



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Northeast Ohio

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**For Immediate Release**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters Seeks Business Mentors for BBBS / E CITY Lake County Program**

*More students enrolling creates need*

Painesville, Ohio—December 16, 2009— The resounding success of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio / E CITY Lake County course introduced at Harvey High school last year has resulted in more students applying to take the course this year and thus an increased need for business mentors.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters / E CITY Lake County is a semester-long course that teaches students how to create and manage a small business. Unlike other E CITY programs, the Big Brothers Big Sisters / E CITY Lake County program provides each student with his or her own business mentor who stays with the student throughout the semester to guide them and provide advice and direction.

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Business mentors are an integral part of the program. They are members of the local business community who agree to volunteer their time, approximately one hour one day a week, and work one-on-one with their student. Often the business mentor is the “link” that inspires the student to complete the program. Their guidance and support are invaluable in helping students develop their business plan and presentations. They are often the first caring adult that has spent significant time with the student.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a business mentor in the Big Brother Big Sister E CITY Lake County program at Harvey High school, contact Anna Marie at 440-352-2526 or [ampalmer@bbbsneo.org](mailto:ampalmer@bbbsneo.org).

### **About Big Brothers Big Sisters**

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the US. Big Brothers Big Sisters has been the leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century developing positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio is a non-profit organization that has been part of the local community for more than 40 years. They provide mentors to children, ages six through 18, through several separate and distinct mentoring programs in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties.

In their traditional “match” program, caring adult volunteers, age 18 and older, are matched with children, age six to 15 years, in one-to-one relationships. The agency also operates after-school and Lunch Buddy mentoring programs that are designed to help elementary school children in grades three through five develop positive attitudes toward school, build self-esteem and have fun while improving their natural abilities and social skills. The agency also operates and administers the Big Brothers Big Sisters E CITY Lake County program, an entrepreneurship and life skills class at Harvey High School in Painesville. The goal of BBBSNEO is to provide a mentor to every child who needs and wants one. The programs are available at no cost to the children and their families.

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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