



Big Brothers Big Sisters Big News

Christmas Shopping Event

By Lauren Feierstein

This year we have had many new children enroll in Big Brothers Big Sisters and few drop out due to age or disinterest. This year the Lions will be sponsoring our Christmas Shopping event and will only be able to fund 45 children. Children 16 years of age or older will not be eligible and unfortunately Big Brothers Big Sisters does not have the money to include this group.

We will be shopping at K-Mart and Wal-Mart at 9:00 on December 12th. Families will be assigned a location to receive their gift cards. If you have a preference for a location we will try to accommodate you. Children will shop with an adult volunteer or Lions member and transportation will be provided to the Christmas party afterwards.

You MUST call our office well in advance of the December 12th event or you may not have a spot reserved for your child in the Christmas Shopping. Everyone is invited to attend the party at 11:00 at The Pizza Place but only 45 children will have reserved spots to receive Christmas gifts from the Lions.

Please make yourself available to our staff as we work to accommodate families. Let us know if you would like to volunteer to shop with the children or help out at the party afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there.

Have a happy Holidays

Raffle Ticket Sales

The Great Wolf Lodge Raffle ticket sales are coming to a conclusion. The winner will be announced this Saturday, December 5th at noon. If you would like a last minute ticket you can feel free to call our office and pay online or mail a check. So far we have raised \$2,276 but are trying to reach our goal of \$3,000. Please help us fund more matches for children in need.

The winner of the raffle will receive 1 night's stay in a family suite at Great Wolf Lodge and \$340 to spend while they're there. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. If you were responsible for selling tickets we need them back as soon as possible. Our staff will be contacting you shortly.

Dec 1, 2009

Highlights:

- Christmas Shopping Event 12/12/09
- Raffle ticket sales
- Thanksgiving Party
- School-based mentoring program

Upcoming:

- Christmas event sponsored by the Lions 12/12 at 9:00
- School mentoring begins Jan 1st
- Bowl for Kid's Sake March 7th, 2010

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Thanksgiving Party Success

Big Brothers Big Sisters held their first Thanksgiving Party this past November 25th from 6-8pm.

Pat Garrow and Donna Handley provided all the food. Representatives from the Jarvis Chapman family were in attendance to serve food to our parents, children and volunteers.

The Community Education Coalition provided crafts and activities for the children to do and everyone had fun.

The event was a huge success with many volunteers having an

opportunity to meet and talk with potential Little Brothers and Sisters.

Due to the support from outside individuals and organizations, the party was accomplished at no-cost and minimal effort from our staff allowing us to focus on our main goal of matching children up with mentors.

Thank you for everyone who came out and helped with the event. We hope to continue events like these in the future and photos will be available on the web at:

<http://bbbsfayette.org/Album.html>



School-based Mentoring Program

Some high school volunteers have signed up for our January After-school mentoring program, but we need a lot more.

Volunteers who are in high school or beyond are invited to Maplewood Elementary for one hour each week. The Link's program there runs from 2:30-5:30 Monday-Friday and the mentors will show up at their convenience as long as they meet regularly with their Little.

This partnership with the Link will allow more children to be matched up with mentors and their matches may be

extended past the school year into the summer or Fall semesters.

Parents who are interested in having their child get a school mentor need to sign up for the Link's program as well as complete paperwork with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Try to get these in as soon as possible because only 5 children and volunteers will be selected for the Spring semester.

Applications are available at <http://bbbsfayette.org/EnrollBig.htm> or by contacting our office.

“Little moments creating Big Magic at Big Brothers Big Sisters.”