



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Glacial Lakes Region



Big Times The Mentor Connection

April 2008

Match of the Month

Big Brother Brad Johnson and Little Brother Colin

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*Match-of-the-Month is chosen by BBBS staff and is based upon the friendship that has formed and the impacts made on a child or new mom. Feel free to contact your Case Specialist and tell us why your match should be considered for next month's Match-of-the-Month.

*Brad Johnson and Colin have been matched since June and have had a great time attending high school sporting events doing outdoors activities and spending time at the lake. Colin said he has had many good things happen since being matched with Brad. One of his favorite activities was going on his first pheasant hunt. Brad is especially proud of Colin for improving his grades in school and for his willingness to try new activities. Brad said he became a Big Brother because he enjoys sharing the things he enjoys with younger people. He has two daughters who do not always enjoy all of Brad's outdoor activities so it's nice to have Colin to tag along. Colin enjoys being with Brad because he gets to learn new things, meet new people and have a positive male roll model. Colin and Brad attended nearly all of the Arrow football games and Arrow boys and girls basketball games. Colin also made a new friend because one of Brad's best friends has a boy Colin's age. Brad and Colin look forward to fishing, sailing, boating, camp fires and many other outdoor activities as the summer approaches.

Congratulations to Brad and Colin for being our Match of the Month!

Waiting List:

Little Sisters—5

Little Brothers—9

Young Moms—9

Help match those waiting today!

April Activity- "Go Fly A Kite"
 April 17, 2008
 Meet at St. Annes' Hill
 5:30-7:00pm
 BBBS will provide Kites, Snacks, Refreshments!
 Please Join Us!!

Other Activities To Do

Watertown Athletic Passes

6 Watertown Athletic Activity cards are available in the BBBS office for the use of matches going to games together.

Please call or stop in to check one out from the BBBS office. Take advantage of these from the WHS as they are good all year and you can use them at any time by just signing one out from the office.

Codington County Heritage Museum

Monday – Friday 1- 5 pm; Tel: 886-7335

Redlin Art Center

Mon – Fri, 8 am – 5 pm,
Sat 10 am – 4 pm, Sun 12 – 4 pm; Tel: 882-3877

Bramble Park Zoo

Animal encounters held on weekends.
Winter Hours 10 am to 4 pm; Tel: 882-5232

Watertown Regional Library

Mon—Thurs 9:30 am to 9:00pm, Fri 9:30 am to 6 pm
Sat 9:30am to 5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm; Tel: 882-6220

Quote of the Month "I value the friend who for me finds time on his calendar, but I cherish the friend who for me does not consult his calendar."

—Robert Brault

Mentor Mom Training

A mentor mom training will be held at the Watertown Library on April 10th from 5:30-7:00pm. The training will address the needs of both mentors and the moms they are involved with. Please contact Jenny Stratton at 886-1554 for additional information.

March Incentive Winners:

For checking in before the 15th, these individuals have won a free movie pass.

**Bud Webb-BB
Linda BeVing-BS
Shaylene-LS**

Reminder :Please remember to check in with us each month to let us know how things are going. If you check in by the 15th of each month, you will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

_____detach and send_____

If you wish to make a donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters, please detach and send.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City

State

Zip

Donation directed to (check one):

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mentoring Moms



New Matches

(BS)Larin Wegner/(LS)Andrea

Tax Deductions Available for Mentors

It's that time of year again to begin calculating and filing your federal income tax. BBBSA is pleased to inform you that mentors are entitled to the following tax deductions:

- Deduct \$.14 cents per mile incurred in picking up and driving the mentee around.
- You may also deduct the cost of meals, movie tickets, museum admissions, etc. which you spend for the mentee. However, you cannot deduct the costs you incur for your own meals, tickets, etc.

What If. . .

What if we don't have anything in common?

Many first-time mentors worry that differences in age, race, religion, education, or gender will be insurmountable barriers. Actually, most experienced mentors report that mentoring a young person from a different background broadened their own horizons and deepened their understanding of other people and cultures. So get curious. Ask lots of questions. Listen hard. Learn about the differences you have and the

KEY:

CS= Case Specialist BB= Big Brother BC= Big Couple
BS= Big Sister LB= Little Brother LS= Little Sister
MM= Mentor Mom YM= Young Mom

We're Still Learning

Please feel free to call us with questions, concerns, advice!
Jenny and Kristi would love to hear from you!

Mentoring Moms News

CRIB HOURS

The CRIB is open every Tuesday from 1:30-3:30. There is a great selection of items. Winter items have been added for the season. Please stop in and check things out!

M.O.P.S.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets the needs of mothers with children ages birth through the end of kindergarten year.

Meetings at First Baptist Church
first and third Thursdays from 9—11:15 am

Effective Mentoring Relationship: The Mentor's Role

Whether your mentor relationship is thriving or merely coasting along, it makes sense to take a close look at it now and then to see what is and isn't working well. We have found that planned mentoring relationships tend to produce more satisfaction for both parties when certain elements are in place and when both the mentor and the mentee take active roles.

Key Ingredients of mentoring relationships:

1. Purpose: This relationship is a high priority for both of you. You consider being a mentor as one of the main purposes of your life. You and your mentee are clear on why you're together and the reasons you're meeting. You've discussed and agreed upon what you'll work on, and you'll recognize when you've completed your purpose. You feel good about the focus of your relationship and what you're doing in it. From time to time you check in to see if you should change that purpose or focus in some way. When you've accomplished the purpose of your relationship, you're willing to see the relationship shift focus or perhaps end for the time being.

2. Communication: You communicate in the ways (in person, phone, email, mail) you both prefer. You get back to your mentee in the timeframe you've agreed upon. Your mentee does the same. The communication between you adds up to at least one or two hours a month and is frequent enough for both of you. You're an effective listener, and you remember what your mentee tells you. You ask appropriate questions, and your mentee responds. You share information about yourself. You monitor your nonverbal language to be sure it's conveying what you want it to. You help your mentee recognize how he/she is communicating and, where appropriate, you make suggestions for improvement.

3. Trust: The trust between you is growing. You welcome and keep in confidence the information your mentee shares with you. Your mentee knows he/she can count on you to be honest yet safe and to follow through on your promises. You avoid any trust-breaking behaviors such as canceling appointments without compelling reasons, talking negatively about others or unfairly criticizing your mentee. You're increasingly sharing more of yourself and are becoming less guarded than when you first got together.

4. Process: Your meetings and other interactions are moving along at the right pace. You meet often enough to suit you both, and those sessions are usually the right length. You both like where you're meeting. You're aware of the four stages of formal mentoring (planning, building relationship/negotiating agreement, developing the mentee/maintaining momentum, and ending the formal mentoring part of the relationship) and are helping guide your mentee through them. You like how you operate as a mentoring pair and check in with each other to see if you're both satisfied.

5. Progress: You're helping your mentee identify appropriate life goals and build competencies to reach those goals. You help him/her identify interesting learning experiences and process the results of these together. Your mentee has made significant progress toward the goals since starting to meet with you. You're making significant progress in your ability to mentor.

6. Feedback

You asked your mentee how he/she wanted positive and corrective feedback from you. You're doing your best to give this feedback in an honest and tactful manner and as frequently as agreed upon. You give your mentee much more positive reinforcement than you give correction. When you give your mentee feedback, you observe how he/she applies it and, if necessary, mention points again. You invited him/her to give you positive and corrective feedback on how you're doing as a mentor. When you receive feedback, you're non-defensive and take immediate steps to apply it.

Source: www..Mandi

**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Glacial Lakes Region**

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Sioux Empire**



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