

Big & little news

Summer 2013



Little Brother Victor and Big Brother Gerardo Mancilla, PhD candidate at UW-Madison and bilingual teacher at Cherokee Middle School, have been matched since April 2007. Recently, they celebrated Victor's high school graduation. Victor plans to study construction at Madison College starting in the fall.



Little Sister Arianna and Big Sister Jessica Lewis, a bio-tech patent lawyer at Quarles & Brady, have been matched since June 2012. They bowled at BFKS and Jessica was the top fundraising Big! Because Jessica and Arianna had so much fun with BFKS we asked Arianna to be a speaker at the Gala!



Little Brother Damien and Big Brother Fred Hunt, an IT manager at ERDMAN, have been matched since January 2012. Damien and Fred enjoy participating in BBBS activities and especially enjoyed the "Build Your Own Computer Workshop" in 2012. Fred even shaved off his hair at Kut4Kids this year!

Alliant Energy: A Powerful Partner

By: Jason Schultz & Marcus Chang

Alliant Energy has been a supporter and sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County (BBBS) for almost a decade.

The Foundation supports the "Build Your Own Computer Workshop," Alliant Energy has sponsored the BBBS Gala for years, many of their employees participate in Bowl for Kids' Sake, they run many fundraisers to help BBBS and several Alliant Energy employees are Bigs.

We asked Julie Bauer, Executive Director of the Alliant Energy Foundation, why the Alliant Energy Foundation is such a strong supporter of BBBS:

"Alliant Energy's core values are: 'Safety, Integrity, Respect, Service and Responsibility.' BBBS epitomizes these values in the work they do. We have given grants to 26 different Big Brothers Big Sisters Chapters over the years through our Foundation and through the support of our employee/retiree Matching Gifts program. Clearly, we believe in the work BBBS is doing to help make our communities stronger and safer and its citizens more engaged, caring and responsive."

"Through a mentor, BBBS offers Littles a different perspective or filter than what they currently may have access to. The BBBS program gives kids

someone they can interact with, learn from and someone to help them see their potential. That's the definition of the word "Leadership," which is a core value of Alliant Energy. Big Brothers Big Sisters offers an opportunity for a child to see how others may handle life's twists and turns."

"We have had many employees who volunteer as Big Brothers or Big Sisters over the years. It takes a strong commitment from the employee and we support and encourage our employees to make a difference in the lives of those in our communities who need it most."

One of the trademark events that Alliant Energy supports is BBBS' "Build Your Own Computer Workshop", in which Bigs and Littles actually assemble a computer.

"The workshop is such a valuable event because computers are such an integral part of everything we do today, from doing homework to communicating with friends and family, from looking for a college to looking for a job. So this program ties nicely to one of our key Foundation focus areas, which is 'Education.' The concept of the Build Your Own Computer Workshop is a win-win for all involved. The Littles get a computer. But first



Tom Hanson receiving the Friends of Kids Award on behalf of Alliant Energy at the BBBS 2013 Annual Gala. He is pictured with Alum Big Brother John Galloway and Alum Little Brother Jele.

they earn it by learning how to assemble a computer, under the guidance of local businesses' IT employees. At the same time, Littles are exposed to different employment opportunities within the IT arena. So many kids and families don't have easy access to computers, so this effort helps address some of those issues."

"In the end, BBBS and Alliant Energy share so many of the same values and goals, we're a perfect match!"

BBBS CEO Dora Zúñiga couldn't agree more. "We are proud to partner with Alliant Energy. Alliant's dedication to helping kids break the cycle of poverty and achieve success in life is clear. Alliant Energy and their staff put the quote on the Friends of Kids Award into action, "Our work is as elementary as putting a friend in a child's life, and as essential as putting hope in a child's future." Thank you for giving your time, talent and treasure to make the difference in kids' lives.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County is a donor and volunteer supported organization. For more information about how you can get involved, go to www.bbbs.org/danecounty.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Dane County

Over 900 "Superheroes" flew in for Bowl for Kids' Sake

Volunteering at Bowl for Kids' Sake - Big Brother Jerome Flowers, of Urban League of Greater Madison, and Little Brother KeAndre



Superheroes from one of our top fundraising and top participating companies.. American Girl!



Legislative Fiscal Bureau to the rescue!

Special Events Update

The first 7 months of this year have been AMAZING...and a whirlwind of activity! First, we had Kut4Kids in February. Then, it was Bowl for Kids' Sake in May. And most recently, we held our Annual Gala featuring Donald Driver on July 12th!

Thank you to...you...our donors and Bigs. It is because of you that our events have raised almost \$400,000 to support kids in Dane County through professionally supported, strong and enduring one-to-one relationships.

But we're not done. We have 700 kids still waiting for a mentor - a mentor who will bring much needed inspiration and stability to kids who need it the most.

Help us continue the good work you've started. Use the enclosed envelope to make a gift that will go directly toward supporting kids immediately. Thank you for not just making a difference in our community but making **THE** difference!

Over 500 people joined us for a dazzling Gala!



Eliot and Sara Butler - Presenting Sponsor: The Great Dane Pub and Brewing Co.



Jorge and Andrea Hidalgo - of Wilde East Towne Honda



Mike Kornemann (Big Brother), publisher Madison Magazine, Betty Harris Custer and Corkey Custer (Big Brother) of Custer Financial Services

The DANCE WITH DONALD...won by our own Tracey Anton!



Straight Talk About Being a Big: Q&A with Tracey Anton

By: Marcus Chang



2007
a popular radio show called "Straight Talk About Money" and you may even hear her on "Ask the Expert" where she answers questions about personal finance. Being the playful bunch we are...we asked her to sit down with us and answer questions about being a Big Sister.

Q: When and how did you start supporting BBBS?

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) spoke at a meeting of the Madison Jaycess in 2003. I was struck by how appropriate it was for the time and the needs it filled. I applied soon afterwards. I started donating when I heard it takes \$1,000 a year to make and support a Match. I thought, "Sammy and I are getting so much out of this. I want to help others have the same experience."

Q: What is the process of becoming a Big like?

It was what I call a "stickler" process; they were sticklers about everything and I was glad. That helps them find good people and make good, safe matches. I was soon matched with my Little, Sammy (Samantha).

Q: What do you do together?

We share a love of exploring the outdoors and an attraction to water, so any time we can swim, we do. And, of course there's food. But early on, Sammy opened up to me about her love of art, so that's been a very big part of our time together.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge?

Communication. It was a little surprising to me, even though the

folks at BBBS warned me ahead of time.

In the beginning, I'd say "What do you want to eat?", she'd answer, "I don't know." Or I'd ask, "What do you want to do today?" She'd say, "I don't know." "How was school?" "I don't know."

Kids have a hard time opening up, especially if they have experienced a lot of instability in their young life. For instance, I took her to the studio for one of our live radio shows. She wore the headphones, watched the producer punching buttons, saw how radio works. I kept wondering if she was enjoying it or just waiting to go to brunch. I found out later that when she got home, she excitedly told her grandmother everything, in precise detail, which means she enjoyed it all. It does help to have a professional staff to turn to when you're not sure if you're making a connection. They can tell you all the things your Little can't open up and say right away.

Our relationship has grown so much. Sammy's able to communicate her thoughts with me much better now.

Q: What are the rewards you get from mentoring?

I'll speak in general terms for this answer. I have watched Sammy change from an awkward child to a confident young woman. We just recently started looking at colleges to study art, and I have to tell you, that was a high like I've never experienced. It's true. When you're a Big, you get back many, many times what you put in.

Q: What would you tell people who say they're interested in becoming a Big, but not sure they're a good enough role model?

I'd say, "You don't have to be perfect. You just have to be kind, willing and giving. And you just have to be there."



2012

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County is a donor and volunteer supported organization. Include us in your estate plans. To discuss a legacy gift, contact Dora at 608.661.5437



Manning Up: BBBS Results Inspire Big Couple

By: Marcus Chang

Phil Montgomery is an appointed official for the state of Wisconsin. He and his wife, Lisa, became a Big Couple after Phil saw a “Man Up” billboard:

A couple of years ago, my wife and I became “empty-nesters,” when our youngest headed off to college. We’d gone several months without a child in the house when I saw a Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County (BBBS) billboard and approached my wife about becoming a Big Couple. She was more than just supportive — she was enthusiastic.

The concept of a Big Couple is a great one because today, people are so pressed to find time for anything. So if one of us is busy or away on business, the other can take time with our Little Brother. Being a Big Couple gives us a lot of flexibility.

We applied in fall of 2011 and we were matched with Trey in January of 2012. The BBBS staff was extremely professional and very thorough in all facets, to make sure we were well matched with our Little Brother.

BBBS staff continues to support us through regular check-ins, access to tickets to local events donated by the community and available to all Matches, and we like attending events BBBS hosts for Matches. We also appreciate that trainings for Bigs are offered to help us support

and guide Trey’s development in partnership with his mom and family. And we have enjoyed volunteering at BBBS fundraising events.

I urge anyone reading this to become a Big. You give, but the rewards you get in return are so far beyond what you put in.

For instance, at last year’s Gala, Trey was asked to give a speech in front of five hundred people. Realize that this is an eight-year-old boy being asked to do something that makes many corporate executives tremble.



The Montgomery’s with Trey at the BBBS 2012 Annual Gala

So he wrote a speech. I helped him with it, and then I helped him practice it. Over and over. Then he stood in front of all those people at the Gala, and he nailed it! I think I was more proud than he was. That’s a sense of accomplishment you

rarely get in this world.

These days, you can get the feeling that the world is going to pieces and there’s nothing you can do about it.

Our time with Trey already makes us feel like we are doing something, we are changing a piece of the world, and we have made a difference. After Trey nailed that speech, it was confirmation. We were all on cloud nine.

It’s easy to forget that BBBS is not just fueled by volunteers like Lisa and I and the experiences we’ve had but also by local donors. I’d like to urge State employees to support BBBS during the State’s “Partners In Giving” campaign, like I do.

“Partners in Giving” is a once-a-year workplace campaign through which State employees in Dane County can give conveniently to their favorite charitable organizations. It combines the efforts of hundreds of charities into one eight-week campaign in the fall. And it makes giving so easy.

All the charities in “Partners In Giving” are worthy. The reason I promote BBBS is because I see the real-world results BBBS delivers for kids. How do I know they make these real, quantifiable differences? They have the research to back up their short- and long-term impact. Now that’s impressive.

A Word from the CEO, Dora E. Zúñiga

Philanthropy, charity and sharing are not actions that we human beings do automatically. Sharing of talents, time and treasure are actions that we learn to do; just like brushing our teeth. When we see others sharing and giving of themselves we start to see the impact, the good that it does. And we see the satisfaction of the person doing the act of sharing and the joy they bring to another’s life.

A few days ago, a beautiful 5 year-old named Laurel presented me with her half of earnings from her lemonade stand sales. Why did she choose to make the donation? She told her

mom that she wanted to help the Big Brothers Big Sister kids who needed an adult friend. Laurel has grown up with loving parents who have role-modeled philanthropy. Thank you, Laurel, for reminding us that we can all make a difference. And that we all have time, talent and treasure to give. Let’s follow Laurel’s example and be as generous as we can.



GO BACK TO SCHOOL...WITH SCHOOL FRIENDS!

We advocate for the full development of each and every child. We all know it takes cognitive (IQ) and non-cognitive (grit, confidence, character) skills to succeed in life and we believe all areas are critical to ensure our kids are poised to break the cycle of poverty and achieve their full potential. We’re not asking you to be a tutor. We’re asking you to be more...a FRIEND.

Take the time this fall to become a School Friends volunteer. Thirty to sixty minutes at lunch or after school each week during the school year can make *the* difference in a child’s life. Here is a list of schools at which we offer School Friends (a full schedule will be posted on our website at the end of August):

Madison: Lincoln Elementary (Tues) | Wright Middle (Tues)
Cherokee Middle (Tues) | Lake View Elementary (Wed)
Randall Elementary (Thurs) | Emerson Elementary (Tues/
Thurs) | Lowell Elementary (Fri)

Sun Prairie: Prairie View Middle (Tues) | Cardinal Heights
Upper Middle (Wed) | Patrick Marsh (Thurs)

Thank you to our good friends at CPM Healthgrades for their support composing our newsletter!
To learn about other volunteer opportunities go to www.bbbs.org/danecounty.



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Sign up to receive the Newsletter by e-mail. Go to www.bbbs.org/danecounty and enter your email address where it says "Stay in the Know". Thank You!



We are so proud of our 18 Littles who graduated from high school this spring. Each and every one deserves a moment to bask in the glow of their success!

And now...to the next phase of their lives. All of our 2013 graduates are going on to pursue higher education by attending 4- and 2-year colleges, enrolling in a firefighter internship or enlisting in a branch of the military.

A large part of our Littles' success and their desire to do more beyond high school comes from the friendship, inspiration, encouragement and guidance provided by their Bigs in partnership with their families. And the longer Bigs and Littles are together the greater the positive impact on our Littles' futures. On average, this year's class of graduating Littles was matched for **8 years** with their Bigs. And of our 18 Littles who graduated, 5 were matched with their Big for 10 years or more.



Little Sister Lupita with her Big Sister Lauren (college access advisor at Great Lakes Higher Education) at Lupita's graduation from West High School.

Thank you to Boardman & Clark Law Firm, LLP for hosting our graduation celebration on June 18th, 2013. And thank you to former Little Brother Mark Rounds for providing inspiring words to our graduates and presenting the Gribbon Achievement Awards — recognizing the academic accomplishments of our Class of 2013 Graduates. These awards are funded through generous individual contributions in our local community.

Congratulations to our graduating Littles. We wish you all the success in the world and know that you can achieve anything you put your mind to because your Bigs will always be there and so will we!

If you would like to see each of our Littles' plans for the Fall please take a moment to visit our website: www.bbbs.org/danecounty to read their stories.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County is a donor and volunteer supported organization. For more information about how you can change kids' lives, go to www.bbbs.org/danecounty.