



BIG NEWS

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February 2007

Big Sister Leah and Little Sister Taylor Celebrate Their One-Year Anniversary!

Big Sister Leah and her 9 year old Little Sister Taylor were matched on January 19th of 2006. This month, they celebrated their one-year-anniversary and what a wonderful year it has been for them!

Leah and Taylor meet faithfully every week and they have done a variety of activities. They enjoy going back to Leah's home where they bake cookies, and love to watch the "American Idol" TV show and work on Taylor's homework. The cookies and cupcakes they make are always a big hit with Taylor's older brother. For their one year anniversary, they celebrated by having their first sleep-over at Leah's home. As with most slumber parties, not much sleep was in the agenda for this busy pair of friends.

While all these activities are looked forward to by Little Sister Taylor, she really is more inter-



Taylor, left, and Leah, right, enjoy a special moment together. Taylor was a junior bridesmaid in Leah's wedding.

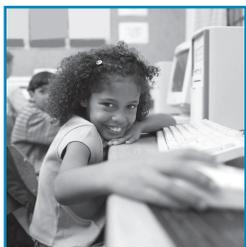
ested in just being with Leah and having her companionship and friendship. Taylor's mother states she can see how much Taylor "lights up" when her Big Sister comes over. She said Taylor feels comfortable with Leah and can act goofy and laugh with her.

Big Sister Leah agrees with Taylor and her mother that what is most important in this match is the strong bond that has been established. This strong bond of friendship and respect was evident this past September when Taylor shared in one of the most important events in Leah's life. Taylor was a junior bridesmaid in Leah's wedding. Not only did Taylor attend this event, but her mother and brother also came as both Leah and Taylor's families have become close as well. Another important celebration that everyone took part in was attending Taylor's mother's college graduation ceremony.

Leah and Taylor have both said this friendship they have developed is not just for a certain period of time but something they expect to last a lifetime.



Classroom Advantage: School-Based Mentoring



How much can 1 ½ - 2 hours per week make in the life of a child? You'd be amazed!

It means so much to kids to know there is a caring adult friend coming to spend time with them at school. And it's not just about tutoring a child; your best gift is simply sharing your time and attention. Studies show children who are mentored feel better about themselves and school,

which results in higher school achievement. We have programs available in the following schools and community centers:

- Brown
- LaSalle
- Bittersweet
- Walt Disney
- Walkerton
- Charles Martin Youth Center

Please call our office at 574-232-9958 if you'd like to be a mentor in any of these programs.

OPEN HOUSE February 22

We will have an open house on Thursday, February 22nd. Please call for details if you would like to stop by and see our new offices.

little moments
big magic



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of St. Joseph County

P.O. Box 1632, South Bend, IN 46634
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Case Manager
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Our Staff

To provide children who lack sufficient adult support with the opportunities and skills necessary to develop positive personal growth. This is achieved through one-to-one relationships with volunteer mentors, and maintained with supervision and support services provided by the professional staff of the agency.

Our Mission

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of St. Joseph County



Welcome to the first issue of our new Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County "BIG NEWS" newsletter. We hope this newsletter will keep you informed and inspired. Whatever your level of participation or donation, we appreciate your continued support. Thank you!

Welcome!

Welcome to our first newsletter!

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of St. Joseph County



We've Moved!

Last fall, we moved into our new administrative offices in downtown South Bend. Our address is 105 E. Jefferson Blvd. Suite 310, South Bend, Indiana 46601. Our telephone number remains unchanged: 574 232-9958.

This move has been in the planning stages for a while as part of our Long Range Plan to decrease building costs so as to divert more money into our mentoring programs. Our newer, smaller, more energy efficient office has fulfilled this goal.



Save the Date!

Our annual Bowl For Kids' Sake fund raising event at Beacon Bowl will be on May 19th and 20th this year. We've moved the usual March date to May this year due to National Tournaments taking place at Beacon Bowl. But one thing hasn't changed; this is a fun event with the opportunity to win great prizes while helping kids in our community who need a mentor.

Bowl for Kids' Sake is our largest annual fund raiser so participation is key. You can sign up on our web site at www.bbbs-sjc.org or give us a call directly. The success of this event is critical to our abilities to assist children each year.

EMAIL WANTED!

We're building our email database to keep you better informed on BBBS! Email us your address at bbbsstjoe@sbcglobal.net. All email addresses are used for official BBBS correspondence only. Your email will not be shared or sold.

