Lake Area Big Brothers Big Sisters **Overview**… December 2011

2011…50% Growth from 26 to 39 active matches

The Problem…In the Lake area, a typical Little Brother or Little Sister lives in a single family or relative's home, often a trailer down a gravel road…frequently these kids lead a lonely TV, Computer or Game stimulated daily life, without extracurricular school activities due to their only transportation being the school bus. Reality can be significantly blurred by their limited environment compounded by the typical peer pressure experiences of 8 – 14 year olds. It's not unusual to learn that some kids have never explored life beyond the Lake Area…..**The Solution**…Volunteer Big Brothers or Big Sisters spend about 1 hour per week mentoring, teaching, sharing and being a special friend to their LITTLES through activities that there is more to the world.

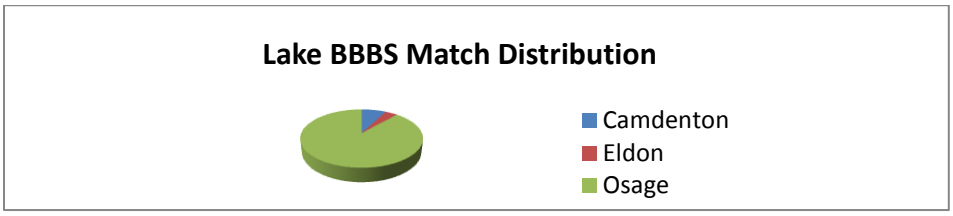
In-school Match program…defined as weekly visits with their Littles during the school day at their school. Until 2011 the in-school program at the School of the Osage started fresh each year after the graduation of many of the BIGS. This school year we have managed to double the number of Matched Children by adding BIGS from the sophomore class. These Matches will continue for multiple years providing continuous mentoring and improved relationships.

Community Match program…defined as Adult Volunteers over 18. These volunteers have passed more rigorous background checks in order to permit picking their Littles up at their homes, taking them to expanded outings like Scouts, area festivals, boating, hobbies, volunteering , eating out or learning skills that they have not previously been exposed to.

Brief History: Lake Area Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS), was established by dedicated volunteers in 2001, to serve Miller & Camden Counties. BBBS operates as a satellite of the Jefferson City BBBS often "begging and borrowing" their leadership, staff and resources. Most of the success can be attributed to volunteers and dedicated school counselors that seek adult help for hurting kids.

Mission and Concept: Big Brothers Big Sisters of America reaches out to children ages 5 to 15 who need additional support, guidance, and encouragement. Our matches are effective because professional staff ensure that the relationships are safe and rewarding for everyone involved. Our mission is to positively influence the lives of these children by matching them with caring and committed volunteers. National research reveals that Littles are more likely to show positive behaviors in school and at home than children that are not matched with a Big….The concept is simple. The child is matched with a stable and positive person who serves as a special friend and role model. The Big Brother or Sister is *not* a substitute parent or babysitter. The child is given the chance to establish a one-to-one relationship with a friend who can be looked up to. Think back on your own childhood. Who was that special person, other than a parent, who brought a little magic into your life? Bigs are that person for a child, creating wonderful memories for themselves, and their Littles……studies show that mentoring really works…

- 46% less likely to start using drugs
- 27% less likely to consume alcohol
- 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school
- 30% less likely to engage in violent behavior
- More trusting of parents or guardians, less likely to lie to parents and more likely to perform better in school



Recent story on KOMU-TV…

> COLUMBIA - The executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri said Wednesday the agency now has a waiting list of 200 people to pair with mentors. Georgalu Swoboda said most of the waiting list is made up of boys because there are not enough males volunteering their time. Many single parents in the area enroll their children in the program in hope of having a male influence for boys who are lacking a male presence in their life.
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> Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri currently has male-dominated advertisements, but still does not receive the number of male volunteers it needs to empty the waiting list.
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> "At the rate we are receiving volunteers right now, it takes anywhere from a year to a year and a half to find someone a big brother or big sister," said Swoboda.

Currently six (6) children are waiting in the Lake Schools, that have met all the requirements except finding and screening appropriate Bigs (adult volunteers) to be a MATCH.. Many more children in the area likely qualify for a BB or BS, especially when you consider the high percentage (average 65%) of local kids that qualify economically for the Federal School lunch program and also live in non-traditional households.

Current Budget: Lake BBBS operates on approximately $25,000 – 30,000 each year, all raised locally (details are available). There are no United Way or other "city-wide" philanthropic central agencies to help. Lake BBBS is supported by Kiwanis, Rotary, Christmas for Kids, Banks, Restaurants, Marinas as corporate sponsors, plus generous individual donors. The majority of the funds raised by volunteers is through Bowl for Kids Sake, Trivia Nights, Bootleggers dedicated nights and Baxter's Appreciation night. Office space is generously donated by Arrowhead Title, Inc.

Budget Needs: Additional $15,000 annually from Corporate Sponsors and Grants to support:

- $8,000 Lake BBBS desires to fund the costs associated with screening and finalizing at least 8 new Matches (estimated at $1,000 per new match).
- $2,000 Annual Scholarship funds to reward deserving (and competing) High School Seniors that mentor Upper Elementary Students once per week as part of the Site Based program.

- $5,000 - $10,000 administrative budget to maintain existing program matches and add to the Coordinators paid time beyond 3 days per week to enable more effective program implementation and growth in the Eldon and Camdenton School Districts.

Staff:

- Susan Creel – Local part time Coordinator. Moved to the Lake in 2008 after practicing Family Law and Mediating family issues in Naperville, Illinois
- Lee Knernschield, Director of Jeff City BBBS Program

Advisory Committee:

*Wayne Marlow, Chairman	retired & Big Brother since 1995
Kevin Shelton, Past Chairman	Shelton Law Firm
*Becky Panchot, Past Chairman	
*Chris Cisar,	Arrowhead Title
Buck Cueni-Smith, Treasurer	Pastor, Faithbridge Church & local founder Feed the Children
Veronica Smith, Secretary	Principal Mills Elementary School
*Aaron Spieler	
Ann Brown	Spa Shiki
Allen Moore	CEO, Camp Wonderland
Bob White	Boy Scout Area Executive
Sam Fleury	Columbia College

Cheryl Herbert	past member
Jenny Adams	past member
Jean Berhost	past member
*Julie Effertz	past member

*Current BIG brother or BIG Sister

www.lakebbbs.org