



# Building Life Skills

## December-Caring

Young people have regard for the well-being of others and places high value on helping people.

### Co-Sponsors of this page:

Lorain County Children Services  
Lorain County Board of Mental Health  
Lorain County Domestic Relations Court



## 40 Key Building Blocks to Help Kids Succeed

Search Institute has identified 40 building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible. These building blocks are referred to as "assets." Local schools have united in identifying monthly "asset" themes for schools and communities to help kids reach their potential.

# Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates 20 years

## Twenty years of caring... caring about community, caring about families and caring about kids

by Lise Day  
President and CEO  
Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters will be celebrating its twenty-year anniversary in Lorain County. The idea for a local organization began as a class project of Leadership Lorain County.

According to Beth Maiden, President/CEO of Leadership Lorain County. "I am glad to see Big Brothers Big Sisters grow and thrive. The goal of Leadership Lorain County is to develop leaders who will be proactive in assessing community needs and come up with creative solutions. Class projects offer opportunities to make a difference in our community."



Left front: Little Brandi and Little Jady coloring at Christmas party. Right of picture, Loretta Dawson, volunteer from Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

### Little brothers and sisters are:

- 46% less likely to do drugs
- 52% less likely to skip school
- and a 1/3 less likely to hit someone.

They are also 100% more likely to warm your heart.

There are many stories of success. Here's one that impacted Big Brother Jim as well as his Little.

### Jim is a busy professional and a big.

*One day Jim was running really late. He didn't even have time to change out of his suit before taking his little, Mike to the movies. To make matters worse, it had been raining. Jim picked Mike up and they got to the movie theatre. After circling the parking lot he found an open space at the far end of it.*

*Jim jumped from the car and hurried toward the door. Halfway there he realizes he's lost Mike. Dawdling, as 8 year old boys sometimes do, Mike was preoccupied with the puddles left from the rain. Jim got frustrated. "Come on Mike" he shouted back. But Mike was now wading into the puddles, splashing his pants. What a mess!*

*Jim turns and heads back to Mike. "Mike, I thought you wanted to see this movie" Jim said. He took Mike by the hand and started leading him out of the puddle and to the theatre.*

**There are a lot of ways to volunteer... as a lunch buddy you can spend as little as one hour a week...**

*Mike stopped and looked up at Jim earnestly. "But Jim, can't you smell it?"*

*"Smell what?" Jim asked. He looked around. There was nothing but cars and puddles. "Can't you smell the rain?" Mike said. "You know - how everything smells when the rain has just stopped and the sun is coming out." Jim remembered his own childhood, splashing in puddles and smelling the sweet smell that follows rain on a summer day in Ohio.*

*Then Jim stepped into a puddle of his own. And with his polished wing tip shoes, he splashed a big arc of water. Being a "Big" reminds us what's important in life. We get so busy that we forget the wonder of the world. We need to stop and smell the rain.*

The kids Big Brothers Big Sisters serve are not bad kids. They are in bad situations, but they are not bad kids. Through no fault of their own, they have been hurt by the death, divorce, desertion or incarceration of one or both parents. Most of the children live in poverty. But when they have a positive adult friend and role

model, a "Big" they have hope.

There are many ways to volunteer and change a child's life. As a lunch buddy, you can spend as little as one hour a week or where high school and college students can become Bigs. Married couples and families can even volunteer together. For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County, call 440.277.6541 or visit the website at BigLorainCounty.org.



Leadership Lorain County staff getting ready for the gala. Left, Jennifer Gercak, Program and Marketing Associate, Beth Maiden, President/CEO and Brenda Troxtell, Alumni Relations Coordinator

**Big Brothers Big Sister's  
20th anniversary  
THE GREAT GATSBY GALA**  
Saturday, January 10th  
6:00 p.m.  
DeLuca's Place in the Park

Ticket pre-sale \$50 before January 1st or \$60 after.  
Call 277-6541 or visit the website  
[www.BigLorainCounty.org](http://www.BigLorainCounty.org)  
Dress: costumes for the roaring 20s or semi-formal.

Big Brothers Big Sisters receives funding from the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lorain County, the Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County, the Lorain County Board of Mental Health, the Nord Family Foundation, United Way of Lorain County and many generous individuals and businesses.