

I'm a Big Brother –

I am a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County.

I have a story to share about my “Little Brother” and his family. My Little is 8 years old and lives with his 6 siblings and mom in city owned housing on South Bend's Westside. His mom works 2 jobs and his dad is in prison.

Last year, during my interview, a case worker told me that my Little's siblings might ask to come with us, but that my main responsibility is to my Little. I thought it would be no problem, until the first time I went to pick up my Little. A small boy came to the door and told me he was ready. I had already met my little, so I knew it was not him but this boy wanted to go so bad, he tried to tell me he was.

He is my Little's older brother. He has been on a waiting list to get a Big Brother for quite some time. He is 12. He wants to be a professional basketball player and loves to draw. He likes to play video games and loves to listen to Eminem. He would love to ride a roller coaster one day, loves to fish and explore nature. He is small for his age and he fights a lot. He walks a mile down to the community center to try to join the ball games there. He struggles in school and is being held back --again. He lacks self-confidence.

How do I know these things? Because I broke the rules and took this boy with me and my Little fishing. I couldn't take it anymore--watching this boy's disappointment when he could not go. After I dropped them off, I cried all the way home. Not because we didn't catch fish, but because this boy is good and needs love. I thought "What can I do to find someone for him?" So, I write this letter.

Can you help this young man or one like him? All it takes is 4-6 hours a month. My Little passed up Silver Hawks tickets to go to the library to read. He doesn't care about going to ND games — I am given tickets all the time for activities like this, but he wants simple things. He likes to go to the park, fish, or get a happy meal. He tells me that the favorite thing that we have done so far is getting a Little Caesars Pizza and eating it on my trucks tailgate. It doesn't take much at all, but it does so much.

There are so many great kids out there, like my Little Brother's sibling, who desperately needs our time and attention. You can make a tremendous difference not only in the life of a child, but also your own!

Can you help?

The staff is great to work with, give them a call at Tel# 574-232-9958 or go online at becomeabig.net.

Sincerely,

Dan Biggs