

# Take the next step.

## Volunteering just 1 hour a week can change a young person's life.

You've been thinking about getting involved. You know the importance of volunteering, how easy it is and how much your help is needed. Why not apply to be a Big today?

Becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister is designed to build a match based on shared interests, personality and your volunteer preferences.

### Quick Steps to Become a Big

Here are the quick and easy steps we'll walk you through:

1. **Apply.** Ready to take the next step right now? E-mail [dmckasson@muscatiney.org](mailto:dmckasson@muscatiney.org) to get an application and more information. Alternatively, give us a call at 263-9996 and we can send you the application.
2. **Interview.** A match coordinator will interview you in person, at the location and time most convenient for you.
3. **Background Check.** Child safety is our priority, so we'll review your records to ensure you'll be a good fit for our program. We do ask volunteers to pay a one time \$10 fee for the record checks.
4. **Training.** Training may be offered individually or in a group.
5. **Matching.** We will review the kids in your area who need a Big Brother or Big Sister and find the best fit for you. Making the right match is important to our commitment to form lasting relationships.
6. **Ongoing Support.** You won't be in it alone. A professional from Big Brothers Big Sisters will give you support as you need it.

### What you'll get out of it.

- A new friendship with a young person who needs your support.
- Fun and a change of pace from your workday.
- The great feeling of "giving back."



## Interested in other ways to get involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters? Check out these opportunities!

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Committee:** The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to enable the Muscatine Community Y and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muscatine County to better address the concerns, interests and service needs of the BBBS service target population. Areas of focus are strategic leadership, governance and oversight and development of financial resources.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl For Kids' Sake Committee:** Provides leadership and hands-on outreach to secure partnerships with companies, organizations and individuals for sponsorships and participation in Bowl For Kids Sake. This committee works to help BBBS reach our financial goals so we can serve more children in Muscatine, Louisa and Cedar Counties.

**Bowl For Kids' Sake Participant:** It's not about bowling! It's about having fun and taking part in an informal group outing with people you know and like. Be a Team Captain, Bowler or supporter! Bowl For Kids' Sake is BBBS' most important fundraiser, contributing about 30% of our budget. As a bowler, you sign up "sponsors" (friends, colleagues, neighbors) on the pledge sheet, and then go have fun at the bowling party. Big Brothers Big Sisters takes care of collecting the pledges. **Bowl For Kids' Sake 2008 is scheduled for Saturday, March 29 & 30.**

# How it works.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission is to help children reach their potential** through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measurable impact.

A Big Brothers Big Sisters match is carefully administered and supported. Agency professionals strive for matches that are not only safe and well-suited to each child and volunteer, but also harmonious and built to last.

## Our Core Programs.

We're flexible—you can be a "Big" in many different ways. Bigs and Littles get together in a variety of locations, at different times of day, and share in a multitude of activities. You choose what works for you.

**Community-based Mentoring** is the traditional Big Brothers Big Sisters relationship. It's all about one-on-one time spent with the volunteer and the young person doing things they enjoy — one hour a week filled with shared interests and activities like:

- Shooting hoops
- Playing a board game
- Sharing a pizza
- Taking a walk in the park
- Or just hanging out and talking.

The schedule can be flexible to meet the needs of mentors and young people in different kinds of situations. Some Bigs meet their Littles on the weekend or in the evening. Others get together with their Littles after school. There's almost no one so busy that they can't find a way to fit in a few hours a month.

**School-Based Mentoring** is not a classroom program, and it's not tutoring. School-Based Mentoring is one-to-one mentoring that takes place in the schools. Of course, some students do talk with their mentors about class, or do homework, or read together, but it's really all about friendship and guidance.

You can play or jump rope, read together, shoot hoops or simply talk about life — whatever you and the student enjoy.

You don't need any special training or certification. If you can spend one hour a week, arranged around your needs and the school's schedule; you may be able to start participating in a School-Based Mentoring program this fall!



## You can make a mark.

**A child with a Big Brother or Big Sister is:**

- **46%** less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- **52%** less likely to skip school
- **33%** less likely to hit someone

**Over half improve their school performance. Nearly two-thirds show higher levels of self-confidence.**



## Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Muscatine County

A program of the Muscatine Community Y

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