



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release**

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST OHIO APPOINTS NEW BOARD MEMBER

Painesville, Ohio, June 22, 2011 – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio announces that it has appointed Anthony S. LaNasa to its Board of Directors.

LaNasa is a senior manager for the accounting and consulting firm Howard, Wershbaile & Co. in Cleveland. He specializes in advising small and family-owned businesses in the manufacturing, non-profit, healthcare and real estate industries.

For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio, becoming a donor or volunteer mentor, contact the agency at 440-352-2526 or log onto www.bbbsneo.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio, is a donor and volunteer supported mentoring network that has been helping vulnerable children in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties beat the odds for more than 40 years. Their programs, offered free of charge, include:

- the tradition “match” program that matches caring adult volunteers, age 18 and older, with children between the ages of six through 15
- after school mentoring programs that utilize high school student volunteers to mentor elementary school children in grades three through five one day a week after school
- lunch buddy mentoring which recruits senior citizens to mentor children in grades three through five in their elementary school during their lunch hour
- Big Brothers Big Sisters/ E City Lake County, an entrepreneurial/business class, that recruits local business men and women to mentor high school students enrolled in the class by offering guidance and advice as they create a business and produce a product or service
- Amachi Ohio, a specially designed program to help children of incarcerated parents

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio cont.

Big Brothers Big Sisters believes every child has the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Most children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio are in single-parent households. The organization depends on donations to help conduct background checks on volunteers to ensure child safety; and provide ongoing support for children, families and volunteers to build and sustain long-lasting relationships, key to successful mentoring.

Independent studies have proven that children matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister are:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 33% less likely to exhibit violent behavior

For children who participate in an after-school mentoring program:

- 64% have a more positive attitude toward school
- 58% get higher grades
- 60% improve peer relationships
- 64% develop higher levels of self esteem

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