

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Of Shelby & Darke County

Moose Awards Funding to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby & Darke Counties

For Immediate Release

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The Moose Family Center #329 of Greenville has recently donated \$740 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby and Darke County. The donation was presented to the agency at the recent Christmas Party on Monday, Dec. 4th. Santa, a local Moose member, presented the check to Board member, Mindy Steyer, Darke County Coordinator, Heather Zehring, Part Time Site Coordinator, Kelli Berger, and Board Treasurer, Mike Snyder.

The funding comes at an opportune time for the agency which now serves around 600 children in Shelby and Darke County through its community-based and High School mentoring programs. The number of children served keeps rising and the recent donation will help support current matches in the community and assure that any child that is need of services is not turned away. Thanks to generous donations like that from the Moose, matches in Darke County can continue to grow and help keep affecting children in a positive way.

This funding helps make match relationships like Big Brother Brad Koopman and Little Brother Jarred Batten possible. Brad and Jarred have been matched since March of this year and share an interest for football, baseball, and playing pool. Brad recently took Jarred out for a whole day in Tipp City and the pair played football and pool, made some time for video games, and then ended the afternoon with lunch at Applebee's. "At the recent Christmas party, Jarred was so proud to be with his Big Brother," said a local representative. There is a special moment that sticks out in my mind, "At the end of the party, Brad and Jarred left with an arm full of

ballons and then quickly came back inside. Jarred was wearing a funny smile and I overheard his Big Brother tell him, Well, all those balloons won't fit into my truck, so we're going to have to get rid of them. With that, they both started to stomp and pop the extra balloons. Little Brother Jarred was taken off guard and hesitated at first, but it didn't take long for him to warm-up and deflate the extra decorations! "It was apparent this was a special bonding moment for the pair (We think Big Brother Brad enjoyed it too!), said a local representative." Through their match relationship, not only is Jarred having a lot of fun, he's also got another person who he knows cares about him and someone he can trust to share his feelings with.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby & Darke County is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop and mature quality relationships between children and volunteers. The relationship is meant to guide each child towards becoming a confident, competent, and caring individual. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, you may call the office at 547-9622 or 492-7611.

Efforts are currently underway to recruit teams and corporate sponsors for the agency's annual "Bowl For Kids' Sake" event. The event is set for March 9, 2008 at Bel-Mar Lanes in Sidney and Mc Bo's Lanes in Versailles. Bowl for Kids' Sake is open to the public and local community members can form 4 – 5 person teams. Each team member collects donations and comes out to enjoy the party. Corporate sponsorships are available for \$300 where a company enters a five-person team of the company's employees; this includes a company lane banner. A Lane Sponsorship for \$125 includes the company name placed on a large banner above one of the lanes during the daylong event. Corporate sponsor names are announced throughout the day. This event will hold a Cosmic theme with the grand prize being a \$500.00 shopping spree. Many other prizes are involved including Kings Island tickets and local restaurant and retail gift certificates. Anyone interested should call the office at 547-9622 or 492-7611 to obtain more information. Registration can also be completed on the web at <http://www.bigbrobigsis-shelbydarke.org/>.

Moose Attachment: Santa presents a donation check to local agency representatives.

Koop Attachment: Big Brother Brad and Little Brother Jarred at the agency's recent Christmas party.