



Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Report
2008

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters,

2008 was another exciting year at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kansas City. Despite a challenging economic environment, the agency continued to provide support to over 1,000 children across the Kansas City metropolitan area. This would not have been possible were it not for the continued financial support of a generous group of individuals, corporations and foundations. Nor would it have been possible without the adult volunteers who serve as Bigs in our program and are willing to share their time, their perspective and, most importantly, their lives with the youth in our program.

We are extremely proud and honored to have been chosen by Bank of America as a 2008 Neighborhood Excellence Award winner. This award includes a \$200,000 contribution and is awarded to only two local agencies each year.

We are equally proud of the launch of our partnership with Kauffman Scholars. Through the Kauffman Scholars program, BBBS matches adult volunteers with high school students enrolled in the Kauffman Scholars college preparatory program. The kids enrolled in this program are normally first generation college students and need a mentor to help prepare them for college and life after college. The Kauffman Scholars program recognized the need for adult mentors and recognized our agency as the premiere mentoring organization in Kansas City.

The future is extremely bright for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City. We are proud of the accomplishments of 2008 but look forward with optimism to an even stronger 2009. We are committed to our mission of changing the lives of youth in Kansas City and are focused on achieving a major milestone in 2009 by supporting over 1,000 community based matches. I look forward to sharing the achievement of that goal with each of you.

We, as well as the over 1,000 youth we support, appreciate the support you have provided to our agency and look forward to your continued involvement.



Melanie Coleman
BBBS Board President



Micheal Lawrence
Executive Director



Melanie Coleman



Micheal Lawrence

PROGRESS REPORTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Over the last four years, BBBS has seen tremendous growth in the number of active matches we serve. In the start of 2005 we had just over 750 active matches. Through the hard work of the program team and recruitment staff we have been able to increase the number of children in the program consistently from year to year. We ended 2008 with 920 active matches.

With this growth, we have continued to provide quality service to each match. Nationally, BBBS agencies average length of match is around 20 months. In Kansas City, our average is 27 months.

According to information obtained from MARC, children from one parent or non-traditional homes make up 25% of the school aged (5-14) population in the Kansas City Metro. When applied to the total number of school aged children in the Metro Area (266,000), we find that there are 66,500 children in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area who are eligible for our program. These children, according to data from the State of Missouri, make up 90% of juvenile court cases, 90% of high school dropouts, and 60% of teen suicides. According to a study completed by the University of Leiden, children growing up in a one parent home are twice as likely to suffer from feelings of loneliness, depression, or low self esteem. According to the Center for Urban Progress, children living in one parent homes are more likely to qualify as 'low-income', and according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, they are at greater risk of homelessness, substandard housing, poor nutrition, academic failure, and a lack of adequate medical care.

Bank of America, Neighborhood Builder Award

Bank of America awarded Big Brothers Big Sisters with their Neighborhood Excellence Initiative award in 2008. This is the fifth annual Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards. These awards recognize and reward organizations and individuals that are making a difference in the Kansas City community.

As a recipient of this award, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City receives \$200,000 in unrestricted grant funding, and the executive director and an emerging leader participate in a leadership development program sponsored by Bank of America to enhance their strategic skills with other non-profit leaders across the country and London. The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative also awarded Local Heroes a \$5,000 grant to an eligible non-profit of their choice and Student Leaders an 8-week paid Internship with a local non-profit organization and in a weeklong leadership summit in Washington, D.C.

"Bank of America has long held the belief that a healthy community is a healthy place to do business, and we are committed to creating real impact in the Kansas City community," said Spence Heddens, Kansas City President, Bank of America. "The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative underscores our belief that investing in leadership is a sound practice, whether building the capacity of our non-profit organizations, developing current and emerging community leaders, or preparing our youth for the future."

"We are honored and thrilled to have been selected as a 2008 Neighborhood Builder recipient," Micheal Lawrence, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters said. "Bank of America is an organization that exemplifies character and community involvement through this outstanding contribution. This gift will go to support expanding the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and allowing more children to take advantage of having a caring, adult mentor in their life. On behalf of our staff, board, volunteers, donors and children we would like to sincerely thank Bank of America for this generous award."

PROGRESS REPORTS CONTINUED...

Kauffman Scholars Initiative

In 2008 BBBS created a partnership with the Kauffman Scholars college preparation program for students living in the Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas School Districts. These two school districts are among the lowest performing in their respective states. The Kansas City, Missouri School District faces declining enrollment (down 50% in the last five years). The school district has a dropout rate of 35%, which, according to a 2008 report from the Missouri Department of Secondary Education, is ten times higher than the state average and more than 150% higher of the next highest dropout rate (22%). On average, only 36% of graduates pursue post-secondary educational options. According to the district, 82% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The situation is not much better in the Kansas City, Kansas School District. The dropout rate is 20% in this district, which is more than double the state average. 47% of High School graduates pursue post-secondary education. 77% of all district students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, which is more than double the average rate throughout the rest of the state.

In an effort to combat this obstacle, BBBS-KC began a partnership with Kauffman Scholars (KSI), a selective college preparation program. The goal of KSI is to provide the guidance and resources necessary to help low income urban students become college graduates by helping them develop the necessary emotional and academic skills. The program also provides a full scholarship for all of the Scholar's college tuition and living expenses for up to five years, ensuring that the Scholar is able to graduate college debt-free. According to data from the US Department of Education, children from low-income homes are half as likely to attend college as students from moderate to high-income homes. KSI participants are 'C' average, at-risk students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch, and have a dependable record of attendance and behavior. KSI approached BBBS-KC to establish a partnership that would provide every KSI participant with a much needed mentor. By providing a mentor, the scholar will be more supported and be more likely to complete the KSI program and their college degree. As most of the Scholars are first-generation college students, a mentor is in a unique position to provide guidance and suggestions as the youth prepares for and begins the college experience.

Additionally, BBBS anticipates that 85% of the mentored children will graduate high school and 75% of the children who graduate high school will go on to attend college. This performance, when compared to non-mentored students in the same districts, represents a dramatic improvement in educational performance.

Donation Center

Big Brothers Big Sisters Donation Center continues to provide revenue to the agency by collecting used clothing and household items and selling them to our retail partner, Savers. The Donation Center operates trucks year-round that go to customer's homes to pick up their items. Additionally, there are over 40 Blue Bin drop off sites across the city. All donations are next sold and the money comes back to the agency to help match more children with adult mentors.

Visit bbbskc.org to schedule a pick up or locate an area Blue Bin. You may also sign up to receive an e-mail when we will be in your area. Thank you for your continued support and donations.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

(UNAUDITED) DECEMBER 31, 2008

ASSETS:

Agency Assets:	
Cash - Operating Fund	\$213,584
Receivables from Foundations	\$135,000
Net Pledges Receivable	\$155,580
Accounts Receivable	\$70,368
Prepaid expenses	\$31,559
Deposits and Misc Assets	\$2,479
Subtotal	\$608,570
Endowment Assets:	
Endowment	\$284,359
Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance	\$96,239
Subtotal	\$380,599
Property & Equipment:	
Land	\$14,401
Building	\$340,000
Building/Land Improvements	\$349,900
Computer	\$144,366
Equipment	\$35,474
Furniture	\$119,538
	\$1,003,678
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(\$558,840)
Total Assets	\$1,434,007

LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE:

Liabilities:	
Line of Credit	\$190,000
Accounts Payable	\$23,661
Accrued Payroll Liabilities	\$49,294
Subtotal	\$ 262,955
Fund Balance:	
Operating Fund	\$790,454
Endowment Fund	\$380,599
Subtotal	\$ 1,171,052
Total Liability & Fund Balance	\$ 1,434,007

INCOME STATEMENT

(UNAUDITED) JANUARY 1, 2008-DECEMBER 31, 2008

REVENUES:

Contributions - Corporate	\$66,035	Federal Mentoring Grant	\$271,470
Contributions - Foundation	\$419,154	BBBSA Grant	\$6,250
Contributions - Individual	\$225,453	UW Drug Fee Youth Grant	\$46,715
United Way	\$222,670	Kansas Mentors Grant	\$10,372
Special Events (net of expenses)	\$326,911	Amachi Grant	\$83,946
Interest Income	\$1,173	Kauffman Scholars Grant	\$9,921
Endowment - Interest Income	\$10,276	Contributions - Donation Center	\$77,460
Endowment - Unrealized Loss on Investment	(\$77,209)	Miscellaneous Income	\$4,524
		Total Revenues	\$1,705,118

EXPENSES:

Salaries	\$987,362	Conferences / Meetings	\$33,068
Payroll Taxes	\$71,408	Events	\$4,040
Employee Benefits	\$98,758	Recruiting	\$12,546
Professional Fees	\$50,994	National Dues	\$11,771
Insurance	\$49,018	Interest Expenses	\$8,307
Supplies	\$11,685	Depreciation Expense	\$38,185
Occupancy	\$88,486	Bad Debt Expense	\$95,540
Equipment Rental	\$6,731	Amachi Lobbyist Expense	\$15,665
Printing	\$17,326	Misc Expenses	\$7,009
Postage	\$6,789	Total Expenses	\$ 1,740,509
Background Search Fees	\$7,166		
Dues and Subscriptions	\$4,779	Beginning Fund Balance	\$1,203,317
Public Relations	\$80,233	Revenues over (under) Expenses	(\$35,390)
Travel	\$33,644	Ending Fund Balance	\$1,167,927

2008 DONOR LIST

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2008 Program Statistics:

Total Children Served in 2008	1,341
Matches Made in 2008	445
Active Community Based Matches	898
Big Brothers	418
Big Sisters	411
Big Couples	62
Average Length of Match	27 Months

Program Survey Results:

Each year, BBBS-KC conducts local surveys to determine the impact of our program. The results continue to motivate our agency to provide this service to many more children in our community. Here are a few of the highlights:

- 77% of our Littles report improved self esteem since being matched.
- 95% say they have had new experiences since being matched.
- 66% have received better grades since being matched.

Program Overview:

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps vulnerable children beat the odds. The agency accomplishes this by creating long-term developmental relationships between these children and adult volunteers from the community. These relationships are structured to be consistent, long-term, and professionally supported. Independent research shows that these relationships improve children's odds for succeeding in school, improving relationships with family members and peers, behaving nonviolently, avoiding drugs and alcohol, and staying out of the juvenile court system. Big Brothers Big Sisters works with more than 1000 matches each week to help provide this life-changing service to the most vulnerable children in our community.

Shannon and Josh – How has being in BBBS impacted our lives?

I joined the BBBS program with high hopes. I'd been thinking about it for over a year and responded to a radio ad I heard in the car driving to work one day. After checking out their website I filled out a request for more information and was soon having lunch with a recruiter. Having been an unofficial Little myself (I was sort of inherited by my older brothers Big), I pretty much knew what the program was about. The program meant a lot to me when I was young, but I didn't realize the impact it would have on my life now as a Big.

I'm glad I joined the program and couldn't imagine life without it. Being a Big is very rewarding and fulfilling. It gives me something important to invest my emotions in and it's a powerful friendship that is honest and refreshing.

When I began my adventures with the BBBS I thought that I'd be "filling a hole" or "bridging a gap" in my life. As a 35 year old married computer dude with no children, I knew I had a "gap". I wanted to spend time doing guy stuff with a kid. I wanted to experience what it felt like when you watch a child discover something new and to watch them develop over time. I also figured that whoever my eventual Little was, he'd be looking for something similar.



Maybe someone to do guy stuff with, or simply someone to talk to that he can relate to (other than mom). I didn't completely know what I was getting myself into but I was excited about the possibilities.

I remember meeting my Little Brother for the first time, his name is Josh. I knew we already shared similar interests based on the matching process, but I was still nervous and anxious. We were both a bit quiet and

reserved, which we quickly overcame by playing some Wii Sports. Josh and I are a lot alike many ways. We are both fond of the outdoors, we enjoy engaging our minds in the things we do and we especially like playing video games.



Josh is the perfect LB for me and it's easy for us to spend time together. While we've had a blast doing a couple big things like skiing and fishing, we enjoy just as much the more laid back days of hangin' out around the house. Josh is an 11 year old that loves to do new things. This is nice since my favorite things to do with Josh are things he's never done. It is incredible being there to share his enthusiastic spirit as he tries new things. We both love to hang out together no matter what we do and some of the most fun times have been doing simple everyday things.

Recently we went on a fishing trip and Josh had the chance to catch his very first fish. We fished all day and ended up catching 5 fish and keeping 4. Josh not only caught his first fish ever, it was the largest Bass I've seen come out of those waters. His catch was an 18" Large Mouth that nearly pulled him into the water (at first he thought he caught more "sea weed"). We caught „ em, cleaned „ em, cooked „ em and ate „ em all right there on the shore. It was a very "guy" thing to do and we both enjoyed the day very much. It's not only cool that we caught fish, but that we spent the entire day

Shannon and Josh – How has being in BBBS impacted our lives?

together enjoying each other's company.

On this trip was when I noticed something for the first time. I realized that we weren't two strangers getting to know each other; we were two friends hanging out having a good time.

Week in and week out we continue spending time together. I've come to respect Josh as a friend, and for his determination and willingness to accept a challenge. The friendship I've developed with Josh goes far beyond "filling a hole" or "bridging a gap" in our respective lives. We've become the best of friends and I feel like I've known Josh far longer than the 6 months we've been matched.

Since this is "our" match story, I've asked Josh to provide some of his own words to include here. This is what Josh has to say when asked "How has having a Big Brother changed your life?"

"Having a Big Brother has really changed my life. It gives me someone to hang out with ---that's not mom, on weekends. I wouldn't normally be able to go on a fishing trip or do other things like snowboarding or cooking in a Dutch oven. Before I met my Big I had no idea what a Dutch oven was.

My grandparents love me but they are busy a lot and cannot always find time to do things with me. I have asked them for six years now if I could go fishing with them. Shannon and I got to go fishing shortly after I asked him if he could take me. He also helped me on my path to becoming a Boy Scout ---without him I'd probably still be a second year Webelos. He encourages my interests other than Scouts by showing up at Karate Tournaments, and my school plays. He always remembers small things like my birthday. When I needed things for the campouts in Boy Scouts, and I did not have those things, he got them for me. He is a cool Big Brother to have, I'm lucky to have him. I could have got a different "Big"; I'm glad he chose me."

The one thing I know for certain for the both of us is that this experience has enriched our life in ways we did not expect and I certainly get back as much, if not more, than I give. And if I need

to sum up how I feel about being a part of the BBBS, and being a Big to my friend Josh... I'd have to borrow the following sentiment from him..." There aren't words to describe just how awesome this is..."

Shannon and Josh



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