



“Big” Information!

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Bartholomew County

Quick Facts

We create professionally supported, one-on-one relationships between children and caring adult volunteers.

Being a “Big” basically means being a friend to a child. It is one of the most fun and rewarding things you will ever do!

Volunteering with BBBS does not require a huge time commitment, and no special skills are required.

Locally, BBBS has about 230 matches in Bartholomew County. We are a program of Foundation For Youth.

Nationally, Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest and largest, not for profit, youth mentoring organization.

Which Volunteer Opportunity Works Best For You?

	Community-Based	Site-Based
Time	Minimum 2-4 hours, at least twice a month. Can meet as often as once a week. Can meet in the evenings or on weekends; whenever it is convenient for the volunteer and child.	Minimum 1 hour per week at the child’s school or after school at Foundation For Youth. Consistent day and time each week, depending on volunteer’s schedule.
Activities	Limited to volunteer and child’s interests, and approval of the parent. We encourage spending time together simply enjoying the friendship.	Matches talk, shoot hoops, eat lunch together, explore, and have fun! Academic enrichment and literacy projects are available. Matches can also meet at agency-sponsored activities.
Children Served	Children age 6 - 14: Children may remain in the program until they are 18, if their match is still active. We currently have 35 children waiting to be matched with Big Brothers and Big Sisters!	Children in grades K-8 at Clifty Creek, Fodrea, Lincoln, Mt. Healthy, Parkside, Richards, Smith, Schmitt, Southside, and Taylorsville Elementary Schools and Central and Northside Middle Schools. We currently have 65 students waiting to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister!
Types of Matches	Individual Adult; volunteers’ ages range from 21 – 80+. A child is matched with a positive, adult member of the community!	Individual Adult and Individual High School Student; volunteers’ ages range from 15-80+. A child may be matched with a high school student or an adult!

Some Commonly Asked Questions

How are the matches chosen?

Matches are chosen based on compatible personalities and interests. Volunteers provide input concerning their preferences in matching. The parents of our Littles, as well as the Littles themselves, are also given the opportunity to state their preferences for the match.

How does the agency stay involved?

Big Brothers Big Sisters maintains contact with all parties of the match on a monthly basis. Our professional staff is always available. We act as a liaison between the volunteer, the parent/guardian, and/or the school. We provide training and support for our volunteers.

How do I get started?

Once you decide to become a Big Brother or Big Sister, the intake process will take about 3-4 weeks to complete. Call us and we will schedule an interview at your convenience. We ask for references and we complete a thorough criminal history background check.

How do the Littles get involved in this program?

Children may be referred to us by the school, a parent, or a social service agency. In the Site-Based program, a school staff member (teacher, principal, guidance counselor, etc.) and the parent both fill out an application for the child and the child is interviewed. In the Community-Based program, the parent completes an application and both the parent and child are interviewed.

More Info! 

Steps to Become a Big

1. Application

- Volunteer application should be filled out accurately and completely and signed by the applicant.
- You can download an application at www.foundationforyouth.com or contact the volunteer coordinator to mail or e-mail you one (contact information is at the bottom of this sheet).

2. Office Interview

- Schedule an interview by contacting the volunteer coordinator at BBBS; the interview will take approximately 60-90 minutes.
- We will ask you about your background, your experiences, and your expectations; the information you share is kept confidential.

3. Background Checks

- All applicants are asked to comply with background checks by signing forms authorizing the release of confidential information.
- Checks may include but are not limited to: criminal history, driving record, child abuse registry, and employer references.

4. Home Visit (Community-Based Only)

- At the office interview, the volunteer coordinator will schedule a time for a home visit; this is conducted to assure a parent of his/her child's safety.
- We would like to meet those with whom you live and take a brief tour of your home.

5. Training

- All applicants will be asked to attend a one-hour volunteer training session before being matched.
- The training includes valuable information regarding what it means to be a mentor and how to handle situations that may arise in your match; you will be given a volunteer manual for your future reference.

Matching Process

1. Little Brother or Sister

If you complete the intake process and are accepted as a Big, you will work with a Case Manager who will contact you to describe a child as a potential match.

Community-Based: the parent is contacted and you both will be introduced at our office to share information at a pre-match meeting.

Site-Based: the child is contacted and a brief description of you will be shared. If both parties wish to proceed, a date for a match meeting is arranged.

2. Pre-Match Meeting (Community-Based Only)

At this meeting, the parent, volunteer and Case Manager meet to discuss the possible match. The parent describes the child's likes, dislikes, general personality, and any concerns he or she may have. The volunteer shares information about his or her life as well. After this meeting, if both parties would like to proceed with the match, a date is set to introduce the volunteer to the child.

3. Match Introduction

Community-Based: your Case Manager will meet you at the child's home. Brief introductions of all parties are made. Ground rules are reviewed and agreed upon and the match is established. Following the introductions, the new match normally leaves on a short outing as an icebreaker.

Site-Based: your Case Manager will meet you at the designated school or site. Specific site procedures will be discussed and introductions will be made. The match then meets for a short time before the Case Manager returns to make sure things are going well.

Final Note

At any point in the process, the decision may be made by you or our professional staff that this volunteer opportunity is not right for you at this time. If you are matched, due to very thorough consideration given in each situation, the intention is that both Big and Little have a positive and rewarding experience.

Still have questions? Want to get started?

Contact me!



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Be a part of something

BIG!

