

Big News

**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Bath/Brunswick**
Serving Southern Mid-Coast Maine

Spring 2007

Big Brothers Big Sisters Honors Volunteers



**BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR
DICK GRIFFIN**



**BIG COUPLE OF THE YEAR
SCOTT & AMANDA DAVIS**



**BIG SISTER OF THE YEAR
DONNA DAY**

On Wednesday, May 2, 2007 Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Bath/Brunswick held its Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at The Holiday Inn at Bath. The dinner is an opportunity for staff, volunteers, sponsors, and friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters to come together and recognize the effort's of those who support the agency.

Steve Adams, chairman of the Board of Directors kicked off the awards ceremony with an overview of accomplishments and progress achieved by the agency over the past year. Some advancement that the agency has made includes: an increase in participation for the school based mentoring program, the edition of "Shields of Hope" a collaborative effort with the Bath Police Department, and the skate park project a collaborative effort with the Bath Skate Park.

Connie Hartley, Executive Director announced the following special recognitions: Business/ Community Partner of the year stood out as The Highlands Retirement Community with Michael Bierley accepting the award. The Business Partner of the year is First Federal Savings Bank. Nathan Gould of the Bath Police Department accepted the award for Community Partner of the Year. Don Baker Assistant Principal at Mt. Ararat Middle School accepted the award for School Partner of the Year. The Times Record was named Friend in the Media with Jim McCarthy accepting the award. Steve Marois accepted the award for video production on behalf of Reality Productions.

Special recognitions to our Bigs of the year include: Richard Griffin as the Big Brother of the Year, Donna Day as the Big Sister of the Year, and Scott and Amanda Davis as the Big Couple of the Year.

From the School-Based Mentoring Program the following were honored: Matt Thomson as the Bowdoin Partner of the Year, Lucy Ditzel of Brunswick High School as the Female Mentor of the Year, and Tom Barter as the Male Mentor of the Year.

See Pg. 2 "Bigs" of The Year

“Bigs of The Year”

Dick Griffin and Dylan — Big Brother , Dick Griffin, and his Little Brother, Dylan have been matched in our program since August 2005. Dick and Dylan meet once a week for at least a few hours at a time. They have enjoyed many outings such as overnight camping trips, early morning fishing excursions, and yard work at Dick’s house. “Dylan is an outstanding young man and a very hard worker.” Dick feels very lucky to have been matched with such a wonderful little brother.

Donna Day and Emmy — Donna and Emmy were matched in October, 2004 and have developed a friendship unlike any other. Donna and Emmy have enjoyed many activities together such as: going to the movies, swimming, sleepovers, and just hanging out. Donna has been very active in our agency with fundraising events and helping to recruit fellow volunteers.

Scott, Amanda Davis and Jordan — Scott and Amanda Davis have been matched with their little, Jordan, since April of 2006. It is a match that Amanda calls, “a very rewarding friendship.” Since being matched the three have enjoyed many outings including: going to the beach, and Aquaboggin, hiking, watching movies, BBQ’s, and spending time with Scott and Amanda’s family. Over the past year Jordan has shown significant improvement not only at home, but at school where he earned an A in math! “I believe that BBBS is a very positive program for children like Jordan,” Amanda stated, “Jordan feels more confident in himself overall.” This is Amanda’s third match in the program, she and Scott hope to continue with BBBS for as long as they can.

School-Based Mentors of the Year



Lucy Ditzel

Lucy Ditzel — Lucy, a senior at Brunswick High School, has been selected as the Female Mentor of the Year for 2006, due to her passion and dedication to our agency. She has been mentoring a child in the after school mentoring program at Hawthorne Elementary School. She has spent many hours assisting with administrative duties in our office, as well as being an important part of the planning and facilitating of two successful Big for a Day events. She also worked very hard to recruit bowling teams and sponsor dollars to support both the 2006 and 2007 Bowl for Kids Sake event. In 2006 the BHS team raised \$1,600.00 for BFKS, and in 2007 raised over \$1,800.00. This would not have been possible without Lucy’s strong leadership.

Tom Barter — Tom has been a volunteer mentor in our school-based program for three years with BBBS serving at Jordan Acres School. Tom has also provided support to our agency by taking responsibility for the weekly attendance of mentors, and assisting with the success of recruiting several volunteer mentors employed with Bank of America (formerly MBNA). This year he promoted our Bowl for Kids Sake event at Bank of America and recruited 7 bowling teams, the teams raised over \$900.00 to support the services provided by our agency. We are so pleased to have presented Tom with the 2006 Mentor of the Year award. **Photo Not Available**

Mt. Ararat Middle School Receives-School Partner of the Year Award

For several years Don Baker, Assistant Principal has been the key to the success of the partnership between BBBS and MTAMS. Due to the strong commitment to the partnership, Mt Ararat Middle School was selected as the recipient of the 2006 School Partner of Year. Don’s passion for the mission of BBBS, as well as his desire to provide positive role models (mentors) for the children attending Mt Ararat is immeasurable. In 2005 BBBS provided 25 children with a mentor. In 2006 the average number of matches was 20. These volunteer mentors are a combination of high school students and community members. Mt Ararat Middle School was represented at this years Bowl for Kids Sake event held in April 2007. In addition to the ongoing weekly mentoring program at MTAMS we are in the discussion stages of promoting an after school mentoring program one day a week from 2:45-4:15. We greatly appreciate the support that our agency receives from this school district.



Featured Match

Paula Benoit & Abbie



SHIELDS OF HOPE!!!

Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Bath PD are partnering up again for another great year of “**Shields of Hope**” Throughout the upcoming months, officers from the Bath Police Department, as well as individuals involved in the Community Policing Program, will spend one Saturday a month with children from the community that are involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters. The group will meet the **fourth Saturday of every month** at the Bath Police Department.

Children will participate in such activities as: visiting the Bath Skate Park, Maine Maritime Museum, Brunswick Air Show, and participating in a fishing event called “Hooked on Fishing.”

Howard Sports/Roller World and BBBS Bath/ Brunswick team up for a Big and Little fun event!

Plans have been finalized for a Big and Little social event on **August, 18, 2007 at Roller World in Topsham from 1:00pm-4:00pm**. We will have lunch together and Howard Sports/Roller World will provide roller skating fun for all our Bigs and Littles. This will be a great way to spend time together and a chance to meet other Bigs and Littles!

Big Sister , Paula began meeting with her Little, Abbie as a mentor in our Phippsburg school-based mentoring program in 2005. She wanted to spend more time with Abbie outside of the school setting so she opted to become Abbie’s Big Sister. They have been matched as Big and Little since December 2006. Becoming Abbie’s Big has allowed Paula and Abbie numerous occasions to enjoy each other’s company. Some activities that they have enjoyed include: weekly phone conversations about school and current events, weekend lunches, bowling, seeing movies at the cinema, and running errands. Paula took Abbie to the Portland Children’s Museum and they had so much fun that they didn’t want to leave! The relationship has helped Abbie learn and grow and Abbie means the world to Paula .“When I was sworn into the State Senate in January, Abbie was there with me and my family. It was her first time in the Capital and it was a very special day for both of us.” Abbie is already making plans for summer activities with Paula including traveling the Brunswick Bike Path, kayaking down New Meadows River and maybe even horse back riding!

BBBS After School Mentoring Program At Bath Youth Meetinghouse And Skate



This program is offered to at-risk children living in low to moderate income housing in Bath and surrounding communities. The child is “matched” one to one with a volunteer mentor. The mentor will visit the child **every Wednesday from 3:00 - 4:00** at the park.

Activities will include skate boarding, board games, computer education, video production, movies and more!! **Call 729-7736 for more info!**

SUMMER PARTY FOR BIGS & LITTLES !!!

Big Brothers Big Sisters is happy to announce our **2nd Annual Summer Pool Party** being held at the Holiday Inn at Bath, on Sunday, June 24 from 1:00-3:00pm. The Holiday Inn will provide lunch for everyone. We hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to Aurora @ 729-7736 Ex:16 or community@bbbsbathbrun.org.

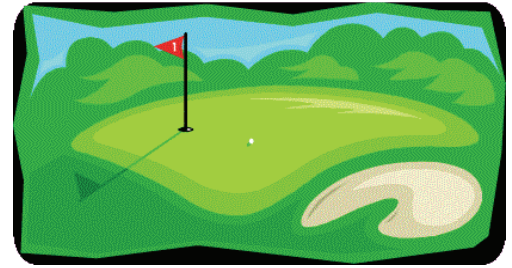
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mark Your Calendars:

The Big Swing

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Sebasco Harbor Resort



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick is once again teeing off for “*The BIG Swing*” Charity Golf Tournament. This tournament will benefit more than 300 children in our community and school-based mentoring programs. Please consider participating in the tournament as a sponsor, by putting a “team” together, or both! For a donation of \$100 (\$400 a team) you will enjoy 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, and plenty of giveaways.

Sponsorship levels:

Event Sponsors - \$1,000

Hole-In-One Sponsors - \$500

Cart Sponsors - \$300

Hole Sponsors - \$150



For more information, or to confirm your participation and support of “*The BIG Swing*,” please contact Connie Hartley at 729-7736 ext. 10, or Executive@bbbsbathbrun.org

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and Children

Thanks to all of our Sponsors and Bowlers who made Bowl For Kids' Sake 2007 a huge success! Your efforts raised \$32,000 to benefit the programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters



Major Sponsors

Tim Sample, The Times Record, Comcast, The Highlands, Reality Productions, Remax, Bath Savings Institution, Hannaford, Bath Iron Works, Carrot Signs, Get-Etched.Com, American Legion Bath

Wicked Goo-ud Sponsors

Central Maine Power, Holiday Inn-Bath, Androscoggin Dental Care

Goo-ud Sponsors

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Special thanks to the Stage Neck Inn, York Beach, Maine for the Grand Prize Getaway package. Top Bowler prizes provided by: GM Pollack & Sons, and Springer's in Bath.

Thank You to Yankee Lanes for their continued support of this event!

STAFF NEWS

Debra Thibodeau Development Coordinator

Deb comes to BBBS with a wealth of knowledge and experience. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire and later went on to earn her Master of Education Degree from The University of Maine. She currently works as the Guidance Counselor for Georgetown Central School. Deb works as an Information Specialist for the Autism Society of Maine, and runs her own business, Synergy Inc. Consulting, to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Deb's primary function with Big Brothers Big Sisters is that of grant writing and fundraising. She brings with her over ten years experience in the field of grant writing. Deb resides in Georgetown with her husband John, son, Kevin, two dogs and three cats.

Lindsay MacDonald Executive Development Assistant

Lindsay comes to Big Brothers Big Sisters with a strong work ethic and a desire to learn and grow. She earned her B.A. in Communications with a focus in Business and a minor in Expository Writing from Plymouth State University. She was V.P. of Communications for The PSU Chapter of the American Marketing Association and Business Manager Assistant Board Editor for PSU Poets and Writers. She has interned with TDI, The BEDC, and The Brunswick Downtown Association. As Executive/Development Assistant Lindsay's responsibilities include, but are not limited too: assisting with fundraising initiatives, maintaining donor files and performing database maintenance, and preparing media materials for distribution. Lindsay resides in Bath with her partner Allen.

Aurora Joseph Enrollment/Match Support Specialist

Aurora joins the agency with enthusiasm and a passion for helping children. She earned her B.S. in Human Services from Lesley College majoring in Counseling/Psychology with a minor in Literature and Writing. Aurora has interned with several organizations that benefit children including: The Merrimack School in Chelmsford, MA, Franciscans Children's Hospital in Brighton, MA, and Generations Incorporated, Boston, MA. Recently she has worked for Sweetser as a Youth Enrichment Program Leader in charge of facilitating community-based therapeutic recreation activities with at risk youth ages 11-15. Aurora has also worked for BBBS as the Site Based Coordinator, The Bath Youth Meetinghouse and Skate Park as Park Supervisor and for Morse High School as Reach (drop-out prevention) Program Coordinator. As Enrollment/Match Support Specialist Aurora will be responsible for providing assessment, support, referral, training, group, and case work services to clients, volunteers, and families who are applying for the first time and who are currently in the program. Aurora resides in Bath with her best friend, Amanda, and Amanda's daughter, Amelia.

"Spread the Magic, Partner with BBBS!"

Community-Based program the Big Brother or Big Sister will meet with a child living in a single parent home between the ages of 6 to 14 for approximately 8 to 12 hours a month. We ask our Bigs to be able to commit to at least one year, because we feel that it takes time for a relationship to truly develop.

School-Based program the mentor meets with the child in a school setting once a week for one hour. This commitment is for one school year from September to June. This is a great way to meet some wonderful children.

Business partnership a business provides **three to five employees** who are willing to volunteer to be mentors in our School-Based mentoring program. These mentors will meet with a child during their lunch break or in the after school program at the following locations, in Bath: BMS, Dike-Newell, and Fisher-Mitchell, Brunswick: BJHS, Coffin, Hawthorne, Jordan Acres, and Longfellow, Bowdoin: BCS, Georgetown: GCS, Harpswell: Harpswell Island Elementary, Phippsburg: PES, Topsham: MTAMS, Williams Cone, and Woodside, and in Woolwich: Woolwich Central School.

If you have a few hours a week and are ready to make a BIG difference in a LITTLE life, please contact Connie Hartley, Executive Director at 729-7736 ext 10 or Aurora Joseph, Match Support Specialist ext 16.

"It is "you" the volunteer that makes our agency a success!"



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
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Serving Southern Mid-Coast Maine

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*Please help support the programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick.
Serving Southern Mid-Coast Maine*

From the Executive Director...Connie Hartley

In October 2006 I was promoted to Executive Director. I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to lead the agency into the future. I bring to this position strong leadership, marketing, program development skills and a passion for the mission. Prior to my employment here at BBBS I was an active mentor in the community where I reside, and volunteered from 2002-2005 as the Program Coordinator for the local Community Mentoring program. This year I hope to increase the agency's visibility, the number of children served, and to develop new business partnerships throughout the community. This is sure to be an exciting year for the agency as we have many fun events planned for our matches. We are pleased to announce two new after-school programs being offered at Brunswick Jr. High, and Mt Ararat Middle School in Topsham, as well as the Skate Park mentoring project in Bath, and the Shields of Hope program which is a collaboration of efforts between the Bath Police Department, Community Policing and BBBS. We would not be able to achieve all of this success without the generous support of our volunteers, business and community partners, and donors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all your efforts to assist in the success of making a difference in the life of a child in need.

Best wishes for a fun-filled and safe summer!

"Special Thanks" - Gary Fudge and the Fudge Family Foundation, and Theresa Herbele of Hampton, NH for your continued financial support. Your generous donation is supporting many fun, healthy activities for our "Bigs and Littles."

