

August 2009

Big News!



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central Minnesota

Little Moments. Big Magic. Huge Impact.



Big Brothers Big Sisters' Executive Director is the Recipient of the Prestigious 2009 Pete Rozelle Radio – Television Award

Irv Cross, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN, is the 2009 recipient of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award. The award, given annually by the Pro Football Hall of Fame, recognizes "long-time exceptional contributions to radio and television in professional football."



"This is a real honor. It is humbling. Those that receive this award are top notch. They are all unbelievable broadcasters," according to Irv. This award is a culmination of a life long journey for Irv that started in Ruth Ewing's 5th grade classroom. Ms. Ewing came into Irv's life at the right time. His mom died and his family was very poor. Ms. Ewing provided much needed comfort and guidance. Irv described Ms. Ewing as, "my teacher, my model, my mentor and my friend." Irv started going to the library and getting his homework done, on which he placed little importance before meeting Ms. Ewing. He knew he had to because she would be checking his work the next day. He was a quiet kid who often would go for days without saying anything.

One day Ms. Ewing started a radio station in her classroom, GCR (Good Citizens' Room). Irv was the managing editor. Ms. Ewing encouraged him to open up. Every Friday morning he gave reports about what was going on in the classroom and often did the interviewing for these reports. He broadcasted into a microphone that was a broomstick stuck in a mop bucket filled with sand. By doing this, Irv first started developing his writing and interviewing skills.

He eventually attended Northwestern University and that is where he developed his technique for public speaking. In 1961 he was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles when they were the defending world champions. As a player he started doing public speaking engagements for non-profits at no-charge. At one of these speaking engagements he met Bill Emerson, who was the Sports Director for WIBG. He offered Irv a job as a sports reporter.

While working at the radio station (WIBG), a TV station in Philadelphia (KYW) offered Irv a job in radio and TV as a sports broadcaster for their top rated news show. Irv was then traded to the Los Angeles Rams. As a result of his work at KYW, Irv was offered a job by CBS sports as an NFL Analyst.

Irv was an analyst and commentator for CBS Sports from 1971 to 1994; he became the first African American sports analyst on national television. During this time Irv was also involved in anchoring the Emmy-Award-winning The NFL Today from its inception in 1975 through 1989.

Throughout his broadcasting career Irv never lost contact with the mentors in his life, especially Ms. Ewing. He would call her before every broadcast. He gives Ms. Ewing 100% of the credit for where he is today. "If people take time out to acknowledge kids, it will make a major difference in their lives."

"This award shows you that a 10 year-old, confused, frightened and withdrawn boy, by having a teacher/mentor encourage him, can go a long way in life and win the most coveted broadcasting award of all time. Be a friend, be a mentor and this can happen for millions of kids," according to Irv.

Irv will receive the Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award on Friday, Aug. 7 during the Enshrinees Dinner in Canton, Ohio. The staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN are very proud of Irv for receiving this tremendous honor and for all of his accomplishments.

Match Spotlight – Dennis & Joyce Hummel & Josh

On January 23, 2008, Josh was officially matched with Big Couple, Dennis & Joyce. Josh had actually met Joyce a few years earlier when he was a student in her class. Since they've been matched, their friendship has continued to grow!

Some of their favorite activities of the past year and a half have involved simply hanging out at Dennis and Joyce's home playing pool, making homemade pizza and spaghetti, having picnics, and playing games. They also enjoy watching movies, going to watch the River Bats, and attending high school and college games. From time to time, Dennis and Josh have a "guys night out." Dennis expressed that one of the best experiences they had involved going to the Legion in St. Joe and building bird houses.

Recently, Dennis and Josh joined BBBS for the "Adopt a Street" project, volunteering their time and energy to clean up the 1.5 mile stretch of road that BBBS has committed to keeping clean. (See Photo on Cover) This was Josh's first experience doing an activity like this, so to celebrate, they went out for root beer floats afterward!

Josh thinks Joyce and Dennis are, "fun and funny!" and his mom has expressed that one of the strengths of their match includes Josh having the opportunity to experience a 'family setting' that is different than what he has at home. Joyce and Dennis have opened up their home to deepen a friendship in a simple and yet profound way. Their match is a great example of what "Little Moments, Big Magic" looks like!



Big Couple Dennis & Joyce Hummel with Little Brother Josh on their 1 year anniversary

BowlForKids'Sake®

SAVE THE DATE - Bowl For Kids' Sake 2009!

October 23, 24, and 25 at Granite Bowl South in St. Cloud.

BFKS is one of our major fund-raising events, which we rely on heavily to help fund our programs. The theme for this year's Bowl For Kids' Sake is "Going Green".

Anyone may participate. Interested bowlers may bowl individually or form a team of up to five friends, co-workers, family members, or neighbors, and get pledges for bowling or pledge themselves. Bowlers enjoy free bowling, shoes, and fun while raising money for at-risk kids.

The minimum pledge per bowler is \$25, but we encourage participants to get as many pledges as possible. Bowlers enjoy free bowling, shoes and fun while raising money for our program.

Be a part of the magic! Plan to join us for this fun and rewarding experience. If you are a Big, ask your Little to bowl with you. You can also participate by donating a prize or prizes to be awarded during the event. For more information, contact Shari at swahlin@bbbscentralmn.org or (320) 258-4511.



S.A.F.E. Night (Seeking A Fun Experience)

Come join Big Brothers Big Sisters for a night of EXPERIENCES at the Sartell Police Department (across from the Post Office in Sartell) 310 2nd St. S Sartell, MN 56377.

Who: This experience is for *anyone* involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters

What will you experience?

Come check out the Sartell Police Department and the Sartell Fire Department. St. Cloud Police will be there with a squad car, as well as Gold Cross Ambulance. You can even get finger printed!

Special event: At 7:00 p.m. there will be a special presentation by the Police Canine Squad. You won't want to miss it!

When: Monday, August 17th

Open house from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Make sure you are there at 7:00 p.m. for the special Police Canine Squad presentation.

Please let us know if you are planning on coming, so we know how many to expect. RSVP to Rebecca Hillman (320-258-4513 or rhillman@bbbscentralmn.org) by Monday August 10.

Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship

Two Local Annexstad Scholars Graduate from St. Cloud State University



Brad Dingman, Julie Rethemeier, and Kelly Roering at the SCSU graduation ceremony.

Congratulations to Kelly Roering and Brad Dingman, two former Littles from our agency, who graduated from St. Cloud State University on May 10th, 2009. Both attended college on the Annexstad Family Scholarship. This is a four-year, renewable scholarship that provides support for deserving young men and women who have matured as "Littles" through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. By combining resources from the Annexstad Family Foundation and the specific college or university, the program's goal is to assure funds for tuition, fees, room, board, and books. Kelly received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, Photography and Print Making. Brad received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. Everyone at Big Brothers Big Sisters is very proud of these two former "Littles" and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Julie Rethemeier and Megan Welle at the Cathedral High School awards ceremony.



Megan Welle Named 2009 Annexstad Scholar

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota proudly announces that Megan Welle is a recipient of a four-year renewable college scholarship through the generosity of the Annexstad Family Foundation in partnership with St. Olaf College. Megan is a recent graduate of Cathedral High School and will be attending St. Olaf in the fall. We at Big Brothers Big Sisters are very proud of Megan and we wish her well with her college plans.

The Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship Informational Meeting

On Thursday, August 26th at 6:00 pm at the Big Brothers Big Sisters office there will be an informational meeting regarding the Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship. Any former or current "Little" who is in 10th grade or above is encouraged to attend along with his/her parent/guardian. To sign up, please contact Ann Matvick at (320) 253-1616 or email her at amatvick@bbscentralmn.org. If you are unable to attend, please let Ann know and she will make arrangements to meet with you at a different time.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota would like to thank Al & Cathy Annexstad and their families for providing this amazing opportunity to our Littles. Al is the CEO of Federated Insurance. He and Cathy established this scholarship as a result of their dedication to Big Brothers Big Sisters. We would also like to thank Julie Rethemeier, Director of Public Affairs, Federated Insurance - and our contact person for the scholarship - for all of her hard work and dedication in making this happen for our Littles.

Our Sincere Thanks

Big Brothers Big Sisters extends a warm thank you to Cold Spring Brewing Company for inviting us to be a part of the Cold Spring Brewing Company Golf Tournament and the Cold Spring Fire Fest to help raise money for our programs.

A special thanks to Lynne Crandall, Edina Realty, for all of her help in organizing the food booth at Fire Fest on July 25 and to her crew from St. Cloud Area Association of Realtors for volunteering their time and services at the event.

We would like to thank the following businesses for donating products and/or services for the event:

Cold Spring Brewing Company
St. Cloud Area Association of Realtors
Clearwater American Legion
Flinstones Lounge, Clearwater
Kemps Dairy Products
Pan-O-Gold Baking Company
Creative Catering, Rice

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota will be participating in Oktoberfest in Cold Spring on October 4. Stay tuned for further details!



Match Discounts!

Big Brothers Big Sisters would like to recognize and thank the businesses in our service area that offer a Match Discount to Little Brothers and Little Sisters that are matched with Big Brothers and Big Sisters in our community-based program. These discounts provide opportunities for "Bigs" and "Littles" to share fun, meaningful time together at minimal expense.

Discounts are only applicable when the "Big" and "Little" are participating together. When requesting the discount the Big Brother or Big Sister must present his/her identification card to receive the discount. Please contact Shari at swahlin@bbbscentralmn.org or 320-258-4511 if your business is interested in offering a Match Discount. Check out our website to get more information about our match discount opportunities and to access the Twin Cities Match Discount list. <http://bbbscentralmn.org/pages/volunteer>

Restaurants:

Arby's / Sbarro
E. St. Cloud

Culver's Restaurants
St. Cloud, Waite Park,
Elk River, and Blaine

Dairy Queen
St. Cloud

Erbert & Gerbert's
St. Cloud

Godfather's Pizza
St. Cloud

Grizzly's Wood Fired Grill
Waite Park

Grizzly's Burger Co.
Crossroads Center, St. Cloud

Hemsing's Deli
St. Cloud

House of Pizza
St. Cloud and Sartell

Mexican Village
St. Cloud

Mongo's Grill
St. Cloud

New Hong Kong Buffet
Elk River

Pacific Wok
Sartell

Panera Bread
Elk River

Pizza Hut
Sauk Rapids

Salad Bowl
St. Cloud

Short Stop
St. Cloud

Space Aliens
Waite Park

**SummerLand Family Fun
Park**
St. Cloud

Waldo's Pizza
St. Cloud

**Sports and Recreation:
Angushire Golf Courses**
Waite Park

Becker Community Center
Becker

Blackberry Ridge Golf
Sartell

City View Golf Course
Cold Spring

Cold Spring Lanes
Cold Spring

Crossfire Paintball
St. Cloud

DeI Tone/Luth Gun Club
St. Cloud

Eagle Trace Golfer's Club
Clearwater

Golden Spike Speedway
Sauk Rapids

Golf Source
St. Cloud

**Granite Bowl and
Granite Bowl South**
St. Cloud

**Holiday Inn/
Wild Woods Waterpark**
Mpls NW-Elk River

Holiday Inn
Mpls NW-Elk River

King's Ki Soo Do

Black Belt Academy
St. Cloud

McPete's Bowling Lanes
Big Lake

National Karate
St. Cloud

Professional Karate
Elk River

River City Lanes
Monticello

Sartell Golf Club
Sartell

St. Cloud Area YMCA
St. Cloud

**St. Cloud Center of Tae
Kwon Do**
St. Cloud

**St. Cloud State University
Atwood Recreation Center**
St. Cloud

Suburban Health Club
St. Cloud

H & R Shooting Preserve
Avon

**Movies and Theatre:
Brickhouse Cinema**
Foley

Elk River Theatres
Elk River

GREAT Theatre
St. Cloud

Parkwood 18 Cinema
Waite Park

Quarry Cinema
Cold Spring

**Miscellaneous:
Art As You Like It**
Waite Park

Crafts Direct
Waite Park

Fun City
Elk River

Holiday Inn
Mpls NW-Elk River

JM Speed Stop
All Locations

Royal Tire
St. Cloud and Waite Park

Congratulations to our Dedicated Staff Members

Congratulations to Sharon Harren (Executive Assistant) and Bethany Theisen (Enrollment Coordinator) who recently celebrated their work anniversaries with BBBS in July. Sharon has been with the agency for 15 years and Bethany for 5 years. We are very fortunate to have these talented and amazing individuals on staff. We look forward to having them celebrate many more years with us!

Bethany Theisen



Sharon Harren



Announcements

BBBS Annual Picnic in the Park: Tuesday, August 18 from 5:30-7:30pm



You are invited to our annual picnic at Kiffmeyer Park in St. Augusta. This free event is open to all matches, friends and family. Waiting Littles are also welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There are fields and a playground for fun and games. Please RSVP by Tuesday, August 11 by calling or emailing your case manager. When signing up, please tell us what you would like to share for our pot luck (ex: hot dog buns, veggies, fruits). Rain or Shine.

Elk River's Annual Picnic in the Park



Please join Big Brothers Big Sisters for a summer picnic in the park on Thursday, August 13 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Lion's Park of Elk River. Hot dogs will be provided, but please bring a dish to share. All matches, Bigs, and families are invited to come. Please RSVP to Tabitha by August 11 by calling 320-258-4516, 763-688-0205, or at tkremmin@bbbscentralmn.org. Please indicate how many are coming, and the dish you are planning to bring. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join Us for this Month's Big Social!



Join us at **The Red Carpet Martini Lounge from 4:30-6pm on August 11!** With the purchase of any two drinks of your choice you can have all you can eat of their amazing appetizer bar! This is a great opportunity to relax, meet other Bigs in the program, and bring friends you think would make great Bigs!

Those under 21 are also welcome to join us but must RSVP to Amanda Toppe at 320-258-4538 or atoppe@bbbscentralmn.org.

This is a monthly event happening on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, so mark it on your calendars! It will be a great time and we hope to see you all there!

Evening of Fun in Foley

Please join us for a fun summer activity at Lions Park in Foley on **Thursday, August 13th – 5:30 to 7:00 pm**. This event is open to all matches, friends, and family. The activity will be cancelled if it is raining and we do ask that you RSVP one week prior to the event. (320) 253-1616 or (888) 600-1616.

MAC Skating Arena Passes and Golf Passes

The St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex (MAC) has donated 16 skating arena passes and 20 golf gift passes for our Bigs and Littles. The skating arena passes are good through May 1, 2010 during open sessions. The golf passes are good during the week and weekend throughout the 2009 golfing season.

We are offering these passes to volunteer Big Brothers and Big Sisters who are matched with a Little Brother or Little Sister to use when they are participating together. The pass provides a free session for the Little with a paid session for the Big. Please let your case manager know if you are interested.

Many thanks to the St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex for making this opportunity available!

Celebrating Self Expression

Northern Brights will be offering the workshop *Celebrating Self Expression* for Bigs and Littles in September, which will include creating a journal cover and tips on writing and journaling.

Date: September 12

Time: 11:30-1:30

Location: 707 W Saint Germain Street, St Cloud

Cost: \$6 per journal cover

To sign up for the workshop, please contact your case manager. For further information contact Shari Wahlin at swahlin@bbbscentralmn.org or 320-258-4511.



Anniversaries

7 years:

Scott Foster & Derek

6 years:

Jason Hartsworm & Dallas

5 years:

Ralph Claussen & Elijah

Alicia Bertram & Sami

3 years:

Ryan Goman & Jordan

2 years:

Jeanne Awendt & Lindsey

David Schlough & Jason

1 year:

Melissa Gerlach & Jaivion

Mark DeVetter & Billy

Cassandra Brix & Samantha

Shari Wahlin & Kirsten

New Community Matches

Joe Everson & Jammie

Brittany Fisher & Chasidan

Emily Ewing & Monica



Above BS Jeanne Awendt and LS Lindsey. The photo was taken at the Bowling Activity at McPete's. They are celebrating their 2 year anniversary!



Left: BB Ryan Goman and LB Jordan enjoying a Twins Game. They have been matched for 3 years.

Right: BS Emily and LS Monica on the day of their match



Thank You to McPete's

A huge thank you to McPete's Sports Bar and Lanes of Big Lake for donating free bowling and mini-golf to our matches on July 8th, 2009! Our matches had a wonderful time!

McPete's will also be hosting the ABATE Challenge Bowl For Kids' Sake fund-raising event on Sunday, October 11, 2009 and donating free bowling. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support McPete's provides for Big Brothers Big Sisters!



BS Lani Grafelman & LS Breanna



Left: BS Katie Hendrickson & LS Audrey



Left: BS Billie Eliszewski & LS Jazzmine



Right: BS Courtney Hansen & BB Cody Eischen

Congrats to Graduating Littles

Congratulations to the following matches who will no longer "technically" be a match with our agency because the "Little" graduated from high school and/or has recently turned 18 and has "aged out of our program". We are confident they will continue to be life-long friends and will forever be a part of our Big Brothers Big Sisters family.

BS Janna Schimnich and LS Tiffany – matched for 6 years

BB James Peitz and LB Jim – matched for 5 years

BS Aurora Peterson and LS Sam – matched for 3 years

BB Brandt Hinton and LB Tony – matched for almost 2 years

Big Couple Mark and Christine Mueller and LB Kevin – matched for 8 years

BB Jim Price and LB Josh – matched for 9 years

BS Rachelle Wirtzfeld and LS Kallie – matched for almost 5 years

We wish these "Littles" the best of luck with all of their future pursuits. We would also like to thank these Bigs for their commitment and dedication to Big Brother Big Sisters and especially to their Littles. They are the heartbeat of what our agency is all about--building long lasting friendships. Thank you!

Exciting Program Changes at Big Brothers Big Sisters

To better serve all of you, we have decided to make changes to how our program staff is structured. Instead of having our Case Managers perform a variety of roles (such as enrollment and match support) across all programs (community-based, school-based and site-based) they will now specialize in certain areas. The biggest benefit of this change is that our staff will have more time to spend on their particular role and become an expert in that role and as a result we will be able to provide better customer service to all of you, which is our main goal. Along with these role-transitions come changes in titles and duties for our program staff. We have also added two new program staff. These changes will go into effect on August 1, 2009. Below is a description of each program staff's new duties.



Rebecca Hillman – School-Based Coordinator

Rebecca is responsible for coordinating our school-based programs at Westwood Elementary, North Junior High, Apollo High School, Upsala schools and Kennedy Elementary (grades 5th – 8th).

Shannon Giffin – School-Based Coordinator

Shannon is responsible for coordinating our school-based programs at Lincoln Elementary, South Junior High, Oak Hill Elementary and Sauk Rapids schools.



Liza Hibbard– School & Site-Based Coordinator

Liza is responsible for coordinating our school-based programs at Talahi Elementary, Sartell schools and our site-based program at the Southside Boys and Girls Club.

Nathan Sindt– School & Site-Based Coordinator

Nathan is responsible for coordinating our site-based program at Bel Clare Estates and our school-based programs at Discovery Elementary and Kennedy Elementary (grades K-4th).



Bethany Theisen– Enrollment Coordinator

Bethany is responsible for volunteer enrollment (all programs) and client enrollment (community-based) and coordinating our school-based program in Rocori.

Angela Fischer – Enrollment Coordinator

Angela is responsible for volunteer enrollment (all programs) and client enrollment (community-based), coordinating our school-based program at Foley Intermediate School and will share duties at Foley High School with Ann. Angela is new to our staff. Please check out next month's newsletter for Angela's bio.



Tabitha Kremmin– Match Support Coordinator

Tabitha is responsible for match support within our community-based program and coordinating our school-based programs in Elk River, Zimmerman and Big Lake schools.

Louis Biondo – Match Support Coordinator

Louis is responsible for match support within our community-based program and planning match activities. Louis is new to our staff and is filling a position vacated by Jessie Layman. Please check out our newsletter next month for Louis's bio.



Amber Horton – Match Support Coordinator

Amber is responsible for match support within our community-based program and planning match activities. Amber is new to our staff. Please check out next month's newsletter for Amber's bio.

Ann Matvick – Program Director

Ann is responsible for coordinating our school-based program at Foley Elementary and will share duties at Foley High School with Angela. She is also responsible for overseeing the program staff.



We are very excited about these changes and being able to better serve all of you. If you have any questions regarding any of these changes or if you have any suggestions/ideas on how we can better serve you, please contact Ann Matvick @ amatvick@bbbscentralmn.org or (320) 258-4517.



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Summer Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 to 4:30

Friday
8:00 - 12:00

These hours are effective
through Labor Day weekend.

Current Resident or

To contact us or to remove
your address:

www.bbbscentralmn.org

320-253-1616

Toll-free: 1-888-600-1616



Buy a Burrito to Benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters



During the entire month of August, Qdoba is offering an "Awesome August" fundraising opportunity to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota. For each and every burrito (any kind) that you purchase at Qdoba Mexican Grill (St. Cloud location only) during the month of August, Qdoba will donate \$1.00 back to Big Brothers Big Sisters of central Minnesota.

The certificate must be presented at the time of purchase in order for Big Brothers Big Sisters to receive the kick-back donation. This certificate can be used any day/any time at the St. Cloud Qdoba Mexican Grill (3219 W Division St). You may copy or reproduce the certificate and use it multiple times.

Visit our website for more information and to access the certificate: www.bbbscentralmn.org

GREAT FOOD, GREAT CAUSE.



HELP BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS WITH QDOBA MEXICAN GRILL
AUGUST 1 – 31, 2009

Mark your calendars and support a great cause! Bring this flyer, and with your purchase of any regularly priced Burrito, Qdoba Mexican Grill of St Cloud will donate \$1.00 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota.



Valid only at Qdoba, 3219 W Division St, St Cloud, Mn, Aug. 1 – 31, 2009. Not valid with any other offers.

Valid at select locations only. Qdoba, Mexican Grill, and other are participating in one of Qdoba's new regional restaurants of Qdoba Mexican Grill ©2009