

little BIG BULLETIN

HAPPY APRIL! April has many wonderful things about it and the word April actually is from Aprtire, which means "to open." This refers to all the trees and flowers that begin to open and blossom in April. "April showers bring May flowers." During April we also celebrate April Fool's Day, Easter, Passover, Milwaukee Day on 4/14, Earth Day and, very importantly, Volunteer Appreciation Month!

We want all of our volunteers to know how much we value you. How can we ever thank you enough for all the time and resources you share with your Little?

Gracias, Merci, Grazie, Danke, Toda Raba, Shi Shi, Xixie, Us tsauy, Bedankl, Obrigado, Tesekkuler! These are just a few other ways to thank you in other languages.

To our Parents/Guardians and Littles: please remember to thank your Big this month in whatever way you can. Here are some ideas: Call or text them a simple "thank you," write a thank you card, draw a picture of thanks, next time you see them tell them what they mean to you, or send them a picture of your family and include a special message.

90,000 HOURS **\$2.6 MILLION**

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2021, our volunteers donated nearly 90,000 hours of their time to BBBS, which equates to \$2.6 million dollars!

Big Brothers Big Sisters appreciates and thanks all of our volunteers.

MATCH SPOTLIGHT



Jason was a diminutive six-year-old when he first met his volunteer Big Brother Jon. Eight years later, this Little Brother is no longer so little. "Jason went from being half my height to now being about five inches taller than me!" Jon said.

As Jason has grown physically, his personality, his character, and his relationship with his mentor have grown and developed, too. Jon attributes the longevity of their match to this simply being a consistent presence in Jason's life. Jason agrees that they never worry about "what are we going to do when we meet." Instead, it's "when are we hanging out" that's important.

"It's amazing how much of an impact my Little has had on my life."
-Jon, Big Brother

MATCH-A-VERSARIES

1 YEAR

Cameron + Magan
Izayah + Micah
Jessie + Emma
Jody + Naomi
Kailyn + Na'Coria
Margaret + Makenzie
Michael + Tramone
Simone + Anabelle
Yulia + Charisma

3 YEARS

Carolyn + Lizbeth
Destiny + Myra
Kayla + Paris
Matt + Rubyn
Michael + D'Caden
Timeka + Charity

4 YEARS

James + Lweh Law
Kayla + Journey
Mark + Tyler
Mary + Denairis
Megan + Jordyn
Rafael + Shawndell

6 YEARS

Emily + Madalynn
Tram, Adrian + Yakee

7 YEARS

Benjamin, Erin + Elliott
Bridgette + Miracle
Molly + Fayth

8 YEARS

Elizabeth + Ember

9 YEARS

Valeria + Liliiana

10 YEARS

Rachel + Natalie

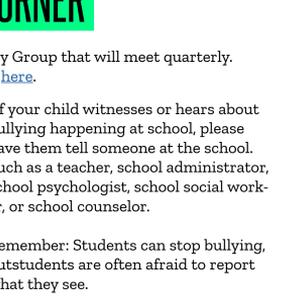
MATCH MAGIC

NEW MATCHES FROM MARCH

Aidan + Anthony
Alexandra + Heidi
Alonso + Edwin
Amanda + Chamia
Amy + Alayah
Andrew + Austin
Andrew + Zaire
Ashlie + Aaliyah
Brandon + Malike
Brooke + Jazmine
Carl + Sebastian
Cinthia + Adriana
Connor + Gianni
Donovan + Giovanni
Estaban + Derek
Gina + Keira
James + Joshua
Jayson + Adrian

John + Isaiiah
Jovon + Dari
Juru + Samantha
Kamryn + Ny'Alia
Kathryn + Tomiyah
Luis + KeyMone
Mark + Sweet
Max + Eh Ku Ku
Mickey + Steven
Mitchell + Balmoris
Mitchell + Edwin
Naomi + Janice
Nathan + Alejandro
Nathaniel + Alexander
Pedro + Diego
Rees + Olbin
Ryan + Victor

Samuel + Esdras
Tenwosa + Landen
Tiffany + Alayah
Wesley + Alexis
Will + Sweet



NEW MATCHES OF MILWAUKEE FIRE CADETS & STUDENTS OF VIEUAU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PARENT/GUARDIAN CORNER

Reminder: We are forming a Parent's Advisory Group that will meet quarterly. If you are interested - please join! Contact us [here](#).

TACKLING BULLYING

Milwaukee Public Schools defines bullying as behavior (words or actions) done on purpose to cause fear or harm. Bullying may be repeated behavior. Bullying involves unequal power such as size, age, group size, or popularity.

Here are a few things you can do to prevent bullying:

- Talk to your child about bullying, and help them understand the definition of bullying.
- Explain to your child the difference between tattling and reporting.
- Encourage your child to report anything they see that appears harmful or dangerous.

If your child witnesses or hears about bullying happening at school, please have them tell someone at the school. Such as a teacher, school administrator, school psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor.

Remember: Students can stop bullying, but students are often afraid to report what they see.

Help your child understand the difference between tattling and reporting. Tattling is defined as telling in order to get someone else in trouble. Reporting is being telling to protect someone who is being hurt or is in a dangerous situation.

For more info download the free KnowBullying app from SAMHSA (iPhone and Android)

PARENT ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Dinos & Donuts

Join us at the Milwaukee Public Museum for a day of fun and exploration!

WHEN: Saturday, April 23, 10:00am-1:00pm (Open house style)

WHERE: Milwaukee Public Museum: 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee 53233



Highlights of the day:

- Free Admission to the museum
- Annual memberships for non-members
- A scavenger hunt to explore the museum
- Donuts and refreshments
- Ticket opportunities and raffle prizes
- Family photos

Teenagers are welcome! [Employ Milwaukee](#) will be present to share information about the Earn to Learn summer program. This is a great program for high school students to learn skills needed to enter the workforce.

REGISTER AT ONE LINK BELOW

If you received a membership from BBBS or are already a museum member: [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Non-MPM member: [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

REACH-ON-THE-GO RECAP

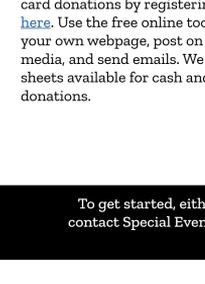
FEBRUARY EXPLORE THE ARTS



MARCH DOMES & DESSERT



MENTORING TIP OF THE MONTH



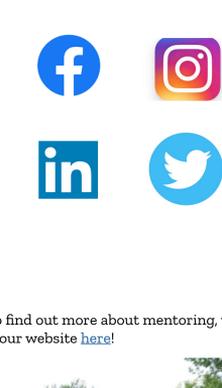
CONNECTING IN PERSON AT PICK UP AND DROP OFF IS NOT ONLY A PROGRAM GUIDELINE, BUT GIVES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE UPDATES WITH YOUR LITTLE'S PARENT/GUARDIAN! WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONNECT AT THESE TIMES AND CONTINUE BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER!

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

Gather a group of friends, family or co-workers and get ready to HAVE FUN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR LOCAL CHILDREN! Bowl for Kids' Sake begins on April 5 and runs through May 19. Each match is asked to raise a minimum of \$100 in support of the children we serve. That's just five pledges of \$20 each!

It's easy to raise money. Collect credit card donations by registering online [here](#). Use the free online tools to create your own webpage, post on social media, and send emails. We have pledge sheets available for cash and check donations.

Big Brothers Big Sisters will provide two games of bowling, shoes, pizza, soda, lane games and prizes! Visit our [website](#) to get a complete list of event dates. Hope to see you on the lanes!



To get started, either register online: [bbbsmilwaukee.org/BFKS2022](#) or contact Special Events Coordinator Nancy Bong at (414) 831-4580 or email: [nbong@bbbsmilwaukee.org](#)

BIG ADVISORY GROUP

The BAG members are working hard to spread the word about Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Thank you to: Matt Arend, Keith Chmielewski, Anton Ducan, Jody Graves, Chris Faherty, Charles Green Jr., Sara Green, Carolyn Hammer, Alexis Holland, Samara Kluever, Alyssa Knight, Yulia Koltun, Dr. Prapti Kuber, Robert Owusu-Mireku, Megan Pokrandt, Taylor Schoenike, Vonne Skannal and Andrew Worley.

*Apologies to Yulia for our last publication excluding her name



If you are interested in joining, please contact kmiller@bbbsmilwaukee.org!

LITTLE BIG CHATS PODCAST

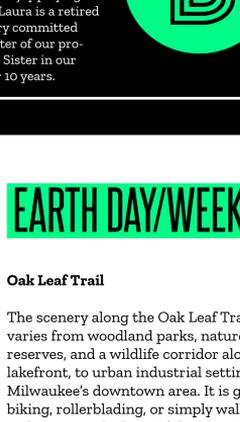
EPISODE TWO: KEITH & KJ

Keeping an Open Mind and Having Adventures:

This episode covers rock climbing and cross country skiing, both of which gave KJ the courage to explore a career in the trades!

Available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify!

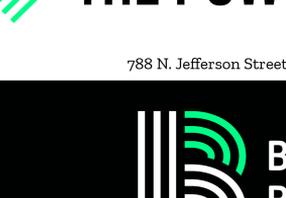
Click [here](#) for more info.



MARKETING NEWS

Our President and CEO, Amy Chionchio, got to join The Morning Blend! She was able to discuss our mission here at BBBS of Metro Milwaukee, and chat about our Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser.

Follow us on social media! Word of mouth and referrals from you are our best marketing strategies!



RECRUITMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

We always need more male volunteers and girl mentees. WHY, you ask? Women volunteer about 3 times more than males. This is a national trend, not just in Milwaukee. Also, more boys are signed up by parents in general than girls, so we have an imbalance. With more than 300 youth on our waitlist, our team feels a strong sense of urgency to recruit more volunteers.

If you know someone who would make a good mentor, please refer them to BBBS! Or if you know of a girl that would benefit from mentoring, please refer our program to her parents/guardians.

To find out more about mentoring, visit our website [here](#)!

2022 MATCHES OF THE YEAR

Each year our team nominates matches that exemplify a strong and powerful mentoring relationship. It was extremely hard to narrow down the candidates because we have SO many amazing matches. This year we are honored to announce the 2022 Matches of the Year!

KEITH & KJ

This awesome Community-based match has been together for six years and enjoy rock climbing, cooking, watching movies and sports and playing basketball. KJ is now a senior at Kingdome Prep Lutheran and plans a career in the trades. Keith works in accounting at Ernst & Young and said, "I went into the program wanting to change the world and now I think it's my world that's been changed."



MORGAN & LAURA

Morgan is a 6th grader at MacDowell Montessori School and has been matched with Laura since 2017. Over the years, Morgan has improved her organizational skills, attitude and school work. At the beginning, most of their time was spent doing homework, but now they enjoy playing board games and doing crafts. Laura is a retired MPS teacher and has been a very committed Big Sister and longtime supporter of our program. Previously, she was a Big Sister in our Community-based program for 10 years.

RYLEIGH & PRAPTI



This mentor2.0 match has been matched for two years. They love to spend time together, and at their mentor2.0 events, they're often the last match to leave. Ryleigh is a senior at MacDowell Montessori High School and is part of the dual MacDowell/MATC program where she takes classes at MATC for college credit. Ryleigh plans to go into the medical field. Prapti is the Medical Director at Well-Path and also works in addiction recovery at Addiction Medical Solutions.



EARTH DAY/WEEK

Urban Ecology Center Events

Celebrate the Earth by volunteering in our greenspaces April 23-30, during Earth Week! We recognize and celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd, but then let's get to work! While some projects are already planned, weather and soil conditions change so we are unable to determine at this time what each project will be. Keep checking here or on our calendar for details. Click [here](#) to register.

Oak Leaf Trail

The scenery along the Oak Leaf Trail varies from woodland parks, nature reserves, and a wildlife corridor along the lakefront, to urban industrial settings in Milwaukee's downtown area. It is great for biking, rollerblading, or simply walking and enjoying the beautiful paths! The path is free, and it is family and pet friendly.



THE POWER OF ONE.

788 N. Jefferson Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202

