



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big News

January 1, 2011

In This Edition:

C.E.O Message	2
Board "Spotlight"	3
Grant County News	4
Thank your Mentor Day	5
Upcoming Events	6
BBBS Celebrations	7
New Matches	8
Harlem Ambassadors	9
10 free activities	10

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

start something

SAVE THE DATE!

April 17, 2011

1:00pm-4:00pm

Ten Pin Alley

1201 E. Amador

Bowlers Line Up for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern New Mexico's largest fundraiser!

Bowl For Kids' Sake (BFKS) is our largest annual fundraiser that raises funds and awareness for our local Community and School based programs.

It's not about bowling. It's about kids. Bowl for Kids' Sake is an easy and enjoyable way to make a positive difference. Everyone can get involved as a bowler on a team of family members, friends or co-workers; or as a sponsor. If you care about kids and can spare a little time for fun, then Bowl for Kids' Sake is right up your alley.

Visit us online at www.bbbsofswnm.org for sponsorship and team packet information! Let the games begin!

Start Something and call us today to get involved! For more information, contact Misty Snipes
Phone: 575-523-9530 * Fax: 575-523-9531
Email misty.snipes@bbbsofswnm.org

PLEASE NOTE STAFF EMAIL CHANGES

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Message from the C.E.O

Happy New Year! I would like to welcome everyone back for another great year! In 2010 we saw a year of growth for the program with many new friendships and partnerships in the community.

We are excited to kick-off a new slogan for our agency, **Start Something**. This will be a replace "Little Moments Big Magic".

After talking to many participants, donors, board members and staff about our mission and what we do they all had one thing in common: they all wanted to start something for children. This new brand speaks to multiple audiences, encourages involvement and captures how our unique one-to-one mentoring changes perspectives and lives in our communities.

Each of us can start something big or little-you can start something with a donation or volunteering your time or starting something by being an advocate involving businesses, family and friends. This is a call to action that allows everyone to contribute in their own special way.

We have many fun and exciting ways for each one of you to start something and impact a child's life and the community as a whole. Start with recognizing all of our wonderful mentors during January which is National Mentoring Month. These individuals are dedicated to the children we serve and the impact is endless. Become a speaker for one of our monthly trainings we provide to our matches. Sponsor a match with a donation to help the development of their one-to-one bond. Get your business, friends or family together to create a bowling team for our Annual Bowl For Kids Sake event Sunday April 17th. Every step in the right direction is starting something in a child's life.

I look forward to what will be accomplished in 2011 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern New Mexico. If you have any ideas or suggestions to help enhance the program please feel free to call me at 523-9530 or email at Stacie.christiano@bbbsofswnm.org

Thank you,
Stacie Christiano
Chief Executive Officer
Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM

Welcome
to our
BBBS Family!



Sandi Burden is our new Enrollment Specialist and oversees the Community Based Program. She comes to us with 3 years of BBBS experience from another agency in Ohio. Sandi started out as office assistance and then was promoted to School Based Case Worker at BBBS serving Defiance, Paulding and Henry County Ohio. While working for BBBS in Ohio she received her Bachelor's in Social Work.

Since moving out West she has worked at a couple other agencies, all of which specialize in serving at risk youth. Working with this population is one of Sandi's passions.

In her spare time Sandi enjoys being adventurous and exploring the surrounding area. She loves to knit, listen to music, go to church, read, keep in touch with her family back in Ohio and rooting for Ohio State Buckeyes!

Sandi is very grateful for the opportunity to work at BBBS and is very excited to have an office. She says, "Now I feel like a 'real' grown up!!" She looks forward to meeting the Bigs and Littles of the community and supporting them in any way she can.

Please feel free to email Sandi with any questions or concerns regarding the BBBS Community Based Program at Sandi.Burden@bbbsofswnm.org

Message from the President



2010 has come and gone and the BBBS Board members and our amazing staff have geared up and are ready to embrace 2011! I would like to take this time to thank our many sponsors for 2010 as I reflect on our events such as Bowl for Kids Sake, Little Moments Big Magic, Mudd Volleyball and the Harlem Ambassadors Basketball game! We had so much fun raising funds for our little's futures and it couldn't be possible without the donations; so thank you to SITEL, American Document Services, Memorial Medical Center and many other organizations that helped us throughout the year. May it be selling Pepsi at the Renaissance Faire or selling tickets outside an establishment, you all made a difference. A very special Thank you to Roberto Estrada, who every year has donated food for our Christmas Party for our Bigs and Little's. He has always been generous and we can't thank him enough for all that he's done for Big Brothers Big Sisters throughout the years.

This upcoming year is filled with fun and excitement and we are ALL ready for the challenge. We have exciting programs planned for our Bigs and Little's this year; to help build their mentorships all while teaching them different strategies on life and learning through fun activities! We are bringing back Mudd Volleyball and The Ambassador Basketball tournament to help raise funds for the agency, so please look out for our events, all filled with fun, excitement and anticipation for great things ahead.

Thank you Thank you Thank you to our amazing staff! You all worked late, worked weekends, came in early, stressed daily, made calls, beat the pavement and really did an amazing job in 2010, this agency is nothing without you and although you are not always featured in the spot light but working SO hard behind the scenes, we can't THANK YOU enough for all that you do!! So again, Thank you to Stacie, Misty, Elaine, Sara, Lisa, Betti and Sandi, you are such an incredible team and we are so blessed to have you!! May God Bless our upcoming year!

Savonne Griffin
Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM
Board President



Bill Chadwick is a retired Veteran from Los Angeles California. He graduated with a BA in Business at the Rochester New York Institute of Technology. Bill has 45 years experience in Healthcare Sales. He is a proud father of 2, Kelly and Andrew and 3 grandchildren.

Bill has been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters since 1987 when he began as a Big Brother to “Chad.” He has also been a Board Member for a total of 13 years in California and Southwestern NM. His favorite part about being involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters is to see the “Littles” smile and interact with their Bigs. Bill feels that as a Big himself, he was able to show his little the benefits of education, interaction with peers and proper direction toward the future.

Bill says that he enjoys living in Las Cruces because of the clean air, low traffic and ideal weather.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing the guitar, working with his backyard and spending time with his 2 dogs, Duggn and Ebony.



Don Kelly Diego is the current Morning Show On Air Personality for “The Country Station-K-Great 104”, 103.9 FM. He has been on the board for BBBS since 2005. He has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Don’s inspiration to work with BBBS was his daughter, who was a Big when she was in High School. Don is a fulltime student at NMSU working on a Masters Degree in Social Work.

Don has been married to his wife Kathy for over 26 years. He is a proud father of three adult Daughters, Danielle (who was the Big Sister), Lisa, and April.

Don was recruited to the area by his former radio employer. He loves the weather in Southern New Mexico (excluding the wind), and enjoys the setting sun on the Organs.

He likes to sing, watch movies, fish, dance, and hang out with his family.

His favorite part about being involved with BBBS is that he likes that we are all working together for a common goal of helping those who need us. He also enjoys being a Big. Don says “Being a Big is the best.”



Savonne Griffin is the current Board President for BBBS and is employed with FirstLight Federal Credit Union as the Marketing Representative. She has lived in the beautiful Mesilla Valley her entire life. Savonne is a proud graduate of Las Cruces High School and New Mexico State University.

Savonne and her husband Manny are proud parents of 2 sons; Adrian and Christian. She believes that family and faith should always come first.

Her main hobby is making memories with her kids, “Family Time” in her household is required fun. She played the Viola in Orchestra for 7 years and loves to pick it up now and again as a stress reliever. Pottery is also a hobby of hers, she loves to make it, paint it and try to give it away.

Savonne says she loves Las Cruces because of the pretty weather all year round. She says the people are wonderful, courteous and pleasant, a great place to go to school, raise a family and retire.

She feels our leadership is top notch and our community is amazing, the views of the organ mountains are breathtaking and relaxing and the business environment is wonderful to work in and with.

Her favorite part about being involved with BBBS is the difference the program makes in a child’s life. Savonne says “Our program is a mentorship based initiative that I feel can truly change the world. Even if a child has both a mother and father in the home, or a relative raising them, it’s important that they have the guidance of a person, who is willing to take the time to listen, talk and understand a child. Our program has proven to help keep kids off the streets, to give them a vision of the future and help them stay in school. Our program is amazing and could not be done without the wonderful Volunteers that we attract and the generous donors that give to help make a difference. There are so many great parts of Big Brothers Big Sisters that I cannot pick just one, I am just blessed to get the opportunity to be involved and encourage others daily to try to make a difference. It only takes one, to change the world...and if not the picture of the entire world, you can change the world of one child, which in turn is changing the future for that one person.”

2010 Holiday Dinner



We thank all who attended the Holiday Dinner:
 -Bigs, Littles & their families
 - Special Guests, Rep. Rudy Martinez and District 3 County Commissioner, Christy Miller
 - BBBS Staff



We thank Brian and his staff from the Redbarn Steakhouse for their support!



A special thank you to Wal-Mart for being our 2010 Holiday Dinner Sponsor!



1st Quarter "Match of the Moment"



This quarter Jayne and Eliza have been chosen for our "Match of the Moment" because of the strong relationship they have developed over the last 5 years. When Jayne started the BBBS program she thought she that at the end of her year commitment she would be done. Little did she know how attached she would get to her Little Sister Eliza. Eliza has become a part of Jayne's family and both the Big and Little feel that they will be connected forever. Jayne enjoys being able to see the world through Eliza's eyes and seeing the improvements Eliza has made over the years. Eliza's improvement in her confidence is one of the positive changes that even her teachers notice. Jayne also has noticed that Eliza is more comfortable communicating with other adults and children as well. On behalf of the BBBS staff, we would like to recognize Jayne and Eliza for their commitment to each other and our program. They are a joy to work with and we look forward to hearing more about your growth as Big Sister and Little Sister.

(For more information on how a match is chosen, please refer to page 6)

Activities Matches can do Jan-March

January

Bike Club M,W,TH - 3:30-5:30PM Tue: 5:15-7:15PM.
 Anybody who can ride a bike is welcome! Meet at Penny Park. Bring your bike and helmet or call us to arrange to borrow a bike. Helmets are available.

Location: Penny Park **Phone:** 534-2953.
Email: bethanysaunders@gmail.com.

February

Decorative Painting Class every Thursday, 10am - 3pm
\$5.00 per day.
 Sherelle says there isn't anyone she can't teach to paint!

Location: Aunt Judy's Attic 1950 Highway 180E
Phone: 575-388-1620.

March

Friends of the Library Book Sale, 2nd Saturday
10:00am-2:00pm
 Support your local Library while teaching your little about the importance of reading and donating to local programs. With only a few dollars, you can purchase many books to enjoy reading together!
Location: 1510 Market Street

Check out the last page for 10 ideas on things you can do with your little for free!

NATION'S LARGEST MENTORING NETWORK URGES AMERICANS TO *START SOMETHING* TO HELP KIDS SUCCEED IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

This January, as part of National Mentoring Month, Big Brothers Big Sisters launches *Start Something*, a national initiative inviting all adults – not just volunteers -- to support quality mentoring to help children who face adversity beat the odds.

The nation's leader in quality one-to-one youth mentoring services, Big Brothers Big Sisters holds itself accountable for and is able to measure specific youth outcomes -- educational achievement, avoidance of risky behaviors (especially juvenile delinquency), higher self-esteem, confidence and ability to relate to others. *Start Something* challenges Americans to visit BigBrothersBigSistersofswnm.org to get involved by donating, sharing mentoring success stories or volunteering. Increased funding will allow Big Brothers Big Sisters to carefully make more mentoring matches and provide ongoing assistance for mentors, mentees and families to help sustain long successful relationships unique to its programs.

"We know the serious risks – high dropout rates, juvenile crime, teen pregnancy – facing today's youth and we know all too well what happens when we do nothing. *Start Something* empowers Americans to become a part of a proven solution," said Karen J. Mathis, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America president and CEO. "We are proud of all who take the initiative to *Start Something*. What better time than now, National Mentoring Month, to start a child on the road to success? When our kids improve in and out of school, the entire nation succeeds.



start something



Nominate your Big or Little for 2011!

Here is your chance to tell everyone just how great your Big or Little is! Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM wants to recognize one Big and one Little to acknowledge them for all the great work they're doing.

The winners will be chosen by a selected committee who will read all essays and base the decision upon our Big of the Year criteria as well as the essay's submitted.

The winners will be recognized at our annual banquet held in the fall of 2011.

All essay's must be submitted no later than August 1, 2011.

Please call the office at 575-523-9530, if you would like a nomination form emailed to you.

In honor of National Mentor Day, we would like to show our appreciation to the volunteers in our program! Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM would like to invite all BIGS to:

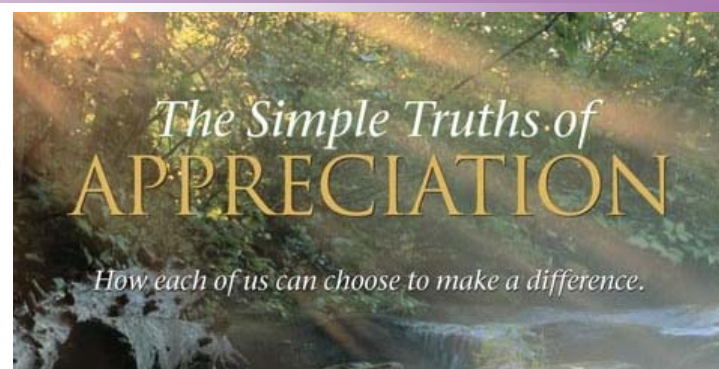
"Mentor Mixer"

**When: National Mentor Day,
Tuesday January 25, 2010**

Where: BBBS Office

TIME: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Please join in the recognition celebration for you and all that you do, you deserve it!





February Training

Bigs & Littles Training

Thursday, February 10, 2011

BBBS Office

6:00pm-7:00pm

Topic: Healthy Living with your Big or Little.

March Training

Bigs & Littles Hike

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Topic: Start Something with Happy Hiking
Hike starts at 10:00am

Hiking "A" Mountain: Located 3 miles east of NMSU, it offers two trails that circle around the mountain for hiking or mountain biking, of which, one of the trails leads to the top.

Bigs and Littles, join the BBBS staff for a hike up "A" mountain. Meeting destination and further details to be announced by email.

Bring plenty of water and appropriate wear for a hike!

Please keep in mind that attending these trainings, meet one of the requirements of being a Big. Every Big must attend a minimum of two trainings per year.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM is proud to announce that we will be recognizing a quarterly "Match of the Moment" which we will feature in our newsletters.

The match selections are based on the following:

- *Should be in good standing with agency*
- *Has not broken any BBBS ground rules or policies*
- *Should be in good standing with all participants*
- *Keeps in consistent contact with Little/Big*
- *Has positive relationship with all participants (Big, Little, guardians)*
- *Has made a direct and positive impact on their little's/Big's life.*

Join Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM at the Las Cruces Convention Center for a Community Open House and "Touch a Truck" event.

January 15, 2011

10:00am-2:00pm

Las Cruces Convention Center-
(680 E. University Ave)

This event offers children a hands-on opportunity to explore heavy machinery and meet the people who operate them.

This will be a free event in which all of Las Cruces and the surrounding areas will be invited!

Bigs & Littles, come and learn about heavy machinery and show your support by visiting the Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM booth.

Join us Bigs & Littles for a Valentine making party!

When: Tuesday, February 8th

Time: 3:30pm-6:30pm

Where: BBBS office

Please R.S.V.P to 575-523-9530

All matches are invited to join us anytime between 3:30pm to 6:30pm to create card for a special Valentine!

Littles, bring your list of classmate names to create Valentine cards for!

Celebrating January-March Bigs & Littles Birthdays

Daniel Ray V.
Jaime G.
Jordyn W.
Joshua C.
Alexis M.
Angel C.
Destinie B.
Isaac D.
Jacqueline P.
Angel S.
Karina D.
Analyssa L.

Daniel S.
Sabrina M.
Joey L.
Shyann P.
Jocelyn M.
Enrique Z.
Jasmine D.
Isabel C.A
Julia B.
Ashley L.
Irene G.
Adriana M.
Destiny P.
Breanna L.
Isaac M.
Marissa M.

Giselle G.
Julian H.
Mariah C.
Daniel P.
Juan G.
Karime C.
Larissa P.
Melissa P.
Jackie A.
Chris
C.Eliana A.
Devyn A.

January

February

March

Littles

Peggy S.
Hilary H.
Nancy W.
Adan O.
Amy B.
Sean I.
Claudia H.
Anthony A.
Arinda G.

Emily C.
Andy D.
Joel C.
Gayle H.
Erin T.
Anna V.
Jocelyn A.
Janyce L.
Amanda W.
Stacie C.
Tiffany E.
Angela L.
Daniel B.
Brenda K.
Anthea D.
Phillip F.
Crystal A.
Ken A.
Morgan K.

Aaron Kelly F.
Anthony E.
Margaret O.
Anthony M.
Jenifer L.
Sally T.
Adam R.
Shannon L.
Jessica B.
Shanna H.
Kathryn N.
Manny C.
Manny B.
Chelsea C.
Haley H.

January

February

March

Bigs

Sending a warm Birthday wish to our Board Members!

*Joel Courtney- February 22nd
Tony Martinez -March 26th*

Become a Fan of BBBS on Facebook!!



Become a fan of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern NM on Facebook. Just visit our "Fan Page" by logging into www.facebook.com and typing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern NM into the search bar, then click "become a Fan".

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

J
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1 year
Renee & Angelie
David & Enrique
Eliza & Lizeth
Klanese & Sonya

2 years
Erin & Larissa

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1 year
Don & Juan
Mia & Shyann
Adam & Gabriel
2 years
Adan & Josh
Margaret & Mystikah
Alicia & Jocelyn
Omar & Juan

3 years
Lawrence & Chuko

4 years
Kelsi & Amari

5 years
Jayne & Eliza

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1 year
Mardell & Elizabeth
Carlos & Salvador
John & Jessie
Herberto & Jacob

2 years
Daniella & Brianna
Tara & Patricia

4 years
Norma & Giselle

Welcome all October-December new matches!



Laura & Amanda



Jeff & Jantzen



Tyler & Jose

The following pictures are unavailable:

Leslie & Ashley

Isabel & Natasha



Jessica & Alexzandria



Angela & Cemiah



Sefora & Rickie



Sara & Sonia

October-December Events were a success!



A special "Thank you" to all student organizations and individual volunteers that supported us at the 2010 Renaissance Faire on November 6th & 7th.



We appreciate each and every one of you greatly!

Thank you to all matches and families that attended our 2010 Holiday Party!



Cheryl Graves-Community RM, Isaac Monsivaiz-Merchandise Manager, Nook Bookseller-Kason Twitchell & Keisha. Thank you Barnes & Noble staff!

Thank you to all sponsors that supported this event, you all truly made this event a special one!

Alma d' Arte Court Youth Center, John Padilla

Bank of the West * Bobby Gonzalez * High Desert Event Rental * Las Cruces High School Poms, Lucinda Banegas

A special thank you to Barnes & Noble, Cheryl Graves & all Booksellers for their hard work and support to our program. The 2010 Holiday Book Drive was a huge success! Thank you!

To Mr. Estrada from Roberto's Mexican Restaurant, we can't thank you enough for your continued support as our "Holiday Sponsor."

We truly appreciate all that you do for us and our programs!



Las Cruces Bulletin 12/17/2010

Business leaders hit the hardwood at the BBBS vs. Harlem Ambassadors fundraiser

Photos by Gabriel Vasquez



The Harlem Ambassadors basketball team visited Las Cruces to play against a team of business leaders in a competition organized to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern New Mexico Thursday, Dec. 9th at the Oñate High School Gym



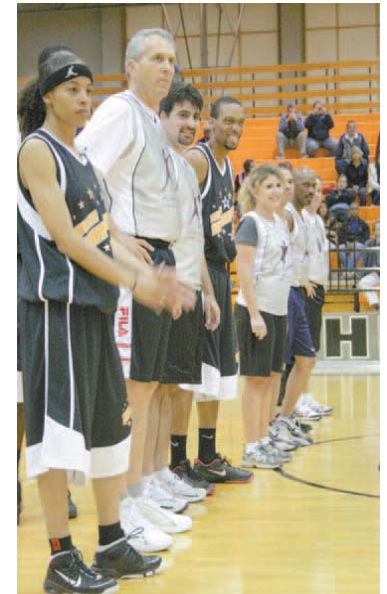
Members of the Harlem Ambassadors basketball team huddle with BBBS little brothers and sisters before the start of the game.



Julia Hargrove, Ken Hoeksema of LifeSupport Medical, Matthew France of Bank of the West, Daniel Hudson, Savonne Griffin of FirstLight Federal Credit Union, Davin Lopez of the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance, Walter Morrison of Sam's Club and Kiel Hoffman of Pioneer Bank



LaMarvon Jackson of the HA entertains the crowd. The HA Team beat the Las Cruces team 104-77.



Thank you Sponsors:

*American Documents
Onate High School
Radio of Las Cruces
SpringHill Suites by Marriott
Surefire Promotional Products
The Imaging Center of
Las Cruces Radiology*



A special thank you to our Team Sponsors:

*Amanda Cruz-Hispano Chamber of Commerce * David Hicks-Las Cruces Convention Center
Davin Lopez-Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance
Jeffrey Silva, Team Zane-Bank of the West * Ken Hoeksema-LifeSupport Medical Supply
Kiel Hoffman-Pioneer Bank * Matthew France-Bank of the West
Robert Paquette-The Market Store * Savonne Griffin-FirstLight Federal Credit Union
Stacie Christiano-Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWNM
Susan Palmer-Mesilla Valley Mall * Walter Morrison-Sam's Club*

Sometimes it seems like nothing is free these days. Everything you and your little want to do requires payment of some sort. Here are 10 fun things to do with your Little that won't cost you a penny.

- 1. Take a nature walk.** This is a great way to spend some quality time with your Little. You don't have to be near a national park for this one, there is nature to be found everywhere. Get kids more involved by having them collect leaves, draw pictures of bugs and make impressions of interesting leaves to put into a nature book (a regular notebook works fine).
- 2. Camp out... in the backyard.** There's no reason to pay high campground fees or even gas to get there. Pitch a tent in your own backyard, have a picnic (roast marshmallows if permitted) and enjoy a fun sleepout!
- 3. Take in a street play.** Chances are there are some free community plays available to see. The local paper probably has a list of these. Mark them on your calendar so you won't forget.
- 4. Check out free classes.** The Community center probably has free classes or other activities that you will be able to enjoy with your Little. Check out their brochure and find out what is available to you.
- 5. Learn a new skill.** Decide with your little what you'd like to learn. Whether it's origami or Asian cooking, look it up on the internet or get a book from the library and learn together. This is a fun way to pick up some new skills with your little.
- 6. Build a fort.** Remember those days spent hammering bits and pieces together to make the perfect fort? Kids these days often miss out on this quintessential childhood experience, but they certainly don't have to. Collect all the odds and ends you have laying around, find a decent spot and build your own fort.
- 7. Volunteer.** There is nothing better than spending some time volunteering at a soup kitchen or retirement home to open kids' eyes to the world around them. It's a great way to start something new.
- 8. Roll in the grass.** If you don't have a lawn of your own, head to the local park and show your little the joys of rolling faster and faster down a slope of grass and then collapsing in a giggling heap at the bottom. Do some cloud watching while the grass tickles the back of your neck.
- 9. Go for a bike ride.** An excellent way to see the neighborhood is to simply hop on your bikes. Be sure to choose routes that are appropriate for your little's ages and abilities. Bike rides can be as simple as going around the block.
- 10. Have a potluck.** Invite a couple of other matches to the local park and enjoy shared food while the littles have a blast on the playground. You might even want to set up a few simple activities like sack races, etc.

Having fun with your Little doesn't mean you have to spend money. Some of the best activities out there are completely free to both you and your Little. Discover that money isn't necessary to have a great time together.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Southwestern New Mexico

1832 W. Amador

Las Cruces, NM 88005

575-523-9530