



***BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF
SOUTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA
Suite 101, 325 Sixth Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303-1200
Phone (304) 746-7900 Fax (304) 746-7970
E-mail:***

***Darrell Buttrick: Dlbuttrick@charter.net
Amanda Sholes: alsholes@charterinternet.com
Kristen Dickens: k.dickens@charterinternet.com
Wendy Beaver: wbeaver@charterinternet.com***

OUR HISTORY

Rising from the efforts of a small steering committee, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Kanawha/Putnam Area (South Central WV) was chartered in March 1995 as a non-profit youth organization. Countless volunteers began to work together to create the local agency of the National Federation of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Twelve required steps were accomplished before the agency could begin serving at-risk youth. One of these steps included the opening of an office in Charleston, WV. In December 1996, the first Executive Director and Case Manager were hired. The local organization received its Provisional Contract from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America on June 16, 1997, allowing at-risk youth to be matched with caring adult volunteers. On July 24, 1997, the first match between a Big Brother and a Little Brother was made.

The organization has continued to expand and grow over the last four years. The Board of Directors is working with Executive Director: Darrell Buttrick, Case Manager: Amanda Sholes, Case Worker: Kristen Dickens, and Administrative Assistant Wendy Beaver, as well as a host of volunteers, to serve youth throughout the Kanawha Valley.

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central WV currently serves children between the age's of six through 14 who live in single parent families in Kanawha or Putnam counties. Child referrals come from many sources including parents, schools, and other youth serving agencies. There are currently 74 youth enrolled in the program with half of those in active matches at this time. All youth are invited to participate in activities sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters such as hayrides, bowling, community service projects, and holiday parties.

THE VOLUNTEERS

Caring, committed adults are vital to the success of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. There are two minimum requirements for becoming a "Big" Brother, Sister or Couple. The volunteer must be willing to commit to at least one year of volunteer service, and be at least 19 years of age with the

desire to help a child. Each potential volunteer must apply before being accepted into the program. The application process includes background and reference checks, a personal interview, a home visit and a pre-match training session. Once accepted into the program, volunteers are asked to meet with their youth proteges every two weeks for three to four hours.

THE PROGRAMS WE OFFER

One-To-one relationships between an adult volunteer (or volunteer couple) and a child at risk has been the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters for over 90 years. In order to serve more children and enhance the match relationships, the agency also provides group activities and community service projects.

Additionally, Big Brothers Big Sisters offer adults with time constraints the ability to volunteer in the School-based Mentoring Program. These matches are set up by Big Brothers Big Sisters with a school and enable an adult volunteer to work with a youth in their school for one hour a week during the school day. The matches only meet during school time and are invited to Big Brothers Big Sisters sponsored activities.

THE FUNDING WE RECEIVE

Funding for the organization is provided by many sources. These include special events such as the Annual Myrtle Beach Dinner Dance and Bowl for Kids' Sake. Also vital to the organization is individual and corporate contributions. This grass-roots support for programming and activities is the heart of our community serving organization. Big Brothers Big Sisters has also worked with government and local foundations to find grant support for the agency.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

Volunteers are always needed to serve the organization, and we offer many different volunteer opportunities. Besides becoming a mentor, volunteers are always needed to serve on committees, or help implement special events for youth. There is also a periodical need for volunteers to help out with office duties such as answering phones, stuffing mailers, or getting informational packets together. *To find out more on how to become a volunteer call 746-7900.*