks and picnicking outside!

Cool pic of the month!



Mike and Pat - looking fierce gentlemen!

- *Take your Little to one of the many events held free at the Schlow library - movies, storytelling, games, Children's Readers Theatre. There's so much to do! Log onto schlowlibrary.org and check out the calendar!
- *Choose a book you are both interested in reading and spend a little bit of each meeting taking turns reading.
- *Enjoy a frozen treat at the Creamery, Meyer Dairy, or Rita's Italian Ice. Low cost and delicious, what could be better?!
- *See if you and your Little can help out at any of the local farms.
- *Go fly a kite! No, really, kite-flying is fun and an inexpensive way to spend time.

Ask a Case Manager!

(If you have a question you'd like to have answered, email bbbsnews@ccysb.com)

My Little's response to "What do you want to do?" is usually "I don't care" or something that won't encourage interaction, like going to a movie or playing a video game. What should I do to get them interested in more things?

Feedback from Stephanie Whitesell, Case Manager:

On your first visit with your "Little," it's a great idea to plan some time to sit down and make a list of what each of you like to do for fun. If you didn't think to do this initially, you can plan to work on an activity list anytime you get together for your weekly visits. You can sit down and talk about your activity interests as often as you like. This is always a fun way to keep discovering more about your "Little" and give them the opportunity to contribute to the decision making in the relationship. For younger children or those who don't express themselves as easily, you can talk with a parent over the phone about what your "Little" enjoys doing in their free time, what they have expressed an interest in learning, or even issues they may be struggling with related to learning important life skills.

Especially for young children, giving a few choices, rather than starting a visit with an open-ended question, can really help the child make a decision, but also make them feel that they have a little control over the activities that you engage in together. This can also help teach them some good decision making skills that will carry over into other parts of their life.

A change of scene also promotes new topics of conversation and opportunities to explore interests. Try going to a park you haven't visited, a free community event, or a BBBS monthly activity! The event itself need not be the main focus. Instead, it will be the encounter with a different environment that will uncover interests or, even more simply, provoke conversation.

If you do choose to relax and enjoy a movie, try to make it more interactive by making dinner together, watching the movie at your own apartment/home, and talking to each other about the content.

Simple, everyday tasks like preparing an easy snack, looking up information at the library, mailing a letter, or reading a map offer chances to learn life skills. Make the most of small, real-life tasks that give your "Little" a chance to try making their own decisions. This can help them figure out how they can approach new experiences and situations. These are great shared experiences and will help you to continue enjoying your time together!

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