



BIG NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2009

Activities for September
Call 237-5731 to sign up!

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.

Monday, September 14

4–5pm

The Village at Penn State
Games and activities with
the residents

Join us!



Games and activities
@ Calvary Baptist church
Date TBA

Would your group like to host an activity? Contact BBBS to find out how!

Cultivating a passion for learning... by Jodi Morelli

William Butler Yeats once wrote, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

Those words are especially relevant at this time of year, when the start of a new school year is upon us.

A new school year means a fresh start. It means endless possibilities and opportunities for children to be challenged to reach their full potential. It's a time for kids to grow, to expand their minds and master new skills. It is a time for achievements and new learning experiences.

Although the start of a school year is often met with groans and grumbles, we can help kids view a change in grade as being a new, exciting adventure. It is our job as adults to help light that fire in children – that desire to learn – that Yeats referred to. Adults have a responsibility to make education both meaningful and exciting for children. And there is no better time than now – the beginning of a new school year – to put these words into action.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if volunteers could do something to make this school year be the best, most successful school year yet for their Littles?

While there is no magic wand we can wave to get kids excited about school, there are certainly things that we *can* do to help them learn to appreciate and value education.

Continued on page 3...

Big Celebration

Sunday, September 13 ~
1:30pm—Calvary Baptist
Church, 1250 University Dr.

Friends, food, thanks and more thanks. Come see the memories you've helped create and enter your name for free giveaways from local businesses. It's a chance for BBBS and the community to express our appreciation for all that you do!

Big Celebration donors:

Wegman's
Lions Pride
Student Book Store
Le Salon
State Theatre
Hoss's Steak & Sea
Quizno's
Hair Loft by Charles
Avant Garden, Inc.
Naomi & Co.
George's Floral Boutique
College 9 Theatre
Giant—College Ave.
Giant—Northland Center

September 2009 BBBS Ambassador Danielle Wallick

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

This November I will have been matched with my little for two years! It is unbelievable to me that the time has gone by so quickly! At first I was nervous to be a Big Sister, but my qualms were quickly dismissed because my case manager, Vernel, was so helpful and Timani and her family were wonderful! Although Timani was quiet during our first meeting, I tried to make her feel as comfortable as possible. She quickly blossomed into quite the chatterbox that she is today.

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

I admire Timani's spontaneity and creativity. She always has great, unique ideas about fun things for us to do together, and she is not afraid to try new things - or types of food! Also, Timani is full of energy and she has a fantastic attitude about her school, her friends,

and her family. I love hearing about what's new in her life and what she aspires to do in the future.

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

The few times that may have been slightly stressful for us have been when Timani has been overly energetic and excited. The two of us have discussed ways for her to appropriately channel her excessive enthusiasm, for example by participating in more active games, by taking deep breaths, or by stepping back from an overly stimulating situation and relaxing. We are very honest with each other. I think that communication is essential for a successful big/little relationship!

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

When it is a nice day we like to visit a local park and grab an ice cream cone as a treat, or sometimes we visit

Whipple Dam State Park and catch the salamanders in the water. When it is a rainy/cold day we like to watch movies, bake anything that uses chocolate as an ingredient, or make arts and crafts. Our all-time favorite activity was our trip to the Jonas Brothers Concert last fall—**THANK YOU BBBS!**

Why would you recommend BBBS to a friend?

I would recommend BBBS to a friend because it is a rewarding and enjoyable experience where a young adult is able to mentor and truly connect with a child. While being a big can be challenging at times, it helps both parties to grow as individuals and to develop life-long friendships. It is also a unique experience because a big is able to form a relationship with his or her case manager, who acts as a mentor to him or

BBBS thanks Danielle for her BIG contributions to her Little and the program!



Anniversaries

Mark Argiro/Jake
4 years

Brittany Rhoades/Chelsey
2 years

Michael North/Ackeeem
1 year

Gail Franklin/Olivia
1 year

Nicole Titus/Simone
1 year

Thank You

Sovereign Bank (donation)	PA Military Museum (discounted tickets)
State College Spikes (Spikes Night)	PSU Summer Study program(activity)
Buchart Horn, Inc / BASCO Associates (food vouchers at Spikes Game)	Calvary Baptist Church / Fairbrook Church (activity)
Citizen's Bank (back to school supplies & backpacks)	Schreyer Honors college (Involvement Fair)
Staples (back to school supplies)	PSU Fresh Start (service project)

Birthdays

- Joe Dulaney
- Heather Evert
- Emily Fair
- Bobbi Jo Green
- Brittany Rhoades
- Katey Robison
- Adam Sarver
- Josh Van Allen
- Kelly Wentzel
- Cliff White

Cultivating a passion for learning...continued from page 1

First and foremost, as a volunteer, you're already doing an incredibly important job simply by being a role model. There is no better way to encourage our children to value learning than by showing them that *we* value learning. Simple things like being enthusiastic about learning new skills and information and helping kids explore their own areas of interest are good ways to be a role model. Also, provide opportunities to help develop those interests further.

Another way is to encourage motivation "from the inside out." We all know that getting children motivated about school can be tricky – and adults should exercise caution when deciding on methods to motivate children. We can try to foster the intrinsic value of learning by striving to help kids truly enjoy and become excited about acquiring new information or mastering new skills. Ideally, we want them to be motivated simply by their desire to achieve. Again, it all comes back to "lighting the fire."

One extremely important way we can get children motivated is to always promote reading. Research establishes that youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they read for pleasure. To make this happen, encourage kids to read almost anything they can get their hands on – including newspapers, comic books and age-appropriate magazines.

Finally, be involved! Ask children every time you see them what's happening in school, and remember this: Research has found that when adults stay involved, young people are more motivated to do well, are more committed to pursuing education after high school, and are more likely to be involved in positive activities.

Kids are not the only ones who should have goals for this school year. Here are three important goals for adults: Get involved, stay involved and be a role model. Now is the time to light that fire, and to ignite in ourselves and in our children an enthusiasm for what lies ahead. The Big Brothers Big Sisters staff wishes all of our volunteers and kids an exciting, successful school year!



Seen at the YSB's Last Cruise Car & Motorcycle Show in July



Hop To It!

One on One Fitness classes
for Bigs & Littles
Every other Saturday
noon-12:45
Contact your case manager
to sign up
Regular attendance required

Cool pic of the month!

September Events Around Town

- September is Big Brothers Big Sisters month in Centre County!
- South Hills summer sounds final music picnic: "Consord Sounds"—Sept 6, 6pm (music); optional picnic at 5pm (bring your own or purchase food) - South Hills Business School, 480 Waupelani Dr. State College
- At Schlow Memorial Library—211 S. Allen St. State College
 - Drop-in knitting —Sept 14 & 28, 6:30pm-8:30pm (Sun Room)
 - Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with games, arts & crafts—Sept 27, 2-4pm (Community Room)
- PSU Sports—Soccer and Field Hockey games are free admission! See schedule at <http://www.gopsusports.com/calendar/events/>
- Nittany Antique Machinery Association 35th Annual Fall show—Note: \$5 admission fee applies (children under 12-free admission) - September 10-13, all day, Penns Cave (Centre Hall) - see <http://nittanyantique.org/fall.html> for more info

Save the date!

- October 3 is the 10th Annual Fall Festival in Downtown State College. In honor of America's Day for Kids, there will be free activities for kids!
- October 3—Great Insect Fair, Ag Arena—Penn State, 10am to 4pm—Free admission

Your Top Five

Think of the top five people who are good friends and role models to you...

- What do they do to make you feel special?
- How do they encourage you?
- How do they deal with challenges?

Take some time to reflect on your answers—are there any ways that you could apply those same practices in your role as a Big? Keep growing and challenging yourself as a mentor!

BBBS staff—Here to help!

Jodi Morelli, Program Coordinator

Megan Evans, Program Manager

Lauren Fye, Case Manager

Dallas Luke, Case Manager

Vernel Smith, Case Manager

Ben Weidler, Case Manager

Stephanie Whitesell, Case Manager

A role model who stood the test of time...

In August, the Youth Service Bureau will honor the work and service of its retiring Chief Executive Officer, Norma Keller. Beginning as a volunteer mentor herself, she soon assumed a leadership role that would guide the organization through new stages as it addressed emergent needs in the community. With enthusiasm, determination, and a steady focus on the value and importance of children and all individuals, she has kept the character and mission of the YSB consistent through much growth and transformation. Big Brothers Big Sisters thanks Norma for developing a sustainable, viable future for many programs and services that bring new possibilities into the lives of children and families. Andrea Boyles will take on the position of CEO in September and continue this process of building upon strengths and assets within the YSB to serve the community.

Have a question for “Ask a Case Manager” or a great photo? Send it to BBBSnews@ccysb.com

The **Big Brothers Big Sisters Student Organization at Penn State** is ready for a new semester.

Join us for the next meeting!

September Team Building meeting

See www.clubs.psu.edu/up/bbbs or email psu.bbbs@gmail.com for more information

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre County

Centre County Youth Service Bureau

410 South Fraser Street

State College, PA 16801