



Photo by Kevin Walker

Pamela Anglin, development program director with BBBS, says the agency will try to reduce its waiting list by recruiting more volunteers.

Big Brother Big Sisters
of Forsyth County, Inc. -
A United Way Agency

Recruiting effort centers on anniversary

BY COURTNEY GALLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is 100 this year

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is celebrating 100 years of providing mentors for children of single-parent families around the country. To mark the centennial anniversary, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Forsyth County wants to sign up 100 mentors by the end of the year.

There are 130 children on the waiting list at BBBS in Winston-Salem, says Pamela Anglin, development program director with BBBS.

"About 80 to 90 of them are boys who've been waiting two years (for Big Brothers). We're trying to recruit volunteers but many of them take two years to think about doing it so we've got kids waiting for that long," said Anglin.

Many people, she says, are under the impression that becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister requires a great deal of time in order to meet the needs of the kids. Anglin says that's not necessarily the case, because mentors are required to spend just a few hours a week with a child even if it means having the child tag along on errands or the mentor helping the child with his or her homework. The organization's motto - "Little Moments. Big Magic." - says it all.

"There's a misconception about Big Brothers Big Sisters that you have to be a super hero

and dedicate a lot of time," said Anglin. "It only takes a few hours a week. You can incorporate the kid in things you're already doing or things you want to do - grocery shopping, washing your car or just going bowling."

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the largest and oldest youth mentoring program in the country. A Cincinnati, Ohio, man by the name of Ernest Coulter founded Big Brothers in 1904 after he secured 39 mentors who each agreed to befriend one boy. Ten years later, Big Sisters was organized, and in 1923 efforts were made by the group to reach African-Americans in Kentucky and New York. By 1977 Big Brothers and Big Sisters merged into one organization with 357 agencies nationwide. The BBBS headquarters is reuniting former "Bigs" and "Littles" online at www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org to commemorate their anniversary.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Forsyth County, one of 500 agencies in the country today, has been serving children in Forsyth and Davie counties since 1977. Volunteers through the years and today come from all walks of life and professions. Prospective mentors can choose from one of four pro-

grams to mentor a child such as the Retired or Senior Mentor Program, the High School and College Program, the Corporate Volunteer Program or the Big Couples Program, which is ideal for married couples who prefer to mentor a child together.

Anglin says about one-third of the volunteers in Forsyth County are college students and many are professional or working adults.

"Sometimes we match (mentors and children) based on personality, and other times we match based on location," said Anglin.

Bert Grisard, director of BBBS Forsyth County, encourages the community to find time in their busy schedules for a child who just needs a friend.

"I guess the fact that (Big Brothers Big Sisters of America) has been around for 100 years shows that the need is still there unfortunately. We've unearthed so many people whom we matched 25 years ago who still stay in touch," said Grisard.

This Saturday, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Forsyth County will hold a local celebration at the Wachovia Building on Main Street where Bigs and Littles who were matched years ago will reunite and mingle with another generation of mentors.

For more information on volunteer opportunities with Big Brothers Big Sisters, call 724-7993 or visit www.bbbsnc.org.

News Clips

Compiled from staff, wire and submitted reports

Black circus returning

UniverSoul Circus, the nation's only African-American-owned circus, which has created a world all its own, is coming back to Greensboro. The magical world of the circus will feature song and dance, clowns, aerialists, elephants, acrobats and horses. Performances will be at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, 1921 W. Lee Street, Lot A. For ticket information contact Ticketmaster at 1-800-277-1700 or www.ticketmaster.com. For group sales call 1-800-316-7439.

Rubin named president of international organization

Bruce Rubin, M.D., of Winston-Salem, has been elected the sixth president of the International Congress of Pediatric Pulmonology (CIPP).



Rubin

He is also recently reappointed to the N.C. Respiratory Care Board. He assumed the presidency of CIPP in March. The professional organization has more than 2,500 members from 68 countries. His appointment is for two years.

Rubin has been a member of the N.C. Respiratory Care Board since 2001 and was recently reappointed to a three-year term. The board is responsible for licensing respiratory care practitioners in North Carolina. Rubin is co-medical director of respiratory care at N.C. Baptist Hospi-

tal. He is a professor of pediatrics, physiology and pharmacology at Wake Forest Baptist and a professor of biomedical engineering at Virginia Tech. He earned his medical degree at Tulane University and completed residencies and graduate school at Tulane University, The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario, and at Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology.

No regular mail delivery or retail service on Friday, USPS says

President George Bush has issued an executive order directing federal agencies to close on Friday, June 11, as a mark of respect for former President Ronald Reagan, who died Saturday.

There will be no regular mail service or retail service at postal facilities on June 11. Express mail service will be delivered.

Regular retail and delivery service will resume on Saturday, June 12. Flags at all U.S. Postal Service facilities will be flown at half-staff for 30 days from June 5.

Central Library offers summer programs for teens

Summer reading isn't just for kids. Teens do it too. Books only get better, so get on board and read at the Central Library.

• Read On! Teen Book Club - Mondays at 1 p.m. (June 7, 14, 21, 28, and July 12 and 19). Teens will meet for pizza and a sneak peek at some great books. Keep track of what you read this summer and win great prizes - key chains, tattoos, T-shirts and more.

• Urban Artware Sign Fest - Monday, June 21, at 2 p.m. If art is your thing, meet the Renegade Ninja Cowgirls and help create and paint signs to decorate Teen Central.

• Open mike night - Tuesday, June 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This is open to all teen

poets, musicians, comedians and spoken word artists who perform their own original works.

• Teen Movies After Hours - "Finding Nemo" - June 25 at 9 p.m.

• Teen Movies After Hours - "Blue Crush" - July 30 at 9 p.m.

• Teen Advisory Council - second Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. (June 10, July 8, Aug. 12). Join TAC, meet new friends, plan teen events, volunteer at the library, and help open Teen Central.

All programs are held in the Central Library Auditorium, 660 West Fifth Street.

N.C. Child Support Enforcement receives national recognition

North Carolina's Child Support Enforcement Program got a hearty pat on the back when the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) declared the program to be the most "outstanding" program in the nation.

Each year NCSEA, the nonprofit membership association representing professionals and organizations within the child support community in the United States and abroad, issues its coveted Excellence Awards. North Carolina will receive accolades at NCSEA's 53rd annual Training Conference & Expo in Palm Springs, Calif., this August.

"North Carolina really stands out as a dynamic, creative and family-focused organization working hard to get children the money they are owed," said Alisha Griffin, NCSEA president. "It's a program that's made great strides in the last several years, and NCSEA is proud to recognize them."

"We've listened to our clients, and what they say over and over again is the need for more and better customer service. That's what we've been trying to do," said Barry Miller, chief, N.C. Child Support Enforcement. "The good part is, better customer service means more money for children."

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