



**Big Brothers & Big Sisters serving
Brant, Brantford, Haldimand & Norfolk**

For Immediate Release

August 6, 2009

Paris, ON-The local Big Brothers Big Sisters agency is looking forward to this upcoming school year in order to develop and deliver their In-School Mentoring program in Paris area elementary schools. The Board of Directors of the Frank Cowan Foundation approved a \$6,500.00 grant to the agency in order to get the In-School Mentoring program up and running for the 2009/10 school year. On hand to present the cheque to Executive Director Patti O'Reilly was Cowan Insurance's Brian Geffros, who also sits on the Board of Directors for the local agency. The funds will be used to begin implementing the program at one of the local Paris schools and to recruit new volunteers to the agency for this very worthwhile program.

The In-School Mentoring program matches adult volunteers with a child from Grades 1 to 4 in a one-to-one setting in the school. Volunteers get to spend one hour per week mentoring a child using activities such as board/card games, physical activity and crafts. The ability to have fun while mentoring is the number one goal of the program, which has a positive influence on not only the child, but the mentor as well, who gets to see the world of possibility open up in a child's eye. It's a small commitment that makes a big difference: One child, One hour a week, One BIG reason to go back to school.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is the leading child and youth serving organization providing mentoring programs across the country. Providing support to more than 1000 Canadian communities, over 140 local agencies offer the service that the organization was founded on, one-to-one matching. Men and women (age 18 or older) give of their time to become a mentor to a youngster who can greatly benefit from having an adult role model to look up to.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters offer a number of different community programs and fundraising events that you can take part in. Whether you have one hour a week or want to take part in one of the annual fundraisers – it all makes a difference! Call today at (519) 426-3121/800 268 8784 or go online at www.bbbshn.ca and see how you can help us "Share the Dream".

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For more information, please contact:

Carrie Stratford

Resource Coordinator

Big Brothers and Big Sisters, serving Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk

carrie@bbbshn.ca

(519) 426-3121 x. 304 or 1 800 268-8784