

Press Release:

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Big Brothers and Sisters Seeks Donations

Lebanon, OH-

Big Brothers and Sisters of Warren and Clinton Counties is asking local residents and businesses to consider supporting the agency when it comes time for gifts this holiday season. As a part of its annual membership drive, BBBS is seeking donations that will help fund its School and Community Based Mentoring programs. Although Big Brothers and Sisters relies on volunteers to serve as mentors in its two programs, the agency equally relies on donor support. Donors provide the agency the ability to serve the children of Warren and Clinton County free of charge. Donations allow us to provide ongoing support for volunteers, children and families, insuring child safety and sustaining successful long-term relationships with positive outcomes. It is estimated that each match costs about \$1,000 per year to maintain, and with about 160 matches in progress currently, the agency seeks funds to continue growing both School and Community Based Mentoring programs. A shortfall of funding will limit the number of children that can be served on an annual basis.

The School Based Mentoring program was previously funded mostly by money from a grant through the Department of Education. Spanning 3 years and totaling almost \$500,000, this grant allowed BBBS to grow its SBM Programs to 11 Local schools. With the ending of the grant in November 2008, BBBS reduced the number of School Programs from 11 sites to 4, however, the number of children served has remained steady. The School Based Program has made a significant impact on local students, with 53% of the children in the program seeing an increase in their GPA, 84% claiming a better attitude towards school, and 88% reporting an increase in self-esteem. Big Brothers and Sisters needs local residents support these local students by making a monetary contribution, so that it may continue to grow its programs and increase the amount of children served locally.

Big Brothers and Sisters of Warren and Clinton Counties is asking for donations, with membership levels ranging from \$50-\$10,000. All donations are tax deductible. For details regarding membership levels, please see www.bbbswarren.org/donate.html . Donations can be mailed in the form of a check to 777 Columbus Ave Ste 6, Lebanon OH 45036 or may be completed online at www.bbbswarren.org, or over the phone with a credit card by calling 513-932-3966.