



THE CENTRAL IOWA MENTOR

Big Brothers Big Sisters | Issue 6, May 2011

Making Matches, **CHANGING LIVES**

Despite its relatively short history in Story County, the local Big Brothers Big Sisters organization is already having an impact that will last generations. In 18 months, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa in Story County has matched 100 adults with children who benefit greatly from having another positive role model in their life.

A national organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters was founded more than a century ago. The organization works to match adults with children who are vulnerable and/or in need of an adult they can hang out with and look up to. The organization has had a presence in Polk County since the 1960s and its extension to Story County was needed.

"By studying the demographics, we knew that we needed to be here," says Bill Dodd, director of the Story County chapter. "We have found matches throughout Story County, from Ames to Hurley, Story City, and beyond. I anticipate we'll be up over 250 matches by the end of the year."

That success has been enabled by the tremendous positive response of the organization's volunteers. Those who volunteer to serve as a "big" commit to at least four hours of interaction with their "Little" each month. There is no set agenda for their interactions and the goal is to simply spend one-on-one time developing a friendship.

Data provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters show the model works. Throughout a match, BBBSIC measures the impact of mentoring on the children served. The data show consistent improvements in all 11 developmental areas measured, including: 86 percent improve in self-confidence, 64 percent improve in decision making, 63 percent improve in relationships with peers and family members, 72 percent improve in academic performance, and 69 percent improve in school preparedness.

Dodd notes that the commitment of the organization's volunteers cannot be understated. "There is no doubt that our success is a direct result of the generosity of our volunteers and our communities," he says.

It makes a **DIFFERENCE.**

Compared to others, adults who were Littles are:

76% more likely to have a 4-year college degree

72% report healthy relationships with friends

52% more likely to volunteer in their community

Issue **Contents**

- p1 Making Matches, Changing Lives
- p2 Glossary of Terms
- p2 Programs Available
- p2 Outcomes That Count: Josh Boops & Isiah
- p3 2010 Bigs of the Year
- p3 President Obama Thanks Top National Mentors
- p4 The Impact of Being a Big Brother or Big Sister
- p4 How the Program Works
- p7 Bowl For Kids' Sake: 2011 Results
- p7 For the Love of Soccer: Miranda & Lynn
- p8 Bowl Again For Kids' Sake
- p8 Upcoming Events

