



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Prince Edward Island

BBBSPEI Times

January Newsletter 2012

Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus!



With the **help of Rodd Royalty**, Big Brothers Big Sisters PEI had a **huge Christmas party** for our Bigs and Littles. In early December, matches came to the hotel in Charlottetown to celebrate the season together. After picking up name tags, matches head downstairs to **make crafts** and **play games** before lunch. **Making wreathes and decorating cookies** continue to be very popular party activities! Guests could also make **snowflake, poinsettia, candy cane or Santa decorations, colour**, or **play board games**. Before heading upstairs for lunch, all of the children were invited to pick out some **books provided by Scholastic Canada**.



Lunch was served in the Courtyard, which is a **grand place to have a meal!** Everyone feasted on a **holiday meal with all of the trimmings**. We took a little time during lunch to **thank our volunteers** and gave out service awards to Bigs who are in long-term matches. While waiting for the big guy in the red suit, guests **sang Christmas carols**. After Santa arrived, he spent time **visiting with each child**.

We would like to give a **Great Big Thank You** to everyone at the **Rodd Royalty** for sponsoring our Christmas party! They provided us with all of the **space, support, and food** we needed to make this a wonderful Christmas event for everyone!

start something

Bowl for Kids Sake

January Newsletter 2012

**It's going to be gnarly.
I kid you not!**

Every time we **match a child with a mentor**, we start something incredible – a life-changing relationship built on friendship, trust and empowerment. Every time you volunteer or donate to Big Brothers Big Sisters you start something – and it could be **the start of something big**. You can **make a real difference** in your community by becoming involved in **Bowl for Kids Sake 2012!**

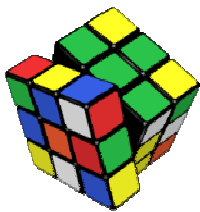


Bowl for Kids Sake, which takes place **March 3rd and 4th**, raises nearly 34% of our operating budget. Money raised will help us **recruit, screen and train** volunteers, **professionally support** our matches, **host events** for our Big/Little matches, **provide materials** for In-School Mentors, **run other community-based programs** like Kids N' Kops, **increase** the number of children matched, and **reduce** our waiting list.

This year, we invite you to **be totally awesome** as we celebrate the **80's**. On **Bowl for Kids Sake** weekend, **put on your best 80's threads** and join your teammates for a **celebration** of your fundraising accomplishments. The **Lanes** in your community will be transformed into a **giant 80's-themed bowling party**. As a thank you for your hard work, we will be providing **free bowling (or pool), Subway Subs, Pepsi Products** & the chance to win **great prizes**.

Raise & Win Prizes

Everyone who raises more than **\$100** takes home a **t-shirt**. If you raise \$250, you take home a t-shirt and a \$25 Subway Gift Card. You can also **earn Gift Cards** from Wilson Esso, Atlantic Superstore, Canadian Tire, Walmart, Home Depot or the store of your choice (1500+). Raise \$750 or more and we will give you a **Dream Cottage ticket**.



Dream Vacation Prize

Thanks to **The Travel Store**, we have a **great Dream Vacation Prize** again this year! Everyone who raises \$100 will get a ballot for an Escorted Trip for 2 to a **Caribbean Destination** with The Travel Store's Exclusive Holiday Reunion 2013. For **every extra \$50** you raise, you'll receive another ballot. And you can **double your ballots** by raising money on-line!

Video Contest

Calling all videographers, here is your big break. Produce a great video promoting Bowl for Kids Sake. Your video can be about why you participate, or profile your team, be funny, be moving....it is up to you. **To enter:** Post your video to our Facebook page (link on our webpage www.bbbspei.ca). You could win a **\$50 Confederation Court Mall Gift Card (First Place)** or a **\$25 Old Navy Gift Card (second place)**.



Request for Volunteers

Bowl for Kids Sake is a huge event! Throughout January & February we will need help packing and delivering Team Captain kits. On March 3rd and 4th we will need **volunteers** to help with the registration table, prize table and counting room, as well as greeters and photographers. If you are interested in helping out, **please call Heather** at 368-7759 or e-mail heather@bbbspei.ca



Big Brothers Big Sisters

My Internship by Ruby Gallagher

This last summer I was accepted to Intern here at Big Brothers Big Sisters. I was so excited I could hardly wait to start. I knew a bit about their programs but was looking forward to finding out more and **being able to contribute to such a great cause.**

My six-month internship started with **working at the cottage**, where I greeted visitors, gave tours, sold tickets, processed data entry and gave out information on both the cottage and Big Brothers Big Sisters. This gave me the opportunity to see first-hand all the work that goes into a campaign like this. After the presentation of the Cottage to the new owners, I came to work at the office full time.

Big Brothers Big Sisters gave me a chance to meet so many people in various areas of public service. I attended business expos, seminars and webinars, learned about the processes of fundraising, social media and much more. There is **always a lot of work needing to be done but we have fun as well.** Things like planning events for the Big and Littles, shopping for supplies and coming up with ideas for activities and making samples.... Fun, Fun, Fun...Work, Work, Work...

This has been such an amazing experience. It is **great to be part of an organization where everyone pitches in and works together for the cause.** They are quick to answer any questions I might have and if I needed assistance it was always available.

This experience helped me solidify my own interests and appreciate the hard work of others. It is an amazing opportunity to be able to work in an area you're passionate about, to explore public service, to turn to others who share your commitment to the community, and to learn. I would highly recommend it to anyone.



Big Activity Tips

- Spend the afternoon at the **Confederation Centre**. Look at the art in the gallery (by donation), play a game in the library, and then help your little choose some books to sign out
- Go tobogganing** and then have some hot chocolate to warm up
- Come on the **sleigh ride** in February (details coming)



Bigs Needed

We are **urgently looking for volunteers** in the **Murray Harbour/Murray River, Belfast, and Wellington areas.** Do you have a few hours a week to spend with a really great kid who just needs a little extra adult attention? Call us at 569-KIDS to **Start Something in your life!**



Dream Cottage

Believe it or not, we will be ordering the 2012 Dream Cottage next week! Watch the **mail for your brochure in early April.** A Great Big Thank You goes to Rob Hambly and PEI Home & RV for all of their help. It takes a lot of work to design each cottage!

What if every child is set on the right path today?

Wouldn't that be something?

Profile – Mary Claire Fox, Caseworker

There is a **new face** at Big Brothers Big Sisters! Mary Claire Fox joined the Casework team in December. She is overseeing Traditional and In-School matches in **Summerside and Western PEI**. Mary Claire has a B.A in Psychology and a Diploma in Addiction Counseling. After graduation, she did an Internship at the Hope Acres Addictions and Rehabilitation Centre in Barrie, Ontario. Before joining BBBS, Mary Claire was the Crime Prevention Coordinator with the East Prince Women's Information Centre. She lives in Summerside.



Team Profile – Albany Scotiabank

For the last two years, Big Brothers Big Sisters staff has travelled to Albany to reward the Scotiabank staff, our **top fundraising team**, with a **Subway Lunch on Us**. They are formidable fundraisers; in the three years they have been involved, the Scotiabank Albany team has **raised \$9000** for Brothers Big Sisters PEI. Team members ask everyone they come in contact with to sponsor them and they send out letters to people they don't have regular face-to-face contact with. While at the bank, we noticed a teller going out to a car to help a customer with mobility problems. No wonder the bank is such an **important part of the community**.



Profile – Gerard “Foot” Cudmore, BFKS Top Fundraiser

When Foot Cudmore got involved with Bowl for Kids Sake **23 years ago**, the fundraiser was held at the YMCA and it was called Bowl for Millions. Over the years, he has **raised tens of thousands of dollars**. He has been our top fundraiser for as long as we can remember. Last **year, he raised \$2495, which is his highest total to date**. Foot is the Parts Manager at Superior Sanitation, a **long-time winner of the BFKS Corporate Challenge**. When he is not busy with Bowl for Kids Sake, Foot also organizes a company golf tournament and company BBQs that support the CFCY Christmas Miracle. Last year, they raised enough to buy 65 Christmas gifts for Island children.



In-School Round Up

We are no longer accepting applications for the 2011/2012 school year. Case work staff is working hard to get the last of this year's volunteers matched. We currently **have 60 students matched** across the Island. Thanks to all of the volunteers who are giving an hour a week to **Start Something in the life of a child!**

In-School Activity Tips

- Read** your favourite children's book
- Write a fairy tale** together
- Learn to **play chess** together
- Create an **all-about-us collage** with the craft supplies in the school mentor box

