

PRESS RELEASE

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START SOMETHING “BIG” IN YOUR COMMUNITY **Celebrate National Mentoring Month with Big Brothers Big Sisters!**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON (January 9, 2013) – As we ring in the start of each New Year, we begin by celebrating the positive impact that one-to-one mentoring has on youth. January is National Mentoring Month, and local organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County (BBBSJC) and the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (JCSAPC) are celebrating the successes of past mentoring relationships and the future matches that will be made in 2013 in Jackson County!

For 46 years, BBBSJC has been serving Jackson County’s youth in various evidence-based mentoring programs. In efforts to help children reach their academic, social and personal potential, volunteer mentors provide friendship-based role models to youth either in their schools or by doing activities in the community or in the comfort of the mentor’s home. Currently, BBBSJC serves over 150 youth in such mentoring relationships, but do not let that number discourage you if considering volunteering yourself, there are plenty of other Little Brothers and Little Sisters that are patiently waiting for their awesome Big to come into their life!

On Saturday, January 26, 2013, we will be celebrating the many mentors and community partners who have generously given their time and their energy to work with special children between the ages of 5 and 18 at our annual Mentor Appreciation Breakfast. We are looking forward to honoring our selfless volunteers who can be found throughout Jackson County genuinely caring for young people and the potential they have to do great things for society. In addition to celebrating our mentors, we will also recognize our faithful community partners who consistently provide the necessary funding to support our many matches. The awards ceremony will be held at Hugo’s Bar and Grill, and all are anxiously awaiting the announcement of the 2012 Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year, as well as the 2012 Community Partner of the Year, among many other notable awards.

If you are looking for a way to get involved in the Jackson community and have a passion for the future of our area, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters! Whether you want to work directly one-to-one with one of our “on deck” Littles, or your talents would better be utilized attending one of the annual fundraisers (Bowl for Kids’ Sake is March 15th and 16th at Summit Lanes, call today to reserve your lane), we would love to have your support! Our annual surveys last year reported that 77.77% of caregivers reported that their relationship with their child has improved because of the influence of their child’s trusted mentor, and 44.44% of mentors reported that their Little’s ability to avoid delinquency improved over the last year of their match. Be a part of those awesome local statistics and help a child who simply needs a caring friend!

More information about:

- *Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition* and its activities, please contact Kelsey Haynes at (517) 796-5133 or via email at khaynes@uwjackson.org
- *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County*, please contact Alison Olberg, Community Based Match Specialist, at (517) 784-7181 or via email at aolberg@bbbsjackson.org. Visit our website at www.bbbsjackson.org.