



# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western New Hampshire Annual Report 2008



Little Moments. Big Magic.

## Dedication

Big Brothers Big Sisters dedicates its 2008 Annual Report to the innumerable volunteers of the past 35 years who have enabled our agency to become the organization it is today. Without volunteers there would only be Littles who have no mentors. For the past 35 years men and women of all shapes and sizes, younger and older, with diverse backgrounds have each come forward to take an interest in a child. Some filled a void for a short time; others became life-long friends. Each and every one of them, however, has made a difference in the life of a child! We make this dedication with great thanks to all the incredible people with such big hearts and a passion for giving.

Two of these special people were honored at the Annual Spring Celebration on May 8, 2008.



Big Sister of the Year  
Lucy Shonk



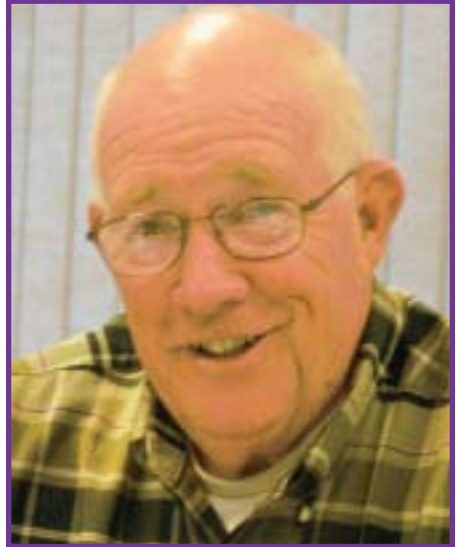
Big Brother of the Year, Bill Butynski and his  
Little Brother, Rickey Wilson

*"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*

*~Leo Buscaglia*

## President of the Board of Directors

In 2008, we saw an expansion of Board Members with new members: Carol Jue, Director of Children's Services at Monadnock Family Services, Mary McEntee KSC Coordinator of Community Service-, Celia Slason -Keene School District Guidance Counselor and Betty Christiansen-former Big Brothers Big Sisters staff, and Citizen's Bank Manager-Laverne Ells. Unfortunately, Accountant-Tracey Beard left the board after serving since 2003.



The name change to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western New Hampshire was a big move to incorporate all of our service region reaching into Sullivan County and even recruiting for volunteers as far north as Grafton County-Hanover and Lebanon.

Being Part of Something Big is more than being a Big Brother or Sister. There are many other ways to support our programs. You may host a fundraiser or a match event; you might Donate a Car; or you may like to participate in one or more of our many fundraisers, i.e. Hot Jazz, Bowling For Kids Sake or our Walk-a-thon.

We offer big thanks to all the people of Western New Hampshire for their support!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Chenu".

## Executive Director

In 2008, grants continue to be our strongest income stream. We continued with the US Dept. Health and Human Services grant for Children of Prisoners and the started a grant from US Dept. of Education Mentoring Partnerships (with schools). Both grants made it possible to serve more children and sustain the matches that we current have in place.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western New Hampshire's site- and community-based programs include Mentoring Children of Prisoners, Mentoring Partnerships, Mentoring Children with Disabilities, Mentoring Toward College and a new program, Big Owls Little Owls (BOLO) at Keene State College.

Mentoring Toward College is a program where Bigs help motivate students to continue their education and heighten their expectations financially and academically. BOLO originated, in the fall of 2008, for Keene State College Students, who don't have transportation, to meet with their Littles on campus. BOLOs meet up at the Student Center and go on to campus or downtown activities.

Fundraising in 2008 showed an expansion of our Donate a Car Program, a continuation of annual Bowling for Kids' Sake event at Yankee Lanes in Keene, and new event—Run Walk in Peterborough. Hot Jazz in January continues to be a very popular fundraising event for area middle school and high school jazz band.

In addition to our 3 full time staff, and 4 part-time staff, we were fortunate to be awarded two, AmeriCorps \*VISTAs positions—from PlusTime NH. One of our AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members worked hard building up our program in Sullivan County. He increased the number of new matches in Sullivan County and hosted several events in order to create a strong presence in that part of the state. Our other AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member was our liaison to KSC and founded our 4H Horse Club and is our first liaison to the County 4H program. She also launched into grant writing, increasing the amount of grant money for which we were approved.

Our collaborative relationships with the area colleges continue to grow. From Keene State College we have three internship slots open each semester, and the number of volunteers from Franklin Pierce University grew significantly.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western New Hampshire shows continued growth in both our site-based and community programs, by serving 476 children at a per match cost of \$550 (half of the national average). This is all made possible by the extraordinary support of our community, both individuals and businesses.

Which-ever way you do it, we thank you for your support!

# Board of Directors

**President:** Robert Charron, Hillsboro, NH

**Vice President:** Lucy Shonk, Dublin, NH

**Secretary:** Tracy Beard, Keene, NH

**Treasurer:** John Treat, Keene, NH

Ronald Alvarez, Keene, NH

Doug Hatfield, Hillsboro, NH

Carol Jue, Keene, NH

Mary McEntee, Keene State College

Celia Slasson, Keene School District

Michael Weil, Peterborough, NH

Betty Christiansen, Keene, NH

Laverne Ells, Keene, NH



# AmeriCorps\*VISTA

Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) is a national service program to help develop sustainability within the agency.

## **Nikki Thompson**

8/14/08 - 8/14/09 service time

Nikki assists in grant writing and other assorted tasks. She is the agency liaison for Keene State Colleges' BIGS Club. Nikki founded our 4H Horse Club and is our first liaison with the county 4H program. She is co-chair of the Horseleaders Association of Cheshire County.

## **Michael Herrmann**

4/16/08 - 4/16/09 service time

Michael is the Program Coordinator for Claremont. He took on the task of building up the Sullivan County program. His duties not only include building up the number of matches, and enrolling children, but also working a number of events to support the success of the Sullivan County program.



Program Coordinator, Julianne Manchester; Program Coordinator, Karen Brook;  
Executive Director, Peg Monahan; KSC Work Study, Cassidy Harper;  
AmeriCorps VISTA, Nikki Thompson; Program Coordinator, Betty Christiansen;  
AmeriCorps VISTA, Caitlin Baum; AmeriCorps VISTA, Michael Herrman.

## Support Staff

**Alma Anderson** - Receptionist

**Greg Duhaime** - IT/Program Assistant

## Program Coordinators

**Karen Brook**

- Service area: Towns of Monadnock School District, Fall Mountain School District, Hillsboro-Deering School District, Dublin schools and the schools Monadnock High School, Mount Caesar, Troy Elementary, Cutler Elementary, Emerson School, Hillsboro-Deering High School, Hillsboro-Deering Elementary After School Program, Dublin School, Dublin Consolidated School, Fall Mountain High School, Walpole School, North Walpole, Charlestown Library, Stevens High School-Claremont, Disnard Elementary, Bluff Elementary, Maple Avenue
- Became a Big Sister in 2002
- Became a Program Coordinator in 2003
- BS from Pine Tree State College in Washington
- Karen loves her job, but she says her favorite part would have to be going to the schools.
- Karen, "I see the best in people when I am at the schools; I am inspired everyday because of the great kids and volunteers."



# Program Coordinators

## Julianne Manchester

- Service area: All Keene School District and sending towns schools: Keene: all 5 elementary schools, Keene Middle School, Keene High School, Winchester School, YMCA, Keene Recreation Center, St. Josephs, Headstart, Keene Housing Authority.
- Program Coordinator since August 2004
- BS Education: New England College, Masters in Education-Counseling from Keene State
- From Julianne, "There is nothing better than taking wonderful volunteers and putting them into healthy relationships with our great children..." "It makes my job easier to have such terrific volunteers."



## Kathleen Bruce

- Service area: All towns of Rindge School District, ConVal School District including their school: Rindge Memorial, Jaffrey Grade School, Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School, SKIP, South Meadow School, Great Brook, Kids Together, Hinsdale Elementary, Hinsdale Middle School, Conant High School, ConVal High School, Hinsdale High School, and Franklin Pierce College
- Kathleen started at Big Brothers Big Sisters in September of 2007 as an intern, volunteer, and Super Big (supervising Big Sister).
- As an intern, Kathleen helped develop a program at Keene High School in which students with disabilities are matched with typical high school students. That program is still going strong today.
- In May 2008, Kathleen graduated from Keene State College with a major in Psychology and a Minor in Art

## Program Coordinators

- In October of 2008 Kathleen began working for the agency by assisting Program Coordinators. By the end of October, Kathleen was promoted to a part-time Program Coordinator. In December of 2008, she was further promoted to a full-time Program Coordinator
- What's Kathleen's favorite part of the job? "Just listening to the kids stories and seeing their excitement. There's no better feeling than the satisfaction that comes with a successful match."

### Laurie Waninger

- supervises all community matches
- became a Big Sister in 2002
- joined the Bigs Council in 2006
- became a volunteer office worker in 2006
- became a program coordinator for match support in 2008
- Laurie enjoys hearing the three perspectives of the match and observing as the relationship grows
- "I love hearing children speak in superlatives about their Bigs and the things they do together!"



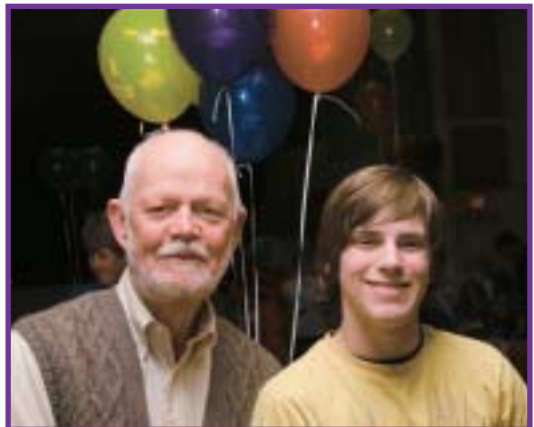
## Donors \$100-\$250

### Individuals

Anonymous  
Patrick Baker  
Jane Blanchard  
Karen Brook  
Deborah Busick  
Robert Englund  
Cynthia Ewing  
Cheryl Fry  
Helen Giles-Gee  
Anne Havill  
Kyle Gunnell  
David Howe  
Douglas Keene  
Bruce and Jane Keough  
Linda Lacey  
Timothy Lipisto  
Craig McBeth  
Antoinette McCutcheon  
Mary McEntee  
M. Margaret Monahan  
Walter Peterson  
Sharon Smith  
Anthony Toscano  
Rita Vehlies  
Chris Watkins  
John Whelan

### Organizations

Choice Industrial Solutions INC.  
Creative Labor Systems, Inc.  
Eagles Order No. 1413 Social Fund  
Fenton Family Dealerships  
Lenovo  
Masiello Employment  
Millard Group  
Millipore  
Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc.  
Saint Joseph Regional School Students  
Sak's Thrift Avenue- His & Her Clothing and  
Other Cool Stuff  
Self Storage Jaffrey  
Ultimate Accessories, LLC  
United Church of Christ, Keene Women's  
Fellowship



## Donors \$250 and up

### Individuals

Anonymous (3)  
Scott Ames  
Harriet A. Babcock  
Mike & Betty Christiansen  
Chris Daniels  
Mary Jane Doody  
Thomas M. & Cynthia Ewing  
Tracie Fowler  
Charles Goodwin  
John and Carol Hubbard  
Connie Joyce  
Kenneth & Carol Jue  
Malcolm Katz  
Markus Konig  
Lance LaClair  
Donna Marcin  
Kathleen Reardon  
Lucy Shonk  
Peter and Lucy Shonk

Lindi Stellato  
Janice Stillman  
Pamela White

### Organizations

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
Federated Church of Marlboro  
Give with Liberty Program  
MJD Hair Design  
Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc.  
New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc.  
Northeast Utilities  
Ocean National Bank - Keene,  
Peterborough  
Peerless Insurance Company  
Public Service of New Hampshire  
Rotary Club of Charlestown  
Rotary Club of Claremont  
Rotary Club of Keene  
TD Banknorth  
Tousley Property Management, LLC

## Car Donors

Gary Barnes  
Ron Bingham  
Timothy Coronis  
Laverne Ellis  
Robert Goundry  
William Gurkin  
Pooky Hayden  
Dan Humphrey  
Sandya Kale  
James Peale  
Movses Poggossian  
Mark Putnam  
Paul Stewart  
Harry Wolhandler



# Bowling For Kids Sake

## Individuals

Vickie Barrett  
Lauri Buffum  
Brian Church  
Roger Dearth & Family  
Mary Farnsworth  
Sandra Heavisides  
Ronald and Juanita Hope Family  
Gretchen Anne Ingvason  
Carol Jue  
Sara LaJoie  
Marion Lefrancois  
Melissa Lovetere  
Karri Makinen  
Carol Moreau  
Mathew Richards  
Sharon Roussell  
Bethany Sebring  
Brittany Spencer  
Jasmine Strahan  
Alyssa Veilleux  
Chelsea Weinreib  
Elsie White

## Organizations

Anonymous  
Ann Henderson Interiors LLC  
Antioch University of New England  
Carlisle Lumber  
Cheshire Oil  
Foley Funeral Home  
Keene Industrial Paper Co.  
Keene Monument Co., Inc.  
Keene School District, Employees  
Langdon Place of Keene  
Melanson Company, Inc.  
Millipore Corporation  
Savings Bank of Walpole  
Smiths Medical ASD, Inc.  
Somero Enterprises Inc.  
Vision Financial Corp



## Individuals

Jennifer Adams  
Nancy Adams  
Joni Bergeron  
Lizzie Brood  
Jeff Brown  
Anneke Cooper  
Sally Dermody  
Jean and Shawn Doherty  
Janice Fiandaca  
Paula Gleeson  
Peter Gosline  
Lindsay Hamrick  
Evelyn Izbicki  
Carol Jue  
Eileen Khouw  
Elizabeth Landry  
Heather McKernan  
Stephen Pelkey  
Michael Redmond  
Nancy Reilly  
Diane Russell  
Bethany Sebring  
Ginger Smith  
Christine Taylor  
Robert Teser

## Organizations

ASAP Events  
A.W. Peters Inc.  
Allen & Matthewson Energy Corp  
American Steel  
Annie Card Photography  
Anthem Blue Cross  
Atlas Advanced Pyrotechnics, Inc.  
C.C. Stephens & Co  
Consensus Technology  
Crotched Mountain Foundation  
Dublin Oil  
Hafeli Fuels  
Kiwanis Club of Peterborough  
Monadnock Community Bank  
NH Gas Corp  
Public Service of New Hampshire  
SDE  
Web Site Publicity Inc.  
Wireless World LLC  
Wireless Zone



# Grant List

Campus Compact for New Hampshire  
Caroline Fox Fund  
Citizens Bank Charitable Foundation, IMA.  
City of Keene, City Council  
Cogswell Benevolent Trust  
DCYF Incentive Fund  
Dublin Community Foundation  
Hampshire Community United Way, Inc.  
Monadnock United Way  
Other United Ways-Heritage, Merrimack  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Teleflex Foundation  
US Dept. of Health and Human Services,  
Mentoring Children of Prisoners  
United Way of Merrimack County



## 2008 Events



- Granite Gorge Snow Tubing Event – Bigs Club

- Movie Day @ Keene State College – Bigs Club

- Mardi Gras Event @ Franklin Pierce University – Bigs Club

- Bowling For Kids' Sake – Keene, Claremont



- "Mad Science" Event – Bigs Club

- Annual Spring Celebration and Award Ceremony @ Stonewall Farm

- "Taste of Claremont" fundraiser



## 2008 Events

- Fun in Moody Park
- BBBS Night at the Swamp Bats
- Mini-golf event @ Twinkle Town
- Apple Picking event @ Alyson's Orchard



- Pumpkin Festival event – jewelry and zipper pulls fundraiser
- Trick or Treat @ Carle Hall - Bigs Club



- Winter Dance Party @ Keene State College – Bigs Club



# Big's Club at Keene State College

**President:** Ashley Lorrain

**Vice President:** Alyssa Veilleux

**Treasurer:** Erica Radar

**Secretary:** Jackie Vehlies

**Publicity:** Chris Reynolds

**Project Managers:** Amanda Ruest and Chantal DiBartolomeo

**Advisor:** Mary McEntee

**Other members:** Kerianne Hanson, Tess Felah, Patricia Robinson, Stephan Coppez

## 2008 Activities Included:

- Match Events held in conjunction with BBBS
  - Snow Tubing Party at Granite Gorge
  - Trick-or-Treat Party at Keene State College
  - Apple Picking at Alyson's Orchard
  - Winter Dance Party at Keene State College
- Fundraisers
  - Assisted with Pumpkin Festival Bead Booth
  - Pumpkin Lobotomy at Keene State College
  - Participated in the Thanksgiving Basket Drive
- Members attend the Keene Housing Authority's after-school program once a month, where they participate in games and arts & crafts with the children
- The Big's Club also works with Monadnock Regional High School to promote early college awareness by volunteering during students' lunch hours
- E-board and Members meet weekly
- Big's Club sends representatives to the monthly BBBS Big's Council meetings

## Bigs' Council

Made up of veteran Big Sisters and Big Brothers, a Board Member, a Staff Member and Bigs' Club liaisons, the Bigs' Council plans fun activities for matches throughout the year. Snow Tubing at Granite Gorge, Mini-golf at Twinkle Town, Apple picking at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, and the Annual Spring Celebration event are just a few of the activities the Bigs' Council is involved with planning. Staff leader is Laurie Waninger, Program Coordinator for Community Match Support.



## Hot Jazz in January

Raises money for BBBS, and everyone enjoys wonderful music by our youngest music makers.

## Bowl for Kids Sake

Our biggest fundraiser of the year. Teams work together to raise money and celebrate with a day of bowling and fun!

## Run/Walk-a-thon

Runners and walkers collect pledges from individuals and organizations.

## Donate a Car

An easy way for people to dispose of an old car that is no longer useful to them. BBBS does all the paperwork, for the donor to get the IRS tax deduction, and the car will be towed (if necessary) at no cost to the donor.



## Matches of the Year

### Community Based Big Sister

- ✓ Lucy Shonk

### Community Based Big Brother

- ✓ Bill Butynski

### College Based Bigs of the Year:

- ✓ Casey Goodell, *Franklin Pierce University*
- ✓ Christopher Reynolds, *Keene State College*
- ✓ Holly Lamport, *Keene State College*



### High School Bigs of the Year

- ✓ Erin O'Loughlin, *Conant High School*
- ✓ Allison Murphy, *ConVal High School*
- ✓ Spencer Leflem, *ConVal High School*
- ✓ Erica Bullock, *Dublin School*
- ✓ David Lieberman, *Dublin School*
- ✓ Cole Bensenhaver, *Fall Mountain Regional High School*
- ✓ Tracey Steinhilber, *Hillsboro-Deering High School*
- ✓ Alecia Manning, *Keene High School*
- ✓ T.J. Hadden, *Keene High School*
- ✓ Sarah Dick, *Monadnock Regional High School*
- ✓ Sarah Pope, *Stevens High School*
- ✓ Cody Jekubovich, *Stevens High School*



### Guidance Counselor of the Year

- ✓ Diana Elkavitch, *Mt. Ceasar*



## Story of a Match

**Big Brother Ben Governor (Age 16)**

**Little Brother Kyle Joslyn (Age 8)**

These two are a great match. Kyle learned the days of the week just so he would know when he and Ben were meeting. They both love to build things, and they enjoy playing legos and k'nex together.

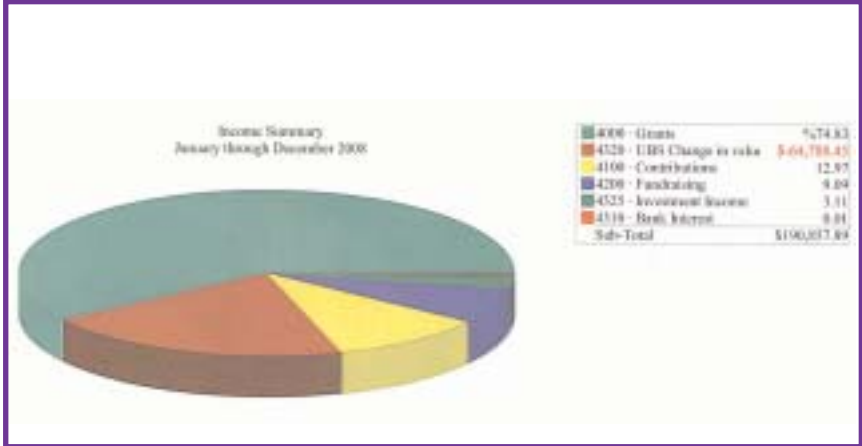
Ben and Kyle meet on Fridays, at Mount Caesar in Swanzey, during Ben's study hall. They were disappointed with the number of Friday snow-days this winter, because it interfered with their time together. They don't understand why school had to be cancelled.

Best of all: their birthdays are only 2 days apart!

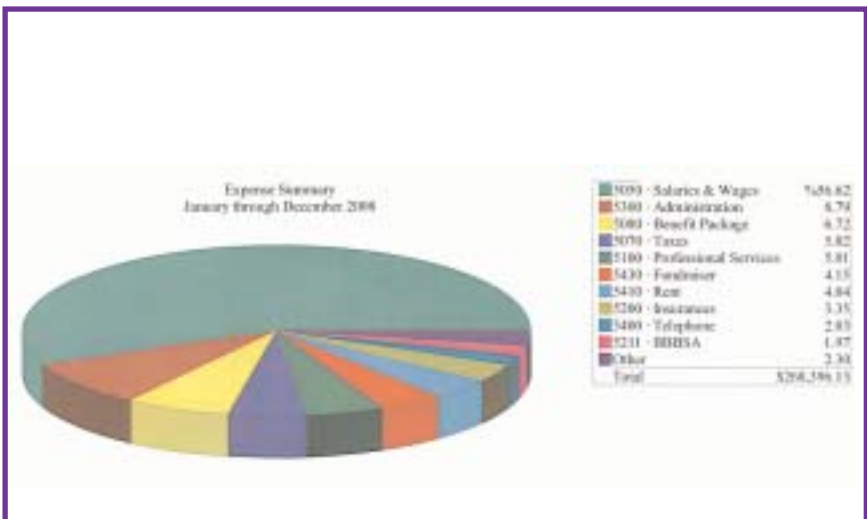


# Where does your money go?

## Income



## Expenses



## Looking Ahead

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western NH** is looking ahead into 2009 and beyond, with concern for finances and with new excitement working with the Teen Program. Mentoring has a very strong record providing solutions to a broad range of social issues. Big Brothers Big Sisters' program has been well-researched and is highly regarded as the answer to build child self-confidence, competency in school and caring for family and friends. We have records and research to prove it.

**Fall of 2008**, we were concerned about Agency finances. Our trust fund, we have relied on to keep the Agency growing steadily has shrunk considerably. Our program expenses expand, as we are serving more children. So far in 2009, we have decreased our budgeted income and laid-off staff and reduced expenses by 20%. We also decreased the number of site-based programs. We made our decisions concerning cuts by studying the costs to serve all school districts. Travel costs were one of our greatest expenses, so we streamlined our services to communities that were further from Keene, but continuing serving them with Community Program, only. We capped the clients that we would serve at 500; we had hopes of growing to 800 matches by 2010. We are re-thinking our strategic plans.

**Teens in 2009**, we are expanding our program to include teens. Historically, children who have applied for Bigs were between 5-12 yrs old. Few teens apply to the program; we had difficulty recruiting volunteers for teenagers. They don't want to be called Little Brothers and Little Sisters. and that is understandable. However, they need help launching into careers and colleges. Many teens have disabilities including mental illness, have seen less family income, have problems with the courts, and some have been in jail. Teens in the foster care are hard hit, as they outgrow the DCYF system. BBBSWNH is launching a program in 2009 to recruit teens to be part of our program as clients, Mentoring Toward Careers and College. We have hired an AmeriCorps member to recruit teens and mentors for those teens. We have applied for federal grants made available by the stimulus money to serve this age group.

**In closing**, we have less staff, but may have more funds available to us to work with teens, therefore expanding what we do well. Our fundraising event income is definitely down, but income like Donate a Car seems to be working well. We are hopeful toward trust funds increases, building on what we do well, and we expand grant funds, contributions, and events like Bowl for Kids' Sake.



# Locations

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Main Office  
174 Emerald Street  
Keene, NH 03431

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
at Red Elephant  
4 Tremont Street  
Claremont, NH 03743

Bigs' Club Office  
Keene State College  
Young Student Center  
229 Main Street  
Keene, NH 03435



A special thanks to:



When you are a part of something Big, you know you can help improve each child, class, school, neighborhood, and town.