



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: BBBS Mentoring Programs have 'BIG' impact

There is a buzz around the BBBS office at 428 Niagara Street. Excitement is building from the caseworkers about the potential of growth for their programs. Recognition is being turned in BBBS's direction from all different levels of the community.

On a local level, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the Bowl for Kids Sake campaign this year. The response from the community was unbelievable.

Thanks to the efforts of our sponsors, bowlers and supporters, we went over and above our goal to reach an unexpected \$154,000!

On behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you. We hope to see you all again next year.

On a regional level, we are pleased to have support from the Niagara Region's Public Health and Social and Community Services departments for our In-School Mentoring program. Frances Lettieri, Manager of Casework Services, has been busy making presentations to explain the details of the program to employees. We are please to announce that the Niagara Region is supporting employee's desires to spend one hour a week mentoring a child in their school.

With the ball rolling for program support from the community, it was a pleasure to hear that the Ontario Trillium Foundation is pledging three years of funding for the BBBS St. Catharines – Thorold After School Homework Club.

In September, we will be showcasing the first school to be part of the Homework Club to match high school mentors with elementary students. Over the next three years, we will be expanding this program to 6 different schools across St. Catharines – Thorold and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We will be recruiting retired teaching professionals and other interested community members throughout the summer to act as supervisors within the schools. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the office.



We love hearing from former Alumni. Stay connected and informed.
www.bbbsalumni.ca

Inside this issue:

- 2 * Mentoring Programs
- * FUNdraisers
- 3 * Kidz Korner
- * Staff Speaks Out
- 4 * Spirit Spotlight
- * In Touch Highlights



Spring
-1-
2009

"The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Our programs get 'BIG' results

Big Bunch Waitlist Program

We are excited to tell you about the growth of the Big Bunch Program over the last few years.

With a strong partnership with Ridley College, and eager Big Bunch Volunteers, children can experience the benefits of group mentorship while they wait for their Big Brother or Sister.

Benefits include:

- increased social skills
- development of positive peer relationships
- improved conversation skills
- improved manners
- improved ability to manage anger and conflict.



UPCOMING BIG BUNCH EVENTS.

Saturday, April 18: Beach Day at Ridley College. Come and play some fun games in the pool! Event runs from 9am to 11am.

Saturday, May 23: Summer games at Ridley College. Come outside and start enjoying the nice weather with some fun games and crafts!

If you are unable to arrange transportation to these events please contact Melanie LaBelle at 905-646-3230 ext 29.

Found your fit? We can help. Give us a call!

Our fundraisers are 'FUN'raisers!

Record breaking success for Bowl for Kids Sake 2009!



Final total raised: \$154,000

Thanks to the efforts of this year's sponsors, participants and volunteers, we are happy to report this was our most successful campaign to date.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the more than 1600 participants and 305 teams who helped make this campaign a huge success. We could not have done it without your efforts.

We look forward to seeing all of you again next year!

Don't forget to come by the office and pick up your incentive level prizes. Just another way that BBBS can say thanks for your efforts.



Mark your calendars

17th Annual Coppola's Big Brothers Big Sisters Charity Golf Classic

Friday June 19, 2009
Hosted at Pen Lakes Golf Course and Coppola's Ristorante

Call 905-646-3230 to register your foursome now!

Big Brothers Big Sisters Beach Bash



Saturday July 11, 2009
Lakeside Park, Port Dalhousie

"Life, love, and laughter - what priceless gifts to give our children." - Phyllis Dryden

Kidz Korner

Join us for our Annual Spring Picnic

FREE Spring BBQ for Bigs and Littles
All matches from the Traditional and
School based mentoring programs are welcome.

Sat, May 23, 2009
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Grantham Avenue Park



Please contact your caseworker to RSVP
and let us know if you are bringing a
salad or a dessert.

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS & DRINKS PROVIDED

Fun games and activities.
A great way to meet other matches and have fun!

Call now to hold your spot!

Coming up for the Kidz

17th Annual Fishing Derby for Big
Brothers/Little Brothers
& Big Sisters/Little Sisters

May 1-3, 2009 at Scotsman Point on
Buckhorn Lake in the Kawarthas.

This opportunity is for Bigs and Littles in the
Traditional Program who have been matched for
a minimum of one full year.
No exceptions. If you are unsure of your date of
match introduction, please check with your
Caseworker BEFORE talking to you Little.

The Program offers an
opportunity for the kids to:
Attend a fishing seminar
Row a boat
Make a lure
Take part in a fishing derby

For more info give us a call.

Staff Speaks Out...

Shauna Porter, Go Girls! caseworker, has been working hard to reach young women in the community with her program. Managing more than 24 volunteers, and serving more than 100 young women, Shauna gets first hand knowledge of the success of this program through the positive feedback that floods her inbox and her voicemail.

This is her chance to share some of the learning and the laughter with you.

"3 things I learned in Go Girls!
are: you can have fun while
being active, everyone is
different in a special way and
cheese and crackers are good
for you."

– Go Girls! Participant

"Go Girls! allows me to watch the confidence level of
each girl increase; I have seen shy become outgoing
and frustration turn to laughter. This program is
important to girls as it provides tools and
information needed to lead healthy lifestyles while
building leadership and life skills."

– Kristina, Go Girls! Mentor



Spring
-3-
2009

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

Spiritbuilder Spotlight

"Growing through the Spirit of Giving"

Ontario Ministry of Education Pledges \$1.5 million to BBBS School-Based Mentoring

The Ontario Ministry of Education announced their commitment of \$1.5 million across Ontario for BBBS School-Based Mentoring programs. The announcement was made at a Queen's Park reception in April.

Thank you to all Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across Ontario for their hard work raising School-Based match numbers. Your efforts help the programs to get noticed by our Provincial government.

This grant is the second of its kind, with the first coming in 2008-2009.

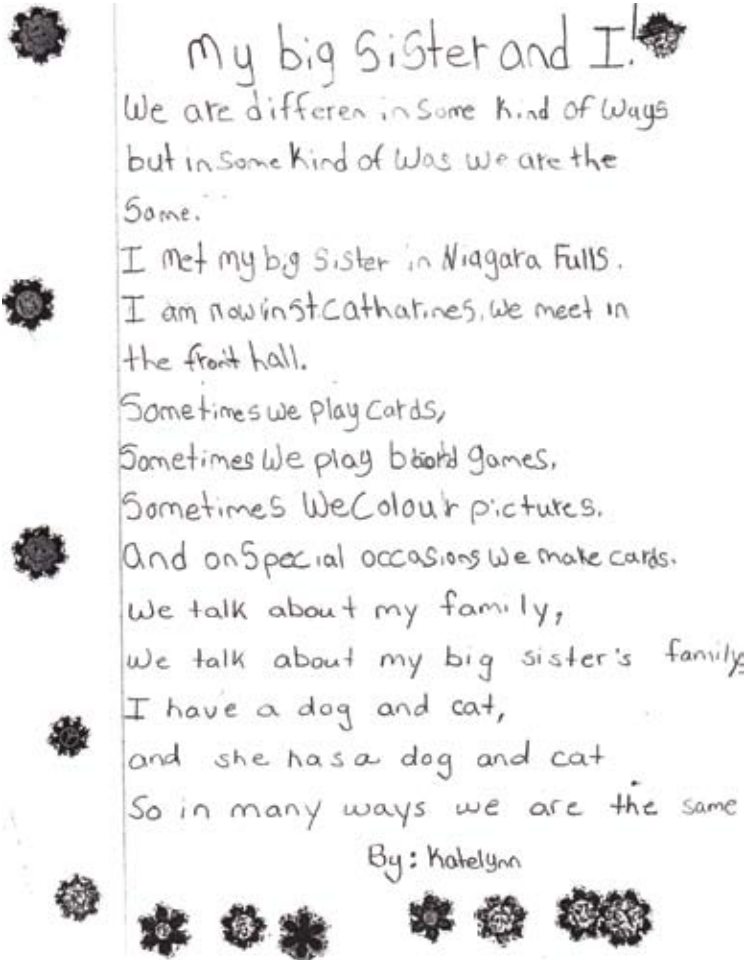
Thank you, also, to our local levels of government for advocating our School-Based programs in Parliament.

Congratulations to everyone who has worked to make this partnership possible. We look forward to the future growth this money will allow us to accomplish.



We couldn't do it without you...Thanks for your support.

In Touch Highlights



A letter written by Katelynn for her In School Mentor.
Submitted by Colleen Walker, ISM caseworker.



Spring
-4-
2009

Raptors Foundation Student Scholarship



The goal of the Raptors Foundation scholarship is to provide financial assistance while encouraging students to manage their finances while giving back to the community through volunteer work.

The Raptors Foundation scholarship is awarded based on recommendations from a registered charity in Ontario. We encourage applications from any graduating high school student who demonstrates hard work, great potential in academics and who would benefit by receiving this scholarship to further their education.

For more information, or to apply, please contact Frances at 905-646-3230 ext. 22.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

Irene Loewen <i>President</i>	Margaret Ridler <i>Director</i>	Darcy Ewanchuk <i>Director</i>	Michelle Miller <i>Director</i>
Bev Newton <i>Past-President</i>	Michael Allen <i>Director</i>	Nancy Kennedy <i>Director</i>	Brian Berton <i>Director</i>
Frank Tassone <i>Director</i>	Bob Miller <i>Director</i>	Kim Cairns <i>Director</i>	Linda Ciesla <i>Director</i>
Joe Krizmanic <i>Director/Treasurer</i>	Joe Carlomusto <i>Director</i>	Peter Thornley <i>Director</i>	

"Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live." - Dorothy Thompson