



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Fayette County

P.O. Box 520

Connersville, IN 47331-0520

Dear Board of Directors and Fayette County,

As I reflect on the accomplishments of the last year I am nothing less than astonished by all the improvements and advancements we have made together at Big Brothers Big Sisters. We created a new website to inform the public of our services, we updated and improved our Program Manual, we created a facebook page for the organization and produced many videos on youtube to help people keep in touch, we conducted an extremely successful Great Wolf Lodge raffle sale, the Connersville Firefighters raised a large amount of donations for us at their Boot Drive, we held our first Thanksgiving party this year, The Lions helped us provide Christmas presents to the children in need and we celebrated with a very joyous party afterwards, we started a school-based mentoring program, we took our wait-listed children to see an Indiana Ice game, we had our most successful Bowl for Kids' Sake that could have been imagined, and we received grants from Duke Energy, Fayette County Foundation, the Combined Federal Campaign and an unprecedented donation from the Fayette County Federation of Teachers among others. But at our highest point, the biggest accomplishment of all was being able to double the amount of matches we have in Fayette County and encourage and support more individuals to be volunteer mentors to our youth. That makes the most direct and meaningful influence on these kids and I am so glad we were able to bring them that opportunity and interaction with a special friend.

It is hard to believe that so much could happen in one year, but I believe all of these were accomplished by a unified team effort. We have been motivated and inspired as individuals and organizations to recognize the importance of Big Brothers Big Sisters and to give back to one of our most vital community resources. Our children really are our future and I can think of no better investment than to acknowledge their importance and support their development to being the most successful adults they can be.

As we approach my 1-year anniversary as Executive Director I am truly humbled to see what a great difference we have already made and am extremely optimistic about where we could go in the future. It is with this in mind that I would like to pass the baton to a highly motivated, enthusiastic and original woman who will be leading the Big Brothers Big Sisters forward on our path to success. I believe Nitasha Coles is the perfect individual to continue to encourage and enhance the organization and the services we offer to Fayette County.

I will greatly miss the organization and especially the wonderful children that we serve, but my life path is taking me to different horizons and I must follow. If there is but one message I would like to send to our children, it is to never give up and to always be striving for greatness. Despite graduating from high school and college I have realized that in order to truly feel fulfilled in life and to give back to people in the extent that I have dreamed of, I will need to pursue my Master's degree in Social Work. This is not something that has ever been asked or required of me, but I let my own internal motivation drive me to seek out the very best I can obtain in life. I hope our young people do not settle for anything less than what they want and deserve. Always keep trying, always keep pushing and never give up on your dreams.

I believe the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fayette County is in sturdy and responsible hands in our Board of Directors and new Executive Director and I will continue to support and guide them as they transition into this new stage. Thank you for being such a big part of my life and best of luck as you move forward.

Lauren Feierstein Keeley
Former Executive Director