



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Metro Milwaukee

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Partnership
Profile:
Milwaukee Bucks



Mission
Accomplished



Community-based
Mentoring:
Experiencing New
Opportunities



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NEWSLETTER

SPRING
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COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING: EXPERIENCING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING IS ONE OF OUR THREE SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS, ACCOUNTING FOR 47% OF THE CHILDREN WE SERVE. Children and volunteer mentors meet weekly for activities and outings that build confidence, encourage healthy choices, and promote educational success. This service delivery model allows matches to freely tailor their outings to fit their personal interests, so children can experience new opportunities that help shape their future life and career choices.



Children in Community-based Mentoring

- 82% of the children are African-American, Asian, or Hispanic/Latino
- 83% are eligible for free or reduced price lunch
- 82% come from a single-parent household
- 25% have an incarcerated parent

Community-based Volunteers

- Since the time and day matches meet is determined by the child, their parents, and the mentor, this service delivery option offers a great deal of flexibility to accommodate busy work schedules of volunteers.
- Community-based volunteers come from all stages of life, providing a wide variety of career and life backgrounds to create longer, stronger matches based on shared personalities and interests.
- Volunteer mentors make at least a two year commitment to our mentoring program and the children they serve.

EXPLORING THE SCIENCE OF NATURE



RECREATION:

Our matches participate in fun and exciting outdoor activities and adventures. Events at the Urban Ecology Center encourage outdoor exploration in any and every season—capped off with s'mores around a bonfire in the summer or a nice mug of hot cocoa in the winter.

REACH IS BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS' CURRICULUM-BASED PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT; IT PROVIDES MENTORING MATCHES WITH STAFF-PLANNED AND SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES THAT MEET CRITICAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMPETENCIES IN FIVE AREAS. One of our many valued community partners is the Urban Ecology Center, whose purpose is to get people outside and help them engage in hands-on learning and adventures.

EDUCATION:

Each and every event at the Urban Ecology Center focuses on the sciences in a way that makes learning memorable and engaging. Children learn about aquatic biology by dipping their nets into the pond and getting a close-up look at some of the plant, animal, and insect life they find. The chemistry behind one

of our favorite breakfast condiments comes to life as matches collect sap and learn that it becomes maple syrup. Wilderness workshops teach GPS and map-reading skills.

ARTS AND CULTURE:
Creativity abounds with hands-on activities like making recycled paper and building outdoor shelters.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Our annual Earth Day event at the Urban Ecology Center allows matches to give back to their community by volunteering their time and energy in an environmental clean-up activity.

HEALTH AND FITNESS:

Matches exercise their bodies by going cross-country skiing, canoeing, or hiking. Activities at the Urban Ecology Center encourage children and adults to try new skills that they can continue on their own.

Pictured above: REACH activities at the Urban Ecology Center encourage scientific study, healthy living, and plenty of fun.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



Join Big Brothers Big Sisters on **Monday, August 13** at North Hills Country Club. Each golf foursome is joined by an NFL Alumni player. Proceeds support our mentoring programs for 1,400 children in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. Go to bbbsmilwaukee.org/golf to learn more about this great golf outing.



Along with caring families, dedicated volunteer mentors, committed schools and community partners, generous donors, and well-qualified professional staff, we are all **Facing the Future Together** to give Metro Milwaukee youth the opportunity to realize their full potential. Save the date: **Saturday, November 3** at The Pfister Hotel. Learn more at bbbsmilwaukee.org/gala.



Big Brothers Big Sisters' partnership with the Milwaukee Bucks is a slam dunk for children in our community!

PARTNERSHIP PROFILE: MILWAUKEE BUCKS

THE MILWAUKEE BUCKS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR METRO MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY— AND AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT PARTNER WITH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS!

Generous financial support from the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation underwrites our School-based mentoring program, in which volunteers mentor students at one of twelve partner elementary schools in our community. The Foundation also supports our mentor2.0 program, in which high school youth who are low-income and first generation college students are matched with college-educated mentors to promote high school graduation, college readiness, and post-secondary success. Mentors work with students beginning their freshman year of high school and through their first year after graduation.

The Milwaukee Bucks also provide in-kind donations from game tickets to Bucks merchandise to facility rentals for basketball workshops. Our annual "Dream Big with the Milwaukee Bucks" Event opens matches' eyes to a world of career possibilities in the sports community, and reminds youth that character and perseverance off-the-court are just as important as practicing on-the-court skills.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is fortunate to have the Bucks' Vice President, Strategy & Operations Alex Lasry on our Board of Directors. We have also been fortunate to work with Bucks guard Khris Middleton on a number of REACH activities for our Community-based matches.

We are excited to partner with the Bucks team and the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation in support of education, positive youth outcomes, and long-term success. Our partnership is changing the lives of children all over Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

WHAT DOES A BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MATCH DO WHEN THEY SPEND TIME TOGETHER? ASK SOMEONE THIS QUESTION, AND YOU MIGHT HEAR ANSWERS LIKE "GO TO A MUSEUM," "PLAY BASKETBALL," "LISTEN TO MUSIC," OR "GO FOR A BIKE RIDE." IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVE ONE-ON-ONE ACTIVITIES, DOING THINGS THE BIG AND LITTLE BOTH ENJOY. BUT MENTORING IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

When Kevin—a young professional with a Master's degree in finance—learned about Big Brothers Big Sisters' need for male mentors, he felt he could make a difference. He was matched late last summer with Del, a 14-year-old freshman who attends an MPS high school. Right away, Del and Kevin set three goals. Kevin would help Del build better study skills, choose healthy relationships, and make good decisions.

While working toward these goals, Kevin and Del often grab a bite to eat and work on homework together. They have tailgated at a Brewers' game, met Bucks guard Khris Middleton, learned about invisible energy at a Discovery World workshop, and engaged in teamwork and problem solving to free themselves from an escape room. Throughout these activities, they are building their relationship while balancing fun activities with a focus on academics.

"Things have been going great!" said Kevin, adding that Del has started contacting him during the week to talk about school. "He's reaching out to me on his own to tell me how he's doing: An A in science class, how he's excited about the semester..."

To further motivate Del to build upon his study skills and make good decisions about schoolwork, Kevin offered a big reward: if Del could achieve a 3.5 GPA, the pair would take a day trip to Chicago. And the result?

"Chicago was a ton of fun!" Kevin said. "We saw some really cool cars, went on top of the John Hancock building, saw Millennium Park and The Bean, and got lunch. It was just fantastic."

With Kevin's support and encouragement, Del worked hard and accomplished his short-term goal. He is well on his way to meeting his long-term goals and enjoying a successful future.



“He’s reaching out to me on his own to tell me how he’s doing: An A in science class, how he’s excited about the semester...”



Little Brother Del and Big Brother Kevin are working together to accomplish their match goals.