

UCS News Release

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Northshire Big Brothers Big Sisters Announces New Matches

Manchester, Vt. — Northshire Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Bennington County is pleased to announce the successful matching of its first Big/Little mentor matches!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bennington County provides one-to-one mentoring opportunities for youth aged 6-14 by matching them with a caring adult.

“My reason for volunteering is simple: I admire Big Brothers Big Sisters’ ability to provide unique and empowering experiences to youth,” said Dan Anadio, Big Brother to his Little Brother, Cameron Merrill. When asked what his favorite part of his match was, Cameron excitedly said, “I like that Dan likes me. I have a lot of fun with him!”

“There are many youth enrolled and waiting to be matched with an adult mentor,” said Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, BBBS Program Director.

“Mentoring is incredible! It helps improve kids’ self image, sense of community, peer and family relationships, and academic achievement. Mentored youth are also less likely to use drugs and skip school! I hope adults with a spare hour will consider being a mentor,” Rathbun-Gunn said.

BBBS is a flexible program that allows mentor matches to decide together when and where to meet, and what they’d like to do.

“It’s about the friendship. Obviously kids love the attention, and adults like getting involved too because it’s fun,” said Rathbun-Gunn. “It’s just an hour a week and it makes such a huge difference.”

You can sign up to be a mentor, or request a mentor for a child you know, by visiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bennington County at www.ucsvt.org/bbbs.php or by calling 802-442-5491 x287. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bennington County is sponsored by United Counseling Service.

UCS serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support that changes lives. Visit www.ucsvt.org to find out more.

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