



# U.P.KIDS™

Caring for children. Building brighter futures.

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APR 14 2015



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
start something™

April 13, 2015

Portage Health Foundation  
ATTN: Kevin Store  
PO Box 299  
Hancock, MI 49930

Dear **Kevin** & Friends at the **Portage Health Foundation**,

Big Brothers Big Sisters is not your typical organization. We help children to realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities. And we couldn't do any of it without YOU! We greatly appreciate your commitment to and support of **Big Brothers Big Sisters** and **Bowl for Kids 2015** with your generous donation of **\$2,500** as a **Partnering Sponsor** for the Copper Country event which took place on Saturday – March 21<sup>st</sup> at The Mine Shaft in Houghton.

Enclosed you will find a Post-Event Follow Up Report providing details regarding the results of the event. Overall, the event was a "BIG" success for the children and youth in Big Brothers Big Sisters' programs. Mentoring is a powerful tool to help keep kids on the right path. Big Brothers Big Sisters programs at U.P. Kids are in the business of building healthy, positive mentoring relationships for the children and youth in our local communities and we greatly appreciate your support of our mission.

On behalf of the children, families and volunteers of Big Brothers Big Sisters... thank you! Imagine the possibilities. With your help, we can continue to offer our programs to hundreds of children in the local communities. By partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters you are a part of **something BIG!**

Best regards,

Maggie M. Munch  
BBBS Program Director



**be a part of something BIG!™**

[www.upkids.com](http://www.upkids.com)

Good Will Farm Service

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters™**

**Portage Health Foundation  
Follow-Up Report**

**Copper Country Bowl for Kids  
Saturday – March 21, 2015**

**Event Participation:**

29 Teams  
187 Bowlers  
65+ Event Volunteers  
1,000+ Individual Donors  
45 Corporate Sponsors  
75+ In-Kind Contributors

**Outcome/Results of the Event:**

Overall, the event was a “BIG” success for U.P.Kids’ Big Brothers Big Sisters raising a total of \$35,326.37 to benefit mentoring programs for children and youth in the local communities. This result exceeded our goal of \$30,325 and was an 18% (+\$5,453) increase from the 2014 event. Corporate Sponsorship accounted for approximately 34% of the funds raised with the Portage Health Foundation contributing 7% of the total funds raised. The remaining 66% of funds raised are a result of individual contributions.

The Bowl for Kids event was definitely not about the bowling... The day involved hundreds of people from the local communities coming together to, “have fun for a good cause” and celebrate their efforts to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters’ mentoring programs. The overarching theme of the day was “fun” with an exhilarating feeling in the air throughout the bowling alley all day. Bowlers were consistently smiling, laughing, winning prizes, enjoying good food, participating in goofy contests and celebrating the success of their fundraising efforts.

**Impact:**

Bowl for Kids provides an opportunity for the community to be a part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters’ Mission of providing one-to-one friendship, guidance and opportunities to children and youth. All of the funds raised through the event stay in the local communities to support U.P.Kids’ BBBS mentoring programs. Support of Bowl for Kids offers the potential for long lasting, positive impact. Children in all circumstances and from all backgrounds need strong and healthy relationships in order to thrive in life. The



funds raised through Bowl for Kids result in positive, caring relationships for children in our local communities. The event provides funding to recruit and screen volunteers, enroll volunteers and children, make the best mentoring match possible, and provide on-going support to each mentoring relationship to ensure success. Big Brothers Big Sisters' programs have a direct, measurable and lasting impact on children's lives... We help children to realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities. Bowl for Kids' funds have a positive impact on over 250 children and youth in the Copper Country through mentoring relationships.

**Youth mentoring programs address the risk factors associated with children who are "at-risk" as a result of living in poverty. In addition, the agency provides positive youth activities and positive youth support addressing various social concerns (Alcohol/Drug Use, Teen Pregnancy, Violence, etc.).** BBBS works with "at risk" youth and helps them to overcome the challenges and risk factors they face. Big Brothers Big Sisters uses their premier one-to-one mentoring system to match one child to one adult, paving the way for life-changing impacts and contributing to healthier communities.

An independent study conducted by Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) set a precedent for the potential of mentoring relationships. This study of Big Brothers Big Sisters' programs shows that children matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister in the community-based program are:

- ◆ 46 % less likely to start using drugs
- ◆ 27% less likely to start drinking
- ◆ 52% less likely to skip a day of school
- ◆ 37% less likely to skip a class
- ◆ 33% less likely to hit someone
- ◆ more confident of their performance in school
- ◆ getting along better with their parents

An additional study conducted by P/PV revealed that children matched with a school-based mentor showed improvement in the following areas: 58% improved their school performance; 65% showed higher levels of self-confidence, and; 55% had better attitudes toward school. In addition, Jean Rhodes, in her book *Stand by Me*, points out that mentors can influence a child's development in several ways, including: enhancing their ability to have positive relationships with their parents and their peers; improving cognitive skills; serving as a role model and advocate; and providing new perspectives, possibilities and options for youth. These effects in turn have implications for additional positive outcomes. **Research shows that mentoring works!**

The results from the agency's local program evaluation conducted in 2014 were consistent in demonstrating positive outcomes for mentored youth. The most significant findings of the local evaluation were as follows:

- ◆ **87 % of the Mentored Children Showed Improved Self-Confidence**
- ◆ **73% of the Mentored Children Showed Improved Attitude Toward School & Overall Academic Performance**
- ◆ **71% of the Mentored Children Demonstrated Improved Relationships with their Peers**
- ◆ **68% of the Mentored Children Demonstrated Improved Relationships with other Adults**

Mentoring is a successful and proven strategy to positive youth development and is a critical component to solutions addressing the societal challenges our children face.

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides an additional caring person in the life of a child. The agency's programs match one child and one mentor, paving the way for life-changing impacts "one child at a time". Big Brothers Big Sisters is helping children to become more confident, competent and caring individuals and as a result, contributing to the cycle of a healthy community. Secure, happy children have a better chance of growing into responsible, productive adults, who in turn nurture their own children for success. This cycle is the foundation of a healthy community.