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You don't have to be a dad ...

To help raise a child



Photos by Michael Blair/MBlair@News-Herald.com

ABOVE: Big Brother Josh Amos of Willoughby stands with Ranulfo Razo, 10, of Painesville on his shoulders. BELOW: Amos, right, plays soccer with Ranulfo Razo at Recreation Park in Painesville.

Volunteers help pave way for youth success

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Volunteers of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio aren't taking the place of a father or a mother, but they still guide children in the right direction, executive director Tim Kehres said.

Not every child has the benefit of celebrating a Father's Day or a Mother's Day, but for some area children, Big Brothers Big Sisters is a program that gives them an adult role model in their life, which otherwise may not be

available to them.

The program has been based in Painesville since 1974 and pairs boys and girls with adult volunteers with whom they spend time on a weekly basis.

"Our mission is to foster development of the youth so they can reach their highest potential as caring and responsible adults," Kehres said.

"We are able to do that by using one thing and one thing only, and that is using mentors to be friends and role models to the youth."

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Hear from the volunteers who help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio accomplish its mission, and from those who benefit because of that effort

