



In Touch

Communications that "put the *me* into *mentorship*"™

For the friends of **Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Catharines- Thorold & District**
428 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, Ontario L2M 4W3 PH: 905-646-3230 FAX:905-646-2564
www.bbbsmentors.ca



A Member Agency.

Message from the Executive Director: *A change of shoes can change a life.*



(See page 3 for bowling dates and times.)

We want to know what you aspired to be as a child! This year's theme, "When I Grow Up" is sure to be a great hit! Come dressed to impress and showcase what you want to be when you "grow up".

We will have great prizes, great fun, good friends and good laughs. To know that your fundraising helps match a child on the waitlist for a mentor is a truly remarkable thing.

It is our mission to take all of the children off our waitlist, and we need your support to make this dream a reality.

Bowl for Kids Sake is back!

With the incredible support from our community, sponsors, Media, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors we can't wait to kick off another exciting campaign.

The success of the Tim Hortons Bowl for Kids Sake campaign is vital for the St. Catharines- Thorold & District agency and for BBBS agencies nation wide.

This is the largest fundraising event of the year for BBBS. The funds raised are crucial to helping us serve and support more than 800 children in our local community.

We are asking for your support once again. There are many ways to become a part of this campaign:

- ★ Become a Campaign Sponsor
- ★ Donate a prize to reward our top fundraisers
- ★ Get your co-workers, friends and family together and put in a team to bowl.

I hope to see you with your bowling shoes on!

Dale J Davis

Executive Director



www.bbbsalumni.ca

We love hearing from former Alumni.
Stay connected and informed.

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It takes \$1,000 to create and maintain ONE mentorship match.

Our programs get 'BIG' results

I love our girls! Every week they surprise me, make me laugh, make me smile and make me have a broader understanding about the challenges and struggles of a teenage life. The girls are in grades 9 and 10 and, because our girls are older, we have been modifying our lessons. We did a mirror image on how to be a good leader/follower, and this week I am teaching them to line dance, so they can learn to work as a team, and know that it's okay to feel silly!



- Elise Auger, Go Girls! Mentor.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2010 Optimus Club Youth Appreciation Awards: Nicholas Drennan and Duwope Isekeije. The awards ceremony on November 23rd, 2010 recognized their accomplishments within the community, their schools and their commitment to bettering themselves as members of the community. **Keep up the good work!**

Game On! sessions are wrapping up in three area elementary schools: St. Nicholas Catholic, St. Anthony Catholic and Prince of Wales- St. Catharines. A special thank you to all of the mentors, Tyler Belic, Jon Warner, Simon Prentice, Jeramie Bailey, Don Cronin and Adam Stronghill for their time and dedication to the agency and the children we serve as well as a special thank you to the children involved in the program for their participation and enthusiasm over the course of eight weeks.

Our fundraisers are *FUN* raisers!



2011 Theme-
"When I Grow Up"

Bowling dates and times

February 26th
1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm

Tuesday March 1st
9:30pm (Industry Night)

March 5th
1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm

Call 646-3230 or visit www.Bowl4Kids.ca
to sign up today!



Bowling dates and times

Wednesday
February 2nd
9:30pm

Thursday
February 3rd
9:30pm

Theme- "Swingin Sixties"

www.BrockBowls.ca

Follow these simple steps to register!

- 1) Grab 4-6 friends, family or co-workers and select a date and time that works best for you.
- 2) Print your registration form online and email or fax to the agency to reserve your lane. You can also register for your bowling time by following Step 1 on the homepage of www.Bowl4Kids.ca.
- 3) Sign up for online pledging at www.Bowl4Kids.ca. This is a convenient and easy way of getting BIG pledges!



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"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."- Winston Churchill

Kidz Korner



Christmas at Coppola's Ristorante

Everyone had a wonderful time at this year's Annual Christmas Party. A special thank you to Coppola's Ristorante for hosting another special evening for our matches!

Be sure to check out our website for your pictures!

www.bbbsmentors.ca



Gingerbread Kids

You will need:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup dark molasse
- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup water



- 1) Blend butter and sugar until creamy.
- 2) Beat in the molasses. Sift flour, spices, salt and soda and add to the butter mixture, alternatively with the water.
- 3) Roll out the dough to make gingerbread kids! Use your favourite cookie cutters too!
- 4) Bake in a preheated oven for 8 minutes
- 5) Eat the yummy cookies!

Top 10 Christmas Movies!

1. A Christmas Story
2. Dr Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas
3. Miracle on 34th Street
4. The Santa Clause
5. A Christmas Carol
6. Home Alone
7. Frosty the Snowman
8. Rudolph the Rednose Reindeer
9. A Charlie Brown Christmas
10. The Polar Express

Staff Speaks out...

In School Mentoring Works!

Thanks to everyone who applied to become an In School Mentor! We are still on our way to matching many children in local schools with great role models. It makes such a big difference in their lives and I am very grateful to be a part of it. The look in the eyes of the kids when they meet their new Mentor is priceless.

-Colleen Walker, In School Mentoring Program.

Colleen recently recieved this letter from one of our youth counsellors:

"Donald has been so excited looking forward to his visit with Derek. They had their first visit today and seemed to hit it off very well. We asked Donald what he'd like to do and he said he wanted to take Derek out for recess to introduce him to his friends. He's very proud to have a cool friend for a big brother!"



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Welcome **Jes** and **Ashley!**

I have been working with children and youth for over ten years. Between school, work and extra cirricular acitivites I have had the opportunity to work with youth in many different ways. I am excited to bring my experience and knowledge to this position but I am especially looking forward to what I gain from all of you and what you can teach me!

Jessica Iribarnegaray
jес@bbbsmentors.ca 646-3230 ext.25

I am a graduate of the Child and Youth Worker Program at Niagara College and have a business background from Northern College. I have experience working in many types of settings with varying ages of children. I love this field of work and being able to engage with youth. I am looking forward to learning my new role at Big Brothers Big Sisters and expanding my knowledge and experiences.

Ashley Dunbabin
ashley@bbbsmentors.ca 646-3230 ext.35

"Success is a journey, not a destination." - Ben Sweetland

Spiritbuilder Spotlight

"Growing through the Spirit of Giving"

Getting into the Christmas Spirit!

A BIG thank you to the Niagara Home Builders' Association for generously donating many great gifts during the holiday season for our Littles and their families. Many children will enjoy a brighter Christmas this year because of your efforts. We cannot thank you all enough and, we could not do this without all of your wonderful support!



Left to right:
Gerry Ducharme,
Barb Van Der Heyden, Jon Braithwaite, Gerri Merrone, Dale J Davis

Giving Back, Getting Active! www.SportChek.ca

Thank you to SportChek, Pen Centre for their extremely generous donation of \$5000. The donation was used to enroll children in sports related activities such as swimming, skating, hockey and karate! SportChek also donated the equipment needed for these activities. BBBS is so thankful for having wonderful community partners like you. [Way to go, SportChek!](#)

Gaming for a great cause!

The 2nd Annual Zelda Marathon just wrapped up. The team from Penguins in the Desert Productions played live from the BBBS Agency basement from Dec. 10th at 7:00pm until Dec. 15th at 4:00pm. The team played 117 straight hours of Zelda and raised \$5,350 for our programs. We can't thank them enough for their efforts. Keep updated on their efforts in the meantime by visiting www.penguinsproductions.com.



Family Day Fun!

On behalf of the St. Catharines Flea Market, a FREE Family Day Skate will be offered:

February 21st, 2011

Time: 11:30am-2:00pm

Place: Merritton Lions Club

Centennial Arena

5 Park Avenue, St. Catharines.

Donations will be accepted in support of the BBBS agency.



JOIN BBBS
ST. CATHARINES - THOROLD
& DISTRICT ON FACEBOOK
FOR UPDATES ON
PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND
EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES!

In Touch Highlights

A Perfect Pair

A Message from Big Sister Kerri McKinnon to her Little Sister Sarah.

"We have had our fair share of ups, downs and craziness over these past six and a half years together, and I would not ever, not in a million years, trade it for anything...! Ever! The many, many awesome memories we have created will last a lifetime. Do not ever change. You are the best little sister ever. Just keep on being you..."

Wonderful gorgeous you."

Love you lots, Magoo xox
Love,

your favourite Big Sister!

Not Just a club for homework!

"I'm really excited to report that things are going wonderfully in Beamsville. Yesterday the students and I organized a game of "Are you smarter than a fifth grader?" It was awesome to see the students open up. One of our students won up to the half million mark before he got a question wrong. Not only was I proud, but I could see that he was proud of himself. It was a really great moment. Thanks again for the supplies!"

-Rebecca Riediger-

"Not just homework club" volunteer

For more information on this program please contact Amanda Lynds:
amanda@bbbsmentors.ca
or by phone at 905-646-3230 ext.29

2010-2011 Board of Directors

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"Dreams are very important. You can't do it unless you imagine it." - George Lucas