



Big Times



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

Little Moments. Big Magic.™

February 2011

Volume 9 Issue 2

**YOU MUST RSVP
TO THIS EVENT!**



**CALL MELISSA AT
334-1632 OR EMAIL
MELISSA@BBBSSE.ORG**

Join BBBS staff **Thursday, Feb. 17**, at the area's newest entertainment venue featuring inflatable games, bouncies, obstacle courses, an arcade, toddler play area, adult lounge area, party rooms, twisty balloon fun, and so much more! They even have a fully stocked dining area with healthy and inexpensive meal options for the whole family!

Adults always get in FREE, and Xcite is offering discounted admission to BBBS: children under 18 are \$5, and toddlers are \$3. All BBBS youth participants will also receive 10 FREE tokens to use in the arcade. Located behind the west side Walmart at 3211 S. Shirley Avenue. For more information, check out www.xcitefamilyfun.com.

INSIDE

Community Calendar
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MENTOR TRAINING MONDAY, FEB. 7, & THURSDAY, FEB. 10

All NEW BBBS volunteers must sign up for **mandatory** mentor training. The *Monday session will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m.*; and the *Thursday session will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.* You need only sign up for ONE (1) session. If you are unable to attend either session, please contact our office to set up an alternate training date.

PLEASE RSVP!
Call Penny at
334-1632 or email
penny@bbbsse.org

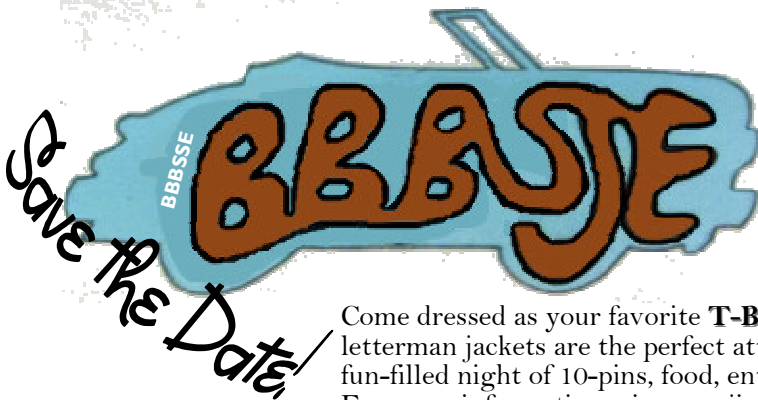
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BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE 2011



April 7, 8 & 9

March
25 & 26



Come dressed as your favorite **T-Byrd** or **Pink Lady**! Poodle skirts & letterman jackets are the perfect attire to match bowling shoes at a fun-filled night of 10-pins, food, entertainment & prizes with BBBSSE! For more information, give us a jingle at 334-1632!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will complete and file FREE tax returns for any household with an income of less than \$48,000. The program starts in February and will be held Mondays and Saturdays through April's tax deadline at the Main Library, 200 N. Dakota Avenue.
Mondays: 3-8 p.m. Saturdays: 10 a.m.-4

Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22

Tubin' Tuesdays - Take a ride on the wild side at Great Bear Recreation Park every Tuesday from 4-10 p.m. and get discounted admission (buy one ticket at \$9, get another of equal value FREE!). For more information call Jill at 367-4309.

Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 23

Storytime - Bring your toddlers and young children to Child's Play Toys, 233 S. Phillips Ave., every Tuesday at 10 a.m. for singing and reading. Always FREE!

Feb. 4

First Fridays - Several downtown Sioux Falls businesses host special activities and discounted prices the first Friday of every month. Check out the Washington Pavilion of Arts & Sciences for FREE admission to the science center!

Feb. 4

Movie Night at the Museum - Bring a blanket and pillow and settle into the Old Courthouse Museum for a FREE showing of "Muppet Treasure Island." Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 6:45 p.m. For more information call 367-4210.

Feb. 4 & 8

The Knack - Michaels craft store features FREE Valentine's Day activities for ages 3 and up. On Feb. 4 create a candy photo holder from 4-6 p.m.; on Feb. 8 make a theme puppet from 10 a.m.-noon. Other craft events offered with purchase of supplies. Visit www.michaels.com for details.

Feb. 5

Kids' Workshop - Home Depot features monthly woodworking activities from 9 a.m.-noon for children ages 5-12 years old. This month, kids can make a wooden heart-shaped shelf.

Feb. 8, 11, 12 & 15

Skyforce Basketball - Catch the Skyforce home games at the Arena beginning at 7 p.m. **BBBS has received generous donations of 12 tickets per game.** All BBBS participants (children's immediate families, included) can call to receive tickets, which will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 334-1632 for more information. *Remember: Activity Cards can get matches buy one get one free tickets!*

Feb. 12 & 26

Build & Grow Clinics - Lowe's offers FREE kids' projects. This month, build a heart-shaped wooden music box on Feb. 12, and build a motorized racecar on Feb. 26. Both sessions begin at 10 a.m.

Feb 13, 18, 19 & 27

Stampede Hockey - Indoor ice action starts at 7:05 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Arena. BBBS matches receive FREE tickets to all home games. Call Wendy at 336-6060, ext. 201.

Feb. 14

Mending Monday - The "Treadle Lady" Margaut Straley and her team of sewing sisters will be at the Museum of Visual Materials the second Monday of each month from noon to 5 p.m. ready to fix any of your minor clothing tears, seams and snaps. Bring in items needing mending. This is a FREE event.

Feb 18

Kids' Day at the Museum - Learn about history at the Old Courthouse Museum and make a FREE craft to take home. Learning sessions start every 15 minutes from 9-11 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. For more information call 367-4210.

Feb. 18

Dino-Mite Story Time! - Listen to FREE stories at Barnes & Noble, 3700 W. 41st Street, beginning at 10 a.m. For more information call 362-1500.

Feb. 19

Sioux Falls Oyate Wacipi - Check out this exciting cultural event monthly at the Multi-Cultural Center. Every powwow begins at 5 p.m. with a FREE community dinner (food donations appreciated), followed by grand entry of at 7 p.m. Festivities run through midnight. For more information, call 212-9200.

Feb. 23

Mommy's Maternity Closet - Elegant Mommy opens their Mommy's Maternity Closet the last Wednesday of each month to women in need who can select items FREE of charge. Head to Elegant Mommy, 2109 W. 49th St., from 4-6 p.m. Please have your Medicaid card or WIC information available to present.

Feb. 27

Summer Activities Fair - Sioux Falls Parks & Rec. invites families to the Convention Center from 1-3 p.m. to check out all the summer activities available to kids and families, from softball and swimming to state parks and day camps! For more information, call 367-8222.

The **Sioux Falls Jazz & Blues Society** has graciously offered **FREE tickets** to any BBBS match for 2011 SFJB events. Find concert dates and times by going to the Jazz & Blues' web site, www.sfjb.org/events.

NEW! ON THE ACTIVITY CARD!

Pizza Ranch

10th Street & Brandon locations ONLY
Mentor buys one adult buffet,
Mentee receives FREE buffet!



BIG THANKS

Has your match been using the Activity Card? Our programs are supported by many local businesses that provide generous discounts to BBBS matches. We appreciate their support and hope you do too! Please send a Thank You note to the businesses your match visits.

****Remember to use your Activity Card and look at the participating businesses before you go on your outing.**

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

Amachi? BS Amy McLeod

Matched with LS Zay-Nab, 7, since May 2010

Recently, Michelle, a parent in the Amachi program, asked Big Brothers Big Sisters if we had an award for outstanding mentors. Unfortunately, we don't. From our perspective, there are so many excellent BIGS mentoring at-risk youth, that to single out just one for an award would be an enormous undertaking. However, we've been contemplating a change to our usual "Match of the Month" section, where we highlight long-term matches doing some pretty spectacular things, so we thought this would be a good area to showcase nominations of all kinds. So, without further ado, here's why Amy deserves the spotlight:

"Amy always makes time for Zay-Nab. Beyond the minimum program requirements," says Michelle, who is no stranger to the benefits of having her children involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters. In fact, six of Michelle's children have had mentors in our programs. "She includes her as part of the family. She takes Zay-Nab traveling with her. She sometimes even takes Zay-Nab's brother. Amy has a really big heart."

Like most of our mentors, Amy balances many plates: job, family—including children of her own, hobbies, and, of course, volunteering. "I know she works different schedules," Michelle says. "She works around ours, too, which is really chaotic, with all the people living in our home. I go work and go to school myself, so I know it's not easy for her to work with the times we have available, either. But Amy always has room in her schedule for Zay-Nab."

Michelle adds that Amy sometimes has lunch at school with Zay-Nab when scheduling activities in the evenings or on weekends is difficult. Michelle says Amy and Zay-Nab enjoy doing craft activities together, volunteering at Second Chance Rescue Center, checking out sporting events featuring Amy's children, and tons of other activities.

"All that stuff is just so important," Michelle says, "especially because Zay-Nab wouldn't be able to do those things otherwise." Michelle says she's noticed improvements in Zay-Nab's school work and confidence since being matched with Amy.

Good communication between mentor, parent, and child is what makes the match strong and effective, Michelle says. In addition, the match never runs out of things to do, because they use the Activity Card, newsletter, and other program suggestions to keep things fun and new.

For these reasons and many more, Michelle says Amy deserves recognition. "We just love her. Zay-Nab loves her."

Do you want to spotlight an outstanding mentor, mentee, MATCH, or parent? Please call or write in your nomination to Big Brothers Big Sisters and we'll feature them in this section!

Go one step further and officially **nominate a mentor for the 2011 Spirit of Volunteerism Awards** through the Help!Line Center. Winners will be selected in categories including youth, group, adult, and corporate humanitarian. Winners of the youth, adult, and group awards will receive a \$500 award made payable to the charity of his/her choice!

Nominations are due April 1. For more information, visit

www.helplinecenter.org or dial 211.

NEW MATCHES

NAS BS Judy Nelson & LS Leanna
NAS BB Ryan Kolbeck & LB Clay
NAS BS Amanda Potter & LS Mariah
NAS BS Johanna Gronewold & LS Trisha
MM Maria Guarraci & YM LaRon
MM Kathy DesLauriers & YM Alexandria
Core BS Laura Osterloo & LS Sara
Core BS Ashley Kuhn & LS Lacy
Core BS Lexi Bohn & LS Brooke
Core BB Kyle Hodnefield & LB Dominick
Core BB Doug Morrison & LB Michael
Core BS Beverly Waldhalm & LS Destiny
Core BS Hollie Bloom & LS Jasmine
Core BB Collin Utterback & LB Jordan
Amachi BB Pierce Johnson & LB Damion
Amachi BB Ryan Gruber & LB Dustin
Amachi BB Brian Schultz & LB Jaden

MATCH ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR

MM Wendy Lonning & YM Ashley
MM Elizabeth Callies & YM Denikka
Amachi BS Joya Weir & LS Dominique
Amachi BS Jodi VanArendonk & LS Victoria
Amachi BB Jordan Jerke & LB Matthew
Core BS Kristie Dangel & LS Desiree
Core BS Bev Ness & LS Serenity
Core BS Kelli Hilbrands & LS Macy

2 YEARS

NAS BS Megan Schaeffer & LS Vanessa
Core BS Tracy Thomes & LS Lauren
Core BS Carol Geist & LS Brittanie

3 YEARS

Amachi BS Abby Headrick & LS Aryanna
Core BS Shannon Kutscher & LS Kristen
Core BS Amanda Bork & LS Alexis
Core BB Keith Neuharth & LB Ethan
Core BS Wendy Neuharth & LS Belle
Core BS Amanda Christianson & LS Tatiana

5 YEARS

Core BS Sara Machow & LS Alexa
Core BB Jeremy Iversen & LB Kendric

KEY

BB = Big Brothers BS = Big Sister BC = Big Couple
LB = Little Brother LS = Little Sister
MM = Mentor Mom YM = Young Mom
NAS = Native American Scholars

Tax Information for Mentors



Big Brothers Big Sisters is pleased to inform mentors of 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, tickets, museum admissions, etc., which you spend for the mentee. However, you cannot deduct costs you incur for your own meals, tickets, etc.**

While BBBS encourages quality time rather than money spent on the Little to be the most important in the relationship, we trust you will find the above information welcome and useful.

FREE Tickets to Sporting Events!

Do you or your mentee enjoy basketball or hockey?

BBBS received a generous donation of **SKYFORCE** basketball tickets and we have several dozen remaining for the rest of this season's home games. Call BBBS at 334-1632 or email melissa@bbbsse.org to get your **FREE** tickets today (first come, first served)!



Also, if you're already matched, your Activity Card gets you **FREE Stampede** tickets. Just call Wendy (with Stampede) at 336-6060 ext. 201 for your tickets!

Mentor Driving Tips

Driving with your mentee as navigator is an excellent opportunity to model good behavior behind the wheel. Often, youth in the BBBS programs have little, if any, knowledge of what's expected in the driver's seat, so show them how to roll on four wheels. When driving with your Little, remember:

- ALWAYS wear seatbelts.
- Follow ALL traffic laws (speed, turning, passing, etc.).
- Depending on your mentee's height, weight, and age, sitting in the back seat may be more appropriate because of the potential for airbag injury.
- Do NOT use your cell phone for any reason while your car is moving (no texting, calling, answering, etc.). If you must use your phone, pull over.
- Keep your road rage in check; don't swear, belittle, or otherwise express aggression towards other drivers.
- Always make sure your Little exits the vehicle onto a safe area and never onto a busy street (when parallel parking downtown, for instance).
- Park in well-lighted areas when picking up or dropping off your mentee.
- If your mentee lives in an unsafe neighborhood, call ahead of your arrival to have the parent or guardian turn on a porch light, if available.
- Don't drive in unsafe weather; reschedule activities, if needed.
- Be prepared; pack a winter safety kit (blankets, snacks, flashlights, etc.), especially if you will be doing outdoor activities with your mentee.
- Use scenarios like those mentioned in these tips as learning opportunities for your mentee. Explain WHY they have to wear seatbelts, or WHY your angry the driver in front of you didn't use his blinker. This will help your mentee be as good of a driver as you, someday!



Contact Us!

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Wendy Lonning, Match Support Specialist

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Kari Helling, Agency Intern

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Upcoming BBBS Events

February 2011

Feb. 17, 5-8 p.m., Xcite Family Fun Center

Matches Only! Check out Sioux Falls' newest entertainment venue filled with inflatable games, arcade, toddler area, and more! Please RSVP!

March 2011

March 17, 6-8 p.m., Carousel Skate

Matches Only! Lace up your skates and join BBBS staff for a night of rockin' and rollin'. Prizes for the mentors who fall the least ;)



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Sioux Falls, SD 57101

Permit # 7899

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