



BIG NEWS



OCTOBER 2009



Fall Festivities

LOCAL EVENTS ARE IN SEASON!

Oct 1, First Thursday—downtown arts events
(see <http://www.firstthursdaystatecollege.org/>
for venues and times)

Oct 3, 10am-4pm Great Insect Fair— Ag Arena at Penn State (free admission)

Oct 3, Annual Fall Festival—Downtown State College (Allen St./Central Parklet) — free activities for kids!

Oct 4, noon-5pm Spring Creek Family Festival—Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (no admission fee); call Clearwater Conservancy for info (814) 237-0400

Oct 10, noon-4pm Boalsburg Heritage Festival—Boalsburg Village Square; call 466-9266 for more information

Oct 10, 9am-4pm & Oct 17, 9am-4pm Way Fruit Farm Fall Apple Festival— Way Fruit Farm, 2355 Halfmoon Valley Rd. Port Matilda

Oct 17-18, Penn State Horticultural Show— Ag Arena at Penn State

Oct 24-25, 11am-4pm Children's Halloween Trail & Festival (trail admission is \$5 / person; the surrounding festival is free) Shaver's Creek Environmental Center; (814) 863-2000 for more information

Fall Fest

Sunday, Oct 18

12:30pm—4pm

Harvest Fields

1100 Boal Ave., Boalsburg

Hosted by Calvary Baptist Church



October Activities

Call (814) 237-5731
to sign up

Tuesday, October 27

4pm—5pm

Halloween Parade

Wear your costume and join us for an afternoon haunt!

@ The Village at Penn State
The Atrium 160 Lions Hill Rd

Friday, October 30

5pm—8pm

Halloween Haunted House

Bellefonte Youth Center

131 S. Allegheny St. Bellefonte

Hosted by the PSU RPTM 356 class

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.

October 2009 BBBS Ambassador Cliff White

"Not everything I say to him has to be a lesson or carry weight. Sometimes, just being a presence is enough."



ANNIVERSARIES

3 YEARS

Matthew Watson - Johnny

2 YEARS

Tammy Brungart - Victoria

Danielle Wallick - Timani

1 YEAR

Bryan Balaban - Vinnie

Matthew Drobnick - Michael

Gail Franklin - Olivia

Lydia Gray - Emma

Nicole Ross - Sara

Katie Rung - Maya

Josh van Allen - Malick

New Volunteers

Julianne Klos

Brittany Masullo

Donna Miller

Jennifer Pear

Angelica Perez

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

Mike and I have been matched up for about eight months. In the first weeks, I tried not to overwhelm Mike with activities or conversations. Instead, we just walked around downtown and the campus area, just goofing off. That really helped break the ice. But earning Mike's friendship only happened when he knew I was a friend and could be trusted, and that took time. In fact, it's an ongoing process.

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

Mike likes being active; he has a lot of energy and he likes to use it. He's a smart kid and very attuned to how those around him are feeling – he works hard to make every time we hang out as fun and exciting as possible. And he's

straightforward; if you ask him a question, he'll always give you a direct answer.

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

Yes, there have been rough patches. When they come, I just try to remind myself that I don't have all the answers. Not everything I say to him has to be a lesson or carry weight. Sometimes, just being a presence is enough. The bad times pass and getting through them together has actually helped us form a deeper bond.

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

We both love getting outside. We've done some hikes in Rothrock that have been fun. Our favorite place this summer was Tussey Mountain for go-karting; half price rides on Tuesdays can't be beat. The

YMCA for basketball and swimming is another favorite.

5) Why would you recommend BBBS to a friend?

Depends on the friend. I would recommend the program to someone whose best quality is his or her patience, who has a lot of energy, who isn't afraid of commitment, and whose heart is in the right place. As for advice to potential mentors, I would warn that not every moment is going to feel like you're saving the world or making a huge difference. But those moments where you do feel that – often-times you don't see them coming – make the whole experience worth it.

BBBS thanks Cliff for his BIG contributions to his mentee and the program!



Birthdays

Tim Beekley

Kathleen Davis

Adam Duff

Gail Franklin

Amy Hile

Kelle Kersten

Rachel Krasnopolsky

Chris Romagni

Megan Seymour

Andrew Smith

Rebecca Thorsen

Thank you

Grace Lutheran Church (donation of school supplies)

Shaver's Creek (JUMP bike ride)

James Harter (PSU football tickets)

Best wishes

BBBS thanks Dallas Luke for his many contributions as case manager and wishes him well as he transitions to a new role as Coordinator at the Youth Service Bureau's Family Group Decision Making program.

Keep up the good work Dallas!

A time to treat our volunteers

What makes BBBS so great? Without a doubt, it's the incredible people that it connects—kids in our community and the volunteers who give their time to them. To recognize the outstanding contribution of our volunteers, BBBS hosted a special occasion to celebrate. The event was a warm, casual gathering for volunteers and staff to come together, enjoy some time to socialize and share, and acknowledge the good work that goes on every day through our volunteers.

The gift of time is so valuable in today's busy culture, and the many hours that our Bigs give generously throughout the year are interwoven with everyday life, continuing quietly without fanfare. It is only because of the incredible commitment of you, the volunteers, that kids in our community continue to receive this gift. The staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters see this ongoing effort and welcomed the opportunity to say thank you publicly for all that our Bigs make possible—whether its as simple as putting a smile on a young person's face on a tough day or sharing a friendship that will leave an ongoing imprint. Con-

tributions by local businesses also affirmed how much our community values the service of our volunteers.

The event started with a time of socializing and refreshments. After an introductory icebreaker, BBBS staff had a chance to offer their personal thanks. Special remarks by Jodi Morelli, program coordinator of BBBS, highlighted the importance and value of our volunteers in making the BBBS mission possible. The gathering finished with a drawing for valuable giveaways, including movie tickets, jewelry, free hair cuts and products, a restaurant gift card and merchandise from local retailers. The array of gifts and the pictures on display gave evidence of the impact that Bigs make, directly and indirectly, on our community. From all of the staff at BBBS and those in our community, we say thank you—and we invite you to join us at our next Big Celebration to see and hear the impact that you are making!

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)



Pic of the month:

A great day to be a PSU fan! Thanks for sending in your pics and making great memories!



Good Citizens

Check out these awesome new backpacks donated by Citizens Bank's "Gear for Grades" program!

BBBS Welcomes Intern Amy Haviland

A few words of introduction from Amy...

Hi! My name is Amy Haviland and I am working as an intern for Big Brothers Big Sisters this semester. I am currently a senior at Penn State University. I am majoring in Crime, Law and Justice with a minor in Psychology. I am from Philadelphia and hope to work in the city after I graduate. Also after graduation, I hope to work with children in the criminal justice system. I am very excited to work with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau and plan to continue to work with similar organizations in the future.

Amy will work directly with case managers in programs at Big Brothers Big Sisters / JUMP to further develop her professional skills and practical experience. We are glad to have her on the team!

BBBS staff

Call (814) 237-5731

Jodi Morelli, Program Coordinator

Megan Evans, Program Manager

Lauren Fye, Case Manager

Vernel Smith, Case Manager

Ben Weidler, Case Manager

Stephanie Whitesell, Case Manager

Kristen Boccumini, AmeriCorps

Tracy Roth, AmeriCorps VISTA

PSU Bigs—Looking for some campus connections?

Get involved with the Penn State BBBS club

We need:

Fundraising team

Webmaster

Join us on the **first Monday** of the month in 103 Willard @ 7pm

Craft idea: Make a Fall Leaf sun catcher

Supplies:

Wax paper

Assortment of fall leaves (take a walk and choose your favorites!)

Crayon shavings

Iron (use with caution of course!)

Instructions:

Lay out sheet of wax paper. Sprinkle with crayon shavings. Place leaves over top and sprinkle with more crayon shavings. Place second sheet of wax paper on top and apply warm iron until melted together.

In recognition: Each year, participants at Rockview engage in the Rockview Run-a-thon to raise support for Big Brothers Big Sisters. The event allows this population to give back and make a yearly contribution to BBBS. The Run-a-Thon, which took place on September 19 this year, continues to challenge these individuals to move in a new direction while supporting programs that make a difference in our community.

REMEMBER



Go ahead...sleep another hour!
Turn your clocks back one hour at
2 am on Sunday November 1

Centre County Youth Service Bureau
410 South Fraser Street
State College, PA 16801