



## Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor Essex

January 2011

**WINTER**



### *A Message From The Executive Director*

*by John Sutton*

It has been a busy and rewarding year for the BBBSWE team. Not only have we seen transition in leadership as Wendy Leigh enjoys her well-deserved retirement but we've been able to realize some important goals as well. With funding from the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation we were able to resurrect our Group Program. This valuable initiative serves children on our waiting list and provides them

with social and recreational opportunities within a group environment. I can't tell you how thrilled we all are to be able to offer this incredible program.

More good news came our way at the end of August as we received a \$50,000 grant from the Ministry of Education that will help grow and expand our In School Mentoring Program (ISM). Government support and recognition of the value of the ISM program will help

us serve more children and more schools as we move through the year. If you have ever considered becoming a mentor now would be an excellent time to start! It takes only one hour per week and the positive results for the child and for yourself are truly life changing.

Together we do change lives!

On behalf of the staff I want to thank all of you for your ongoing support.

We are busy starting preparations for both our Bowl for Kids Sake and Battle of the Hors D'Oeuvres events. These two fundraisers supplement our core funding received from United Way of Windsor Essex. Remember it is campaign season for United Way. Please give generously and if you have made your donation already our heartfelt thanks.

### **Hold the date for our 2 signature events .....**

#### **2011 Bowl for Kids Sake**

**City Event—Rose Bowl Lanes in Windsor**

Friday, March 4th, 2011—6 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 5th, 2011—3 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Sunday March, 6th, 2011—2:30 p.m.

**County Event—Empire Lanes in Ruthven**

Saturday, February 26th, 2011—1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.



**25th Annual Battle  
of the  
Hors D'Oeuvres**

**Friday, April 29th  
2011 at the  
Ciociaro Club**



## Fund Development

We're moving at full throttle with our Bowl for Kids Sake and Battle of the Hors D'Oeuvres fundraisers and there are many ways you can help out! You can put together a bowling team, attend the Battle, volunteer at either event or on one of the committees. We're always looking to expand our volunteer base and fresh faces and new ideas are always welcome! Please visit [www.bigbrothersbigsisterswe.ca](http://www.bigbrothersbigsisterswe.ca) for further information on these great events!

We also wanted to take a moment to thank the Sisters of St. Joseph for their ongoing support. These wonderful ladies partnered with BBBSWE during the spring of 2010 to offer "Project Hope" and several of our families were beneficiaries of small grants that helped them sow the seeds of hope in their own families. Whether it was a night out for the family, new bedding or art supplies for a child, these gifts went a long way to brighten the outlook of many deserving people.

The Sisters of St. Joseph continue to support BBBSWE through a grant of \$10,000 which will help us expand our group based programming. Because of their generosity, children on our waiting list will be able to receive immediate benefits in our group mentoring programs and we will be able to expand these worthwhile services through our collaborative partners.

### *A quick reminder that we are continuing with the following initiatives:*

Collecting **Zehrs grocery receipts**; we submit them for a pro-rated reimbursement.

**EV's Vending**, quality candy dispensed in a variety of locations. We are always looking for new locations.

Help support Big Brothers Big Sisters by purchasing your **Nevada tickets** at Clancy's Variety on Seminole Street in Windsor and Lynn's Variety in Amherstburg.

If Bingo is your game, head on down to **Paradise Bingo** on Dougall Avenue in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters!

**Congratulations** to the winners of the 'Dare to be a Kid Again' Raffle. The draw was held December 10th, 2010.

1st prize—'Be a Player' Signature Series Hockey Cards—Mike Babechuk

2nd prize— 24 tickets to 12 Spitfire Games—Alysia Brown

3rd prize—Nintendo Wii Sports Resort—Shari Overholt

4th prize—The Magic Closet Theme Party—Clinton Laporte

5th prize—Family Fun & Games at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens—Scott O'Neil

Thank you to everyone who supported Big Brothers Big Sisters by purchasing raffle tickets!

## Program Activity

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** .....

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our Mentoring Programs or Group Program, the first step is to attend an Information Session at our building. The Information Session provides information about the programs that Big Brothers Big Sisters offers and lasts approximately one hour.

*Upcoming sessions will be held on the following dates:*

**Monday, Feb. 14, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Monday, Feb. 28, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2011 @ 10:00 .am.**

**Thursday, March 31, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Please call the office at 519-945-6232 if you would like to sign up for one of the above dates.

We also offer volunteer opportunities in other areas. If you are interested in sitting on a committee, helping with special events, being a bingo volunteer etc. please call the office at 519-945-6232 and we would be glad to assist you.

### *In-School Mentoring...*

A BIG thank-you to the Ministry of Education!!!! Through the funding we received from them this past fall we were again able to hire Kellie Tolton as a second In-School Mentoring Coordinator. This allows our agency to continue to grow and expand the In-School Mentoring Program. Currently there are 15 schools throughout Windsor and Essex County and 89 matches participating in this friendship based program. We look forward to matching many more students in the upcoming months and getting more feedback from the kids such as this one "my friendship with my mentor has brought me joy and happiness".

## Program Activity

### ~ Best Friends Forever ~

Little Sister Tiffany will be 18 years old in February. She will “graduate” from our program at that time. Tiffany has been fortunate to have had Big Sister Kim Battaglia in her life since she was 9 years old. Their history together is unusual in that they met when Kim applied to volunteer to be a Mentor in our In-School Mentoring program. She was matched to Tiffany and for eight months she saw Tiffany one hour/week at Tiffany’s school. When Kim was accepted to Teacher’s College she knew she would not be able to continue as Tiffany’s In-School Mentor. However, because of the relationship she and Tiffany had developed, Kim asked the agency about the possibility of becoming Tiffany’s Big Sister and efforts were made to bring Tiffany into our program as a Little Sister. In July 2003 they were matched as Big and Little Sister. Over the years whenever Kim’s circumstances changed she always seemed to think “Where does Tiffany fit into the picture?” Because of her foresight and the value she placed on their relationship she took the time to find the answer to this question. So after Teacher’s College, when she went off to South Korea to teach for a year, Kim and Tiffany entered a pilot program we were offering at the time, Digital Heroes. They stayed in touch on a weekly basis via email keeping each other up-to-date on the happenings in their life and when Kim returned from South Korea they resumed their Big Sister–Little Sister match as though she had never been gone. Kim is now a teacher in Windsor and married. Tiffany is a young adult with all kinds of hopes and dreams and Kim is there to encourage, support and help Tiffany bring those dreams closer to reality.

These two are like real sisters or as Tiffany once said, Kim is “better than a real sister”. Being the outsider watching them, I see the connection they have. They value the friendship they have. They know what the other is thinking; they can finish one another’s sentences. Kim is definitely the older sister but she seems to easily relate to Tiffany’s world. They have fun together doing “whatever” and they get serious and talk about heavy life stuff that happens to all of us. Kim does not have all the answers (or do you, Kim?) but Tiffany knows Kim is in her corner to support her all the way. If nothing else I am certain Tiffany knows Kim cares about her. Her Big Sister is looking out for her and, I think, will be doing so for a long time after we close their match.

As the caseworker assigned to Kim and Tiffany’s match I have been privileged to know these two fine people and to see how they have made this program work for them. We might have introduced them but they are the ones that built the friendship to what it is today.



## The Focus on Group...

The group program is off to a great start! The boys group recently had the opportunity to tour CKLW and 89X Radio Station. We enjoyed the tour of the station as well as meeting our local celebrities! Afterwards, the group was treated to pizza at Centro Pizzeria on Erie Street, where we learned how to make a pizza in a wood-burning stove! Everyone enjoyed the great food and fun! Our co-ed group recently went on an outing to the Family Fun Centre where they played laser tag as well as some of the video games. One of our Littles was lucky enough to win the “jackpot” playing wheel of fortune! The girls group is focusing on healthy eating and coping strategies. We will be doing our annual dress/clothing exchange in a couple of weeks. If you are interested in donating any gently used items for girls between 11-16 years, please contact Anna at 519-945-6232 ext.14.



## Program Activity...

### *Numbers Don't Tell The Whole Story!*

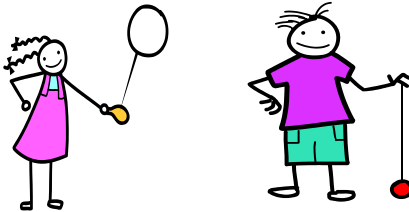
Thank you is extended to our **88 matched Big Brothers and Big Sisters!**

Numbers don't tell the whole story. In your case, they're only a fraction! Thanks for doing a great job!

Congratulations to those celebrating the anniversary of their match and good luck to our new matches and re-matches.

### *Did You Know.....*

- ◆ We have 73 children waiting to be matched to a Big Brother or Sister.
- ◆ We are serving 64 girls between the ages of 12-14 in our Go-Girls Program at 4 elementary schools.
- ◆ We provide 3 on-site group programs at the agency that run between September and May. We served 85 children and youth last year.



## About Big Brothers Big Sisters News

The news is published by Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor Essex as an information service to its members, alumni, supporters and others interested in the work of the agency. For more information about the newsletter contact our office.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Lynd	Joseph Heraldo
Chris Busch	Lindsay Rounding
Stephen Greff	Priya Sehgal
Don McArthur	Ryan Solcz
Jacque Allison	Mark Tesolin
Arthur Barbut	Bob Speroni
Chantelle Foreman	

Our agency serves Windsor & Essex County.

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Website: [www.bigbrothersbigsisterswe.ca](http://www.bigbrothersbigsisterswe.ca)

### AGENCY STAFF

Executive Director John Sutton, Ext. 11

Fund Development Officers

Laura Kay & Danielle Moldovan Ext. 12

Development Officer Philip Diesbourg, Ext. 13

Director of Programs Denes Jakab, Ext. 23

Case Workers Rose Culmone, Ext. 24

Linda Souigny, Ext. 27

Terri Hogan, Ext. 28

Group Work Coordinator Anna Trinca, Ext. 14

In-School Mentoring Coordinators

Ann Glover, Ext. 26

Kellie Tolton, Ext. 25

Office Manager Barbara Browning, Ext. 10

Bookkeeper Candice Phillips, Ext. 22

### Affiliations

Member, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada

Member Agency, United Way/Centraide Windsor  
-Essex County

Volunteers... visit

<http://www.citywindsor.ca/news/eventresultsfull.asp> for events going on in and around the city!

## HELP US BUILD A SOLID FOUNDATION...

Our mission at Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor Essex is to empower children and youth to reach their full potential by providing them support, guidance and mentoring friendship.

Our programs and services meet the needs of over 600 children and their families on an annual basis. Interacting with peers and mentors through group programs, one-to-one matches, fostering self-esteem and enhancing social skills are a few of the programs and benefits. The children we serve have unique needs that require qualified case workers in conjunction with volunteers to create effective change.

Your dollars directly impact the programming for our Little Brothers and our Little Sisters. Our Annual Giving Campaign is a fund resource tool that enhances our efforts to assist our Littles in the Windsor and Essex County area. Your pledge will help build a solid foundation for our organization to continue offering innovative programs now and in the future.

Please make Big Brothers Big Sister Windsor Essex your philanthropic priority to invest in the children of our community. It's as easy as completing this form and either mailing it or faxing it back to our office at the address below. **Or, now you can donate online by going to [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) and choose Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor.**

\$25  \$50  \$100  Monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (All donations over \$10 will receive an income tax receipt)

Please forward to: Big Brothers Big Sisters, 3050 Jefferson Blvd., Windsor ON N8T 3G9

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

For more information about making a donation contact John Sutton, Executive Director, 945-6232 ext. 11 or Philip Diesbourg, Development Officer, ext.13.