

BIG BROTHERS  
BIG SISTERS  
NEWSLETTER 2023

AUTUMN COLLECTION  
TRAIN RIDE TO THE FORD ROUGE PLANT



THE OBSERVATORY AT THE ROUGE

The history of everything produced at Ford Rouge was provided to everyone who joined this tour. One interesting demonstration that the audience saw firsthand was the robotic assembly of a Ford F150 vehicle. A great deal of historical information was provided.



# BBBS Adds Third School District to its C2C Program



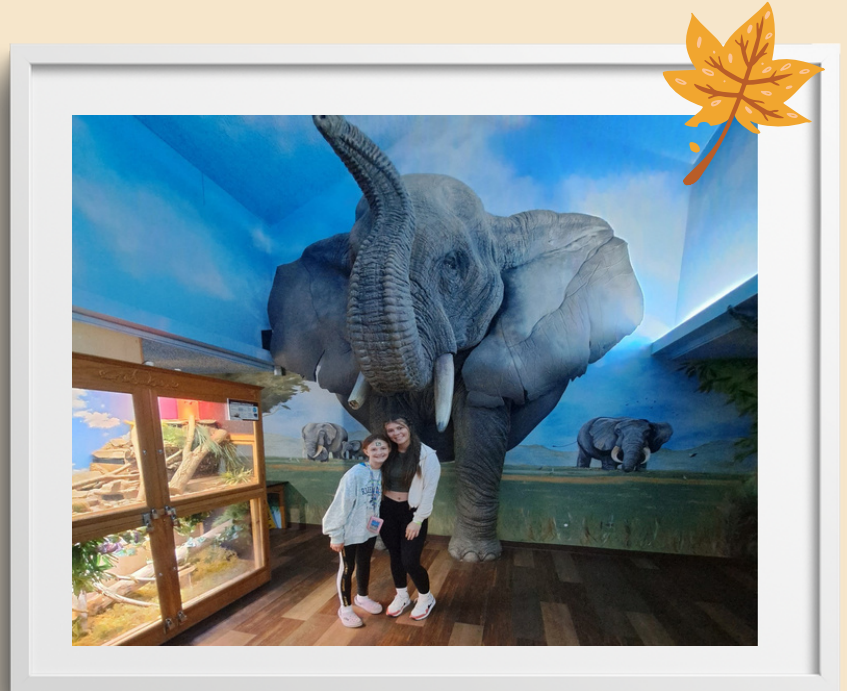
The Big Brothers Big Sisters Classroom to Classroom program (C2C) matches a leadership class from an area county high school as “Jr. Bigs” matching them with an elementary classroom (Littles). Previously we coordinated two current classroom to classroom programs one at Michigan Center School District and one at East Jackson Community Schools. Michigan Center has been in place for over 10 years and the East Jackson is going into their 4th year. In both schools, the program has been very successful.

We are so excited to announce that we have been awarded grant funding (John George Jr. Student Loan Fund) to expand the C2C program to Napoleon Community Schools. This program is going to look a bit different from the Michigan Center and East Jackson programs as we will not be working with a designated elementary classroom. Instead, Napoleon schools will identify children in need of mentorship from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. These students may be considered “At Risk” and will benefit from having a consistent weekly mentor. BBBS serves children facing adversity because research suggests that the biggest protective factor that a child could have is a trusted mentor. Our outcomes show that when a child has a caring, trusting person in their lives, they are more likely to succeed in life. We have successfully served an average of 135 Jackson County youth in 2022/2023.

The Big/Little matches in the C2C program meet weekly at the elementary school for about 40 minutes. A BBBS Match Specialist, will have weekly activities planned to encourage mentorship with a focus on Social Emotional Learning. We use a framework that the “Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) calls the “8 dimensions of wellness.” SAMHSA’s 8 dimensions of wellness are: Emotional, Environmental, Financial, Intellectual, Occupational, Physical, Social, and Spiritual. By providing educational experiences surrounding these 8 areas children learn how to live a “well” life and find a pathway to future success, all while their mentors are supporting them along their journey. A major part of this work is related to self-esteem building and coping skills.

We are so excited to expand this program to Napoleon Community Schools and are so very thankful for the John George Jr. Student Loan Fund!

# Big Brothers Big Sisters Site Based/Interfaith Program



**In June of 2023, BBBS began a new partnership with the Jackson Interfaith Shelter.**

**With this new partnership we visit the Interfaith Shelter bi-weekly in hopes to establish new bonds between our volunteers and Littles. We are beyond thankful to the City of Jackson Fire Department for their partnering with us to help volunteer at the Interfaith Shelter. The firefighters have been incredibly faithful and dedicated to helping us build a new and successful program.**

**Over the past few months, we have begun introducing new activities for the Bigs and Littles to do together. For some sessions, we allow them the choice of activities, such as the choice of board games or puzzles. In other sessions, we give them “get to know you” activities. The fire department has been kind enough to allow the Littles to visit the inside of the fire truck. During one session, they educated a Little about how they set up their firehouse and showed him how they use different tools on the truck. It is our hope that this program will produce many more special moments such as this one.**

**As this program progresses, we plan to implement activities focused on social and emotional development.**

# BBBS Community Based Program



**Big Brothers Big Sisters creates one-to-one matches with the hopes of creating lifelong friendships. One of these matches is Robert and Billy. Billy will be graduating from our program next year after he finishes his senior year of high school. Robert was originally introduced to our Community-based program by his wife. Robert wanted to be a big brother since he was semi-retired and his kids were graduating college. Robert felt that he had time to devote to a Little brother. He also enjoyed working with children. Billy's mother signed him up for the program because she felt that he needed a positive role model in his life. Robert and Billy were matched together in 2016 and have been meeting together ever since.**

**They spend one to two times a month together. As a young match, they would often get together to go out to eat or take the dog for a walk. Both Robert and Billy love animals. As Billy got older, Robert became confident in social conversations and they would volunteer for the Jackson County Humane Society or at BBBS functions like Breakfast for Santa. Recently, Robert and Billy attended our train trip to the Ford Rouge facility and they had a great time together. They both enjoyed riding the train and seeing how the Ford F150 was made. Robert enjoys his time with Billy as well and is very happy with the relationship. Robert has told his Match Specialist many times that he hopes that Billy will be in his life until the day he dies. This Match Specialist feels that Robert and Billy will stay connected throughout their lives, even after they complete the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.**

# ENJOY SOME PICTURES FROM OUR BIG/LITTLE EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

## RECRUITMENT AT THE APRON



## GROW JACKSON



## BIG MILES FOR LITTLE SMILES



## BBBS PICNIC



## 70'S NIGHT DINNER AUCTION



## ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

"Building 1st Impressions That Last"



# Thanksgiving Dinner

Date: November 6th, 2023

6:00-8:00pm

Jax Naz Church  
3905 Clinton Way, Jackson

RSVP at 517-784-7181

*B r e a k f a s t*

*w i t h*

*S a n t a*



Date: December 2, 2023

9:00am - 11:00am

Location: Michigan Theater

124 N. Mechanic Street

Jackson, MI 49201

**Big Brothers Big Sisters would like to invite our participants & immediate family to join us as we celebrate the holiday season with a delicious catered breakfast by CCC Catering and a visit from Santa Claus! Come hear holiday tunes from The Jackson French Quarter Dixieland Band. Please RSVP no later than November 29, 2023 to 517-784-7181.**

**\*\*Littles waiting to be matched are welcome to RSVP\*\***