

PRESS RELEASE

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS of EAST CENTRAL OHIO, INC.
• 224 FAIR AVENUE • NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO 44663 • 330-339-6916 | • Fax: 330-339-6752

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 30, 2007
Contact: Jamie L. Orr, President & CEO
Phone: 330-339-6916|
Fax: 330-339-6752
E-mail: bbbs@tusco.net

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS ARE AWARDED 3 GRANTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio received three grants totaling \$29,400.00 for program services in Tuscarawas, Carroll, & Holmes Counties. The grants were awarded from two foundations and United Way for the School-based Mentoring Program.

United Way of Tuscarawas County allocated \$15,000.00; The Aultman Foundation granted \$4400.00; and Verizon Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant for the second consecutive year. All funds will assist with the on going operation and expansion of the School-based Mentoring program in Tuscarawas, Carroll & Holmes Counties.

Big Brothers Big Sisters recruits, screens, and matches high school students with elementary or middle school students who are faced with academic, social or behavioral challenges. These challenges may be hindering the child's success in academics therefore decreasing their performance scores. The high school students act as a tutor and a friend. The match meets one time per week for a class period. This meeting is supervised by Big Brothers Big Sisters staff and the focus is on tutoring. The agency has outcomes to show an overall improvement in math, reading, and science scores and the students who are involved become more invested in school by improving attitudes, attendance, and overall performance. The program is only successful due to the solid partnership between the school administration, guidance, and teachers with the Big Brothers Big Sisters staff.

School-based Mentoring is a mentoring program with research-based results. The outcomes show that more than 98% of the children that participate show an improvement in self-confidence as reported by their teachers. Additionally, 91% have improved their academic performance and 92% have a better attitude towards school.

"The outcomes we see on an annual basis prove that the mentoring relationship works and an impact is being made on these children who are struggling with school, social pressures, and overall behavioral issues." Shared Jamie L. Orr, chief executive officer at BBBS. "In this climate of school violence and an increase in drug and alcohol use amongst teens, this program can be a deterrent to those behaviors for both the high school volunteer and the student being mentored. Our outcomes revealed that students involved were 95% better at building stronger relationships with peers and teachers and

100% of the participants avoided drug and alcohol use. That is an overwhelming statistic and one that should be admired by all.”

The School-based Mentoring Program is a site-based program housed in each school. If a student is interested in becoming a volunteer or being mentored, please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters at 330-339-6916 in Tuscarawas County; 330-627-2084 in Carroll County; 330-674-4004 in Holmes County; or 1-888-364-5965 in Wayne & Harrison County.