

## Leadership

### Development Council Members:

Denise Goodwin  
(President)

Bob Baker  
Global Link Travel

Lisa Callanan  
Wal-Mart

Ann Hopkins—  
Gross  
Southern Vermont  
College

Cindy Luce  
Bennington  
College

Mike Pichette  
ADC Optical

Gene Rowley  
Mentor

### BBBS Team

Betsy Rathbun-  
Gunn Program  
Director

Nicole Pritikin  
Southshire BBBS

Kerri MacLaury  
Northshire BBBS

Ralph Provenza  
Executive Director

Robert Pini  
Community  
Relations



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Bennington County

FALL 2009

## Coordinator's Corner

### An Introduction:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself — I am the new program manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bennington County. I took over the reigns from Megan Brooks at the end of September. Megan is working to get her Masters degree in counseling and is working at an internship at the Child Advocacy Center. I am very excited to be a part of this wonderful and incredibly important organization.

I hope to greatly increase the number of matches and am working very hard to recruit new mentors. I am also working to heighten community awareness of the Big Brother Big Sister program and to begin collaborative relationships with local businesses, churches, and colleges. I hope to be able to provide a mentor for every child who wants one. The national statistics prove that mentoring acts as a deterrent to drug and alcohol abuse, improves self-esteem and confidence and even school attendance.



So, while I will do my part to recruit mentors and promote BBBS, I ask for your help. Word of mouth is critical to our success— please talk up our program, ask your friends and family members if they have time to be a mentor and don't hesitate to contact me for applications or information!

**Nicole Pritikin,**  
[npritikin@ucsvt.org](mailto:npritikin@ucsvt.org)  
802-442-5491 x287

## BBBS Receives Henderson Foundation Grant



We are grateful to the A.D. Henderson Foundation for a \$25,000 grant award to expand mentoring in Manchester, Arlington, and Dorset. The Henderson Foundation funding allows us to bring on a coordinator for the Northshire who can build traditional community mentoring matches and also offer lunchtime and site-based programs at area schools.

The Henderson Foundation's mission is to "provide an opportunity for all children to succeed." And with mentoring's proven positive effect, the grant is a great gift to Northshire children who will benefit from greater guidance and new opportunities. In the coming year, BBBS expects to serve up to 45 children in the Northshire this year and connect them to mentors who care!

**A Big Thank  
You To All  
Our  
Sponsors:**

**Title Sponsor**

Vermont Country  
Store

**Grand Prize  
Sponsor**

Global Link Travel

**Special  
Recognition**

Bank of  
Bennington  
JC's Tavern  
Catamount Glass  
Turcotte Designs



**Bowl for Kids  
Sake in April 2009  
was an incredible  
success thanks to  
all our sponsors  
and the hard work  
of our dedicated  
former Program  
Manager, Megan  
Brooks.**

**You raised over  
\$40,000! — And  
everyone had a  
great time.**

**Thank you to our amazing fundraisers!**

**Top 10 :**

Mirka Prazak, Stacey New, Scott Malinowski,  
Ralph Provenza, Roseanne Stowell, Connie  
Maleady, Allison Dingman, Stephen Simmons,  
Doug Krause, and Nathaniel Marcoux



**Mark your calendar:  
23rd Annual Bowl for Kids Sake  
April 2010**

# Northshire BBBS Gets New Matches!

Just hired in June, Kerri MacLaury has already made several new matches between community volunteers and children in the Manchester area.

Northshire Big Brothers Big Sisters also has partnered with Fisher Elementary, Sunderland Elementary, and The Dorset School where lunch-time mentoring

programs will be offered. Lunch-time mentoring provides structure for matches, who meet at the mentee's school, once a week, during the Little's lunch and recess periods.

"We really want to encourage all community members to consider volunteering as a mentor! Both youth and adults benefit from mentoring because it's just so much fun!" said

MacLaury, Northshire Big Brothers Big Sisters

Coordinator. "It's just an hour a week and it makes such a huge difference!"

For more information on mentoring in Arlington, Dorset or Manchester, contact Kerri at 802-367-1155 or by email at [kmaclaury@ucsvt.org](mailto:kmaclaury@ucsvt.org).

## Match of the Month

Kathleen and Alyssa

Kathleen was matched with Alyssa, an 11-year-old girl in July 2008. Things started slowly as they took time to get to know each other. Alyssa was unsure how to relate to this new adult in her life and took her time to settle into the friendship.

Soon Alyssa saw she could trust Kathleen in a way she never knew possible. Now the two have found a deep and delightful friendship. Sometimes Alyssa plans their outings. They are attending "Thriller" dance classes together, laughing and having fun. Kathleen comments: "I am totally amazed and very happy. I love having her in my life."

## Waiting Children

Here are a few of the children who are waiting for a mentor. Interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister to one of them? Please contact Nicole at 442-5491 x287.

### Child 1

I am a 9 year old girl. I want to be an artist when I grow up. My father recently died and I really miss him.

### Child 2

I am a 12 year old boy. I love to play ball, video games and ride my bike. When I grow up I want to be a cop.

### Child 3

I am a 11 year old boy - I enjoy sports , esp. basketball. I had a Big Brother when I lived in NY but we moved and I miss him.

### Child 4

I am a 7 year old boy who loves sports, movies, camping and video games.

### Child 5

I am a 9 year old girl. I want to be an actress when I grow up.

### Child 6

I am a 9 year old girl who loves reading, playing soccer, drawing, & recorder.

### Child 7

I am a 13 year old boy. I like sports and rap music. I dream about going to UNC Chapel Hill & becoming a surgeon.

**Just a few hours a month makes a big difference. Please volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters to become a mentor to one of these children or one of the other children just waiting for a friend. Call today, 442-5491 x287 or email [npritikin@ucsvt.org](mailto:npritikin@ucsvt.org)**

## Citizens Bank &

## American Legion Post 13

## Donate Backpacks to Littles

This summer the Bennington Branch of Citizens Bank and the American Legion Men's and Women's auxiliary worked together to get children ready for the new school year. They purchased new school supplies and filled 24 backpacks. These backpacks were given to children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to help their families meet back-to-school costs. A big thank you to both groups for their devotion, time and



Lara Saunders of Citizen's Bank, Tom Donovan-Big Brother, Brandon-Little Brother, Greg Rems-Big Brother, and Megan Brooks-Former BBBS program manager display the sharp new backpacks.



Phone: 442-5491 ext. 287  
E-mail: [npritikin@ucsvt.org](mailto:npritikin@ucsvt.org)  
100 Ledge Hill Drive  
Box 588  
Bennington, VT 05201

---

Visit us @ [www.ucsvt.org](http://www.ucsvt.org)

---

Providing a mentor for every child  
who needs and wants one.

Non-Profit Organization <b>PAID</b> Permit No. 89 Bennington VT 05201
--

## Great Turnout for Big Brothers Big Sisters Summer BBQ



A good time was had by all at the picnic at Lake Shaftsbury on July 25. Many Bigs and their Littles showed up to have fun in the sun. This fall, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and their Littles have been making scarecrows on Main Street, attending German dinners, visiting with Junie B Jones at the Northshire Bookstore, attending the Bed Race in North Bennington, and visiting the Park McCullough House. Contact BBBS program coordinator to get matched with a Little and have some fun of your own.