

BIG VIEWS



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF DELAWARE

Spring 2008

Big Brothers Big Sisters Honors "Bigs of the Year" to Celebrate National Mentoring Month

As part of National Mentoring Month in January, the Delaware Mentoring Council hosted an event honoring the Delaware Business Community for their on-going efforts in support of mentoring.

At this celebration, held at the University of Delaware on January 29th, the following Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware's supporters were recognized: Arby's/ACW Corp., Agilent Technologies, Bank of America, Delaware Today Magazine, Dover Downs, Independent Disposal Services, JPMorgan Chase, Valero, Verizon Delaware, and Wilmington Trust Company.

A special highlight of the event was when one of our Little Sisters, Maria Sotelo, spoke about how her Big Sister, Karen Beare, has made such a tremendous difference in her life. Karen was



Maria and Karen celebrate at the National Mentoring Month event in New Castle County.

chosen as the 2007 Big Sister of the Year for our Community Program.

Our "Big of the Year" award is given out every year to volunteers from our Community-based program and our School-based program who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to our program and their Little.

This year we chose the following volunteers for this award:

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Big Sister of the Year: Karen Beare

Karen Beare of Wilmington began as Maria Sotelo's school mentor when Maria was in 2nd grade. After mentoring Maria at school for three years, Karen decided to become Maria's Community-Based Big Sister so they could continue their relationship outside of school.

Maria is now in 9th grade at McKean High School and is very grateful for Karen's friendship and guidance over the past seven years. In her letter nominating Karen for the award, Maria wrote about the influence that Karen has had not only on her, but on her father and younger brother as well: *"She has helped us work together and be a better family...I have learned about a lot with her and she has always been there for me."*

Big Brother of the Year: Maurice Vogts

The announcement of Big Brother of the Year was no surprise for Little Brothers Tevin Wiggins and Jeremiah Murray. Big Brother Maurice Vogts, of Sussex County, has always been number one in their eyes!

Since July of 2001, Maurice has spent time with Tevin and Jeremiah, teaching the boys life lessons and helping them develop self-confidence. Maurice has been a source of strength and stability in their everyday lives. Because of Maurice's dedication, the boys are well on their way to becoming upstanding men.



Maurice, Tevin, and Jeremiah spend time together at a Big Brothers Big Sisters event in Sussex County.

Continued on next page. →

Big Brothers Big Sisters Honors “Bigs of the Year”, *cont.*

SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAM BIG OF THE YEAR

Maureen Kurek

Maureen Kurek of Dover has been a dedicated school mentor to Little Sister, Laura Murphy at Fifer Middle School since March of 2005. She has truly demonstrated that she understands the importance of stability in a child's life and that sometimes the most important thing you can do is to “*just show up and to be there*” for a child.

Maureen, who is described as “creative & upbeat” by her Little Sister, has consistently supported the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. She and her husband, John, who is also a Big Brother, never miss an opportunity to spread the word about mentoring and the need for more BBBS volunteers!

Thanks to Karen, Maurice, Maureen, and all of our volunteers for the time and commitment you put into our program — keep up the great work!



Maureen and Laura enjoy lunch together at Fifer Middle School.

Frederick B. Hill, Jr. Award of Excellence

The Frederick B. Hill, Jr. Award of Excellence was established in honor of Fred Hill's outstanding contributions to our organization – both as a Big Brother and Board President.

Fred was an exceptional Big Brother who provided guidance and support to five Little Brothers over the course of 14 years from 1978 to 1993. At the time of his death at age 80, Fred was still matched to his fifth Little Brother.

This award is presented to those supporters who exemplify Fred's level of commitment to the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization and the young people we serve.

For 2007, we are proud to present David Clapp of Dover with this prestigious honor.

Over the past six years, Dave has been a caring and supportive mentor to two Little Brothers,

to whom he has provided both emotional and academic support.

Currently, Dave mentors Michael at W.B. Simpson Elementary School. Dave has established a strong bond with Michael and always looks for opportunities to engage Michael in learning while having fun.

In addition to his contributions as a Big Brother, Dave has been a consistent supporter and advocate for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Perhaps most notably, Dave spearheaded an e-mail campaign to recruit volunteers. This personal effort yielded more than 30 new mentors for our organization - more than any individually-led recruitment effort in our agency's history!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware is truly grateful for Dave's contribution to the program and for his commitment to his match. We would like to commend Dave on his exemplary service to our community.



Why Be a Volunteer

Author Unknown

It's not for money, it's not for fame,

It's not for any personal gain,

It's just for love of fellow man,

It's just to give a helping hand,

It's just to give a little of oneself,

That's something you can't buy
with wealth

It's not medals worn with pride,

It's for that feeling deep inside

It's your reward down in your heart

It's feeling that you've been a part

Of helping others far and near

That's what makes one want to

Be a volunteer!



Capital Campaign a Success!

On September 28, 2004 the organization's headquarters of 16 years was severely damaged in a tornado. The New Castle County staff was displaced into two temporary locations for 15 months. In January, 2006 we finally relocated to new headquarters—two office condominium units at 105 Robino Court, just west of Newport.

The condominiums' yearly lease of \$50,000 imposed a serious financial burden on the organization's budget (previous annual rent expense was \$1). Raising funds to acquire the properties, and thus eliminate the exorbitant rent expense became a top priority goal of the Board of Directors.

The first-ever Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware capital campaign was undertaken in February of 2006. Former board member, Robert Richards, III chaired the capital campaign.

Thanks to the hard work and support of many people and organizations, the capital campaign was a complete success. Our goal of \$750,000 was surpassed, and the two condominiums were purchased in September 2006.

Thanks to the following organizations and people for their outstanding contribution to this success: BBBS Board of Directors, Robert Richards, III, Longwood Foundation, Welfare Foundation, Crystal Trust, Laffey-McHugh Foundation, Marmott Foundation, Crestlea Foundation and the Verizon Foundation. The Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Mary Lucille and Andy Johnston also contributed to this effort for programmatic purposes only.

BBBS: Best of Delaware Beneficiary

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware and Delaware Guidance Services for Children & Youth were beneficiaries for the second straight year of the Best of Delaware Party.

Delaware Today magazine's Best of Delaware party celebrated Delaware's best at the Rollins Center at Dover Downs Hotel Conference Center on Thursday, July 20, 2007.

Winning businesses in a variety of business categories showcased themselves throughout

the evening. Live music by dance band Jelly Roll, and the Phillip Berger Jazz Trio set the stage for partygoers to indulge in tantalizing food and drink from the best spots in Delaware.

With over 2,300 people attending this gala event, it was a huge success. The party has raised over 1 million dollars to support Delaware charitable causes since it first began in 1988.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters and Delaware Guidance Services for Children & Youth each received \$32,000 from the party proceeds!

A BIG thanks to Delaware Today magazine and the party sponsors for their outstanding contribution and for a great party!

We are pleased to note that this year both charities will again, for the third straight year, be the Best of Delaware Party beneficiaries.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Would Like To Say Thank You To...

THE DELAWARE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

In August of 2007 Big Brothers Big Sisters began an exciting new partnership with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra.

Thanks to their generosity and the enthusiasm of the orchestra's Executive Director, Lucinda Williams, we are now able to offer our matches free tickets to their 2007-2008 concert series.

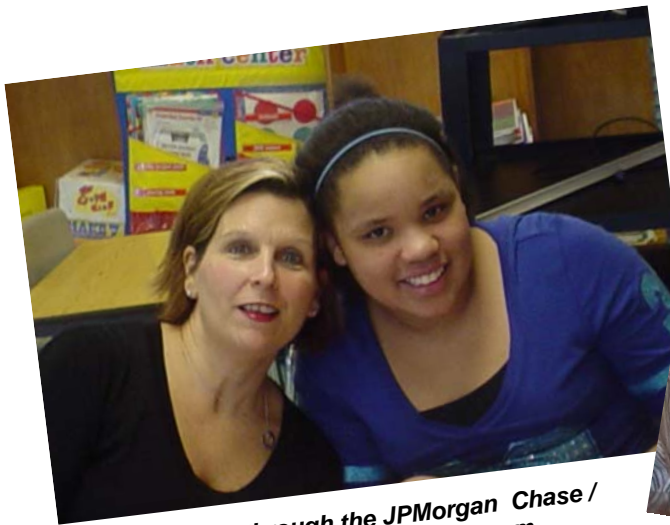
Our Bigs and Littles have already had the opportunity to attend six performances, and five more are planned for the spring.

HAGLEY MUSEUM

We would also like to say thank you to Hagley Museum for providing us with tickets to their "Invention Convention" event which was held on January 19th and 20th of 2008. The response we received was outstanding, and both our Bigs and Littles had a wonderful time.

Hagley Museum is also offering our matches free admission to their "Power-Up" programs day hosted by the Creek Kids, which will be held in April of 2008. It promises to be an entertaining learning experience with food, activities, and games.

It is through charitable organizations such as these that we are able to offer such educational and diverse activities for our matches to attend. These initiatives have been very well received by our matches and we hope to continue working with both organizations in the future.



A match made through the JPMorgan Chase / Stubbs Elementary partnership program.



A Big Brother and his Little Brother have fun assembling a jigsaw puzzle together.

Visit us at our new website: www.bbbsde.org

Bowl For Kids' Sake Fundraising Events

We are very excited about this year's Bowl For Kids' Sake Fundraising Season which kicked off Tuesday, February 5th with our 5th Annual Girls Night Out event. Since the event was held on "Fat Tuesday" what better way to celebrate than with a Mardi-Gras theme! The night was a success and fun was had by all. Special thanks to our committee members Lu Johnston, Sandy King and Vikki Smith.

*If you would like to be added to the invitation list for 2009, please contact Christine Ward at cward@bbbsde.org.

Join us for our next bowling fundraising event: Community Day! Community Day is a day for everyone to come out and have a good time while raising money for a good cause. It is a great way to get together with family members, friends, and/or coworkers and enjoy a day of bowling, food and fun. It's not too late to Bowl For Kids' Sake! Please call us for more information.

Mark your calendars for "Bowl For Kids' Sake" Community Day!

New Castle County — Saturday, April 5th
 Kent County — Saturday & Sunday, April 5th & 6th
 Sussex County — Saturday & Sunday, April 12th & 13th

Are you interested in having a private bowling event for your company?

Encourage your company to have a Company Bowl for you and your co-workers.

Build camaraderie

Win great prizes

Bowl 2 fun games

We organize and facilitate the event and provide refreshments at no cost to your company.

Contact your local office for more information:

Wilmington
(302) 998-3577

Dover
(302) 674-2486

Georgetown
(302) 856-2918

Kent County Highlights

DSU Basketball

Delaware State University recently extended an invitation to our Dover office for members of our program to attend the school's basketball games.

They are providing free admission for staff, volunteers, and children in our program to attend both their Men's and Women's Basketball games.

The university has opened this invitation to our other two offices in New Castle and Sussex Counties as well.

Home games are held in the Memorial Hall Gymnasium on

the university's campus in Dover. Women's games begin at 2:00pm and Men's games begin at 4:00pm.

Anyone interested in attending a game should contact Yvonne Workman-Younger in our Dover office by calling (302) 674-2486.

UNO Pizzeria Chicago Bar & Grill Fundraiser

The UNO Pizzeria Chicago Bar & Grill in Dover is hosting a fundraising event to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware.

The event will be held on Friday, April 25th from 11:00am until 8:30pm.

By presenting a coupon which can be obtained from the Dover office, a percentage of each party's bill will be used to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The restaurant is located on Route 13 in Dover, directly across from Delaware State University.

If you would like to attend this event, please contact Julie Edwards in our Dover office by calling (302) 674-2486.

Be a Friend.
Be a Mentor.



Be a
Big Brother
or
Big Sister.

Become a Mentor!



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters
of Delaware**

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Kent County

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