

BIG NEWS - JULY 2009

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRE COUNTY



July Activities!
Call 237-5731 to sign up!



Smores and Storytelling



Wednesday, July 15
at the Village

11am-12pm (noon)

Come and enjoy
some delicious smores and
the telling of the "true" story of
the 3 Little Pigs!

Picnic and Hike

Tuesday, July 21 at Tussey Mountain

11am-1pm

Come enjoy a picnic and hike with us!
Wear appropriate footwear!



Altoona Curve

Picnic and game in Altoona

Friday, July 17

Picnic at 6pm; game starts at 7:05pm

Join us for the fun. Spaces limited—call today!

Penns Valley Activity

Thursday, July 23

1:00-2:30pm

Join us in the Penns Valley area for some
fun group games. Location will be near
Penns Valley High School. Call YSB at
237-5731 closer to the date for
information on the location!

For Bigs Only!

Interested in meeting other Bigs and ex-
changing ideas about mentoring? Come to
Meyer Dairy this summer to socialize and en-
joy great ice cream (please plan to purchase
your own treat). Look for BBBS at one of the
outdoor tables (when available);
indoors if inclement weather.

Dates: July 14 ~ 7pm

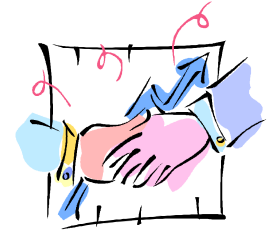
Aug 11 ~ 7pm

Location: Meyer Dairy,
2390 S. Atherton St. State College

Check out more community activity ideas on page 3 of this newsletter!



BBBS July Ambassador Trinh DeSa!



Big: Trinh DeSa, Environmental Engineering

Little: Austyn

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

I've been matched with Austyn for about a year and half now, since December of 2007. The start wasn't very easy because the match started right before Christmas break so I only saw him about once or twice before I left for three weeks. However, winter activities such as sledding and snow tubing allowed us to start bonding.

What are some of the qualities that you admire most in your Little?

I admire that he's always willing to lend a hand to anybody that needs help. For example if we are out eating and someone drops something or a child needs help getting on a chair he doesn't hesitate to run over and help them. He also saves some candy or brings a toy to his little

sister whenever he gets some for himself.

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

There really haven't been any major rocky moments, just a few minor things. If he does something that he's not supposed to I'll tell him. Sometimes I have to tell him more than once but there are no persistent problems. If he has any issues at home I just ask him open ended questions and he usually does all the talking.

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

There are many different activities that we do. Some of the more common ones are going to my house to play video games and throw darts, and sledding in the winter. On most occasions we grab a little lunch or ice cream together. Our favorite activities were probably visits to Penn's Caves and Indian Caverns.

Why would you recommend BBBS to a friend?

Being a Big definitely takes a lot of commitment and energy, but in the end the experience and the positive impact on your Little is well worth it. Sometimes I have to leave town for a week or two and when I'm away my Little keeps on asking his parents if I have called. Unfortunately, my match is coming to an end soon since I am moving away, and my Little doesn't want to leave the program. So, I would recommend BBBS to my friends because there are many unmatched children in the program and others who want to continue having a Big.



Trinh is a wonderful Big and was the Treasurer for the PSU BBBS club. Even as a graduate student, Trinh finds the time to serve others. BBBS of Centre County thanks him for his exceptional service and wishes him the best of luck in the future!



Youth enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre County and JUMP went bowling recently in Philipsburg.

Read more about the JUMP program in Philipsburg on the last page of the newsletter!

Get Fit!

One on One Fitness is offering a FREE class to our Bigs and Littles, every other Saturday from 12:00-12:45p.m. Pairs must make a commitment to attend each session over an extended time period. Limited spaces available for this great opportunity. Sign up by contacting your case manager today!

Great things to do in Centre County this month!

*Check out the Central PA 4th of July festival. There's a 4K, food vendors, entertainment and fireworks! See the website at www.4thfest.org

*The State Theatre's "Read It/Watch It" series this month. Admission to the movies is free and this is a great way to promote reading with your Little. Check out the Events Calendar at www.thestatetheatre.org

*Go to a Bellefonte Summer Sounds concert (Sundays at 7pm). Get more information by contacting Joann4sold@aol.com or at http://www.bellefontearts.org/summer_sounds.htm

*Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts (July 9-12)- CHILDREN'S DAY is JULY 8th! Check out the website at www.arts-festival.com

*Come support the YSB at the Last Cruise Car & Motorcycle Show (July 25). This year, there will be a special Kids Zone, so bring your Little along! Find out more information at the website http://ccysb.com/last_cruise/index.html

*Check out other kid-friendly activities on the Family Guide page at www.happyvalley.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kristi Voegtline
Kathryn Giampa
Nicole Titus
Tammy Brungart
Steve Sovich
Matt Drobnick
Conor Nelson
Jeff Penoyer



NEW BIGS!

Bobbi Jo Green
Rachel Krasnopolsky
Joe Husta



*Special Thanks to **Randi Libby**, BBBS AmeriCorps member, for her tremendous contribution this year!*

Thanks

Thank you to our supporters and partners in the community!

Black Moshannon State Park
Ranger for Wildflower Walk

The Village at Penn State

Reliance Bank

Jersey Shore State Bank

Northwest Savings Bank

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Shari B. and Hunter - 1 year!
Eric H. and Shane - 1 year!
Meg H. and Kayla - 1 year!



BBBS / JUMP Getting Connected in Philipsburg

Youth who find themselves in juvenile court may not be expecting something positive to come from their run in with the law. Those who are referred to JUMP, a program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre County, may change their minds, however, as a result of their encounter with a different approach to juvenile justice. No doubt, they must face the consequences of their actions, but with JUMP, which stands for juvenile mentoring program, there are opportunities to make new choices and discoveries. The program involves regular activities that are educational, cultural, recreational, adventure-based, and community-service oriented. In addition, many of the participants are placed in one-on-one mentoring relationships with positive, caring role models, as a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

In the past six months, JUMP has begun working directly within Philipsburg in a site-based program that meets weekly. The program is working to develop its roots in the community and has presented to several organizations, including the Kiwanis Club and South Hills Business School. Volunteers can be involved in the site-based or community-based model, depending on their schedule, but in either case their commitment is what makes the program a success by bringing to the relationship a positive outlook and the inspiration for youth to make good choices and develop new perspectives and attitudes.

Big Brothers Big Sisters also enrolls children and youth from Philipsburg in its traditional mentoring program. As one of the border locations within the Centre County service area of BBBS, Philipsburg can be harder to reach in terms of volunteer recruitment and matching youth who are waiting for a big brother or sister. Some volunteers from Penn State or State College have devoted extra time to travel out to meet their little. Ideally, more volunteers from within or near Philipsburg will step up to address this need.

Much of the town will be out and about for Philipsburg Heritage Days, July 7 - 12, and JUMP will make the most of the opportunity to connect to local folks who are Philipsburg proud. The Philipsburg festival, now in its 12th year, celebrates the history and future of the town, and this year's theme, "Honoring the Past – Looking to the Future," reflects how the town hopes to pass its legacy on to the next generation. Ensuring that all of its youth are able to take part in shaping their town for the better takes commitment now. As Big Brothers Big Sisters / JUMP continues to grow a presence in the community, it will build upon the strengths and character of those who call it their home.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Centre County

410 S. Fraser St.

State College, PA 16801

Centre County
United Way

