

# MATCH TIMES

winter 2019

## SUPPORT CALLS GO HIGH-TECH

BBBSNEW is using a new software system called Acuity that allows us to schedule match support contacts with Bigs, Littles and family members.

The system sends calendar invites and reminders via text message and email. Your program specialist is likely to offer the option during your next support contact.

Professional support is one of the reasons BBBS is so successful. We appreciate your time and efforts!

## TURN YOUR TIME INTO CASH

If you are employed or retired, your employer may recognize your volunteerism with a gift on your behalf to a charity like BBBSNEW. Your company also may match your monetary donations.

Questions? Contact Joyce Anderson, Director of Operations, at 920-489-3535 or joycea@bbbsnew.org.

## Featured Match

### THE DESIRE TO DO MORE FOR HER COMMUNITY

#### Carly Resch & Rhiannon

Carly Resch, a Brown County Sheriff's Department officer, became a Big Sister four years ago as a way to get involved in the community and make a difference in a child's life. What she has gained in Little Sister Rhiannon is a friend to try new experiences with.

Rhiannon has enjoyed having a companion and someone she can trust to talk to.

*"I think being matched has also given me an opportunity to be in a role I have never been in before, that of a true big sister." — Carly Resch*



continued page 3

## NEW MENTORING PROGRAM LOOKS TO IMPROVE GRADUATION RATES

BBBSNEW along with community partners has launched a new mentoring program that is focused on improving high school graduation rates.

Six-Twelve Mentoring is being piloted at Bay Port High School (Howard-Suamico), Denmark Middle School, Edison Middle School and Preble High School (both Green Bay). The program matches an adult mentor with a student in grades six through twelve from one of the pilot schools.

Typically, children enter BBBS between the ages of 7 and 13. With the launch of Six-Twelve, children in grades six through 12 can now be matched with a mentor and receive the same professional support and resources as traditional matches.

Volunteers with the Six-Twelve Mentoring program are asked to make a one-year commitment and may choose to volunteer exclusively at one of the four pilot school sites

continued page 2

Supporter Spotlight  
page 2

2018 Outcomes  
page 2

Focus on Teens  
page 3



## FOX COMMUNITIES MAKES HOLIDAYS MAGICAL

When the team at Fox Communities Credit Union saw pictures from past holiday parties for matches and families engaged with BBBSNEW, they were moved to take action.

"I just think they knew they could make a difference," says Lynn Marie Hopfensperger, community development officer, who spearheaded the volunteer group that worked to transform The Woods Golf Club into a magical holiday wonderland the past two years.

Using their personal time off from work, 20 credit union volunteers descended upon the banquet hall on Dec. 14 ahead of the nearly 150 Littles and their siblings along with their Bigs and family members who attended the party. The team set up activities and decorated the space, and then helped serve a full family dinner and ran activities like a photo booth, games, crafts and giveaways.

"On the backs of our volunteers' shirts it says 'Making a positive difference in people's lives.' I think that is what we will do for BBBS at the holiday party. Our team has ownership of it, they believe in it, and it's what they want to do to make a difference," Hopfensperger says.

Fox Communities Credit Union has provided ever-increasing support for BBBSNEW in the form of money, time and talents. Hopfensperger says that while the credit union financially supports hundreds of events and organizations each year from the 22 branches it operates, much of it is driven by the volunteerism of its employees.

Charitable support is focused on family activities and filling



*BBBSNEW also received support for the holiday party from The Woods, an anonymous individual, Festival Foods, St. Norbert College hockey team players and several individuals who provided crafts and balloon sculptures. Each child received a gift from the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program and the Way-Morr Lions Club.*

gaps for those who have less, she says. The credit union also considers where employees give their time as a guide to which organizations to support financially. An internal program not only tracks the organizations that receive time and talents, but rewards employees with a way to give back to further support their charitable passions in the community.

## SIX-TWELVE MENTORING

from page 1

or meet with the student for outings in the community.

"There are more than 6,000 students in Brown County at risk of dropping out before graduation, according to data from Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction," said Adam Hardy, executive director of Achieve Brown County, the agency that is coordinating the initiative.

BBBSNEW is working with seven partner organizations as part of the Graduation Task Force to change that number and help students achieve success. The pilot also includes more intensive mentoring support for eligible students from Family Services' Student Assistance Program and Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay's Be Great: Graduate program.

"We are proud to be a collaborative partner in the Achieve mentoring initiative and look forward to seeing more detailed data that show a direct connection between mentoring and school performance," said Katie Hess, executive director of BBBSNEW.

Businesses and individuals interested in participating can visit [www.GraduationTaskForce.org](http://www.GraduationTaskForce.org). Volunteers may also contact us at [bbsnews.org](http://bbsnews.org) or call 920-498-2227.

## BIGS, LITTLES MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2018

It's a new year and what a great time to reflect and celebrate our successes from 2018.

BBBSNEW served a record 603 children last year and more than 200 new matches were made.

### 2018 results

603 children served

404 Brown County  
131 Door County  
68 Shawano County

6,380 matched support contacts completed on time

We're proud to report that last year: **77%** of Littles felt more socially accepted.

**86%** of Littles had better attitudes about risky behaviors.

**63%** of Littles improved their grades in school.

**96%** of Littles reported that their Big helped them cope.

Today's youth face a variety of challenges, with one extra person in their corner, it can help them navigate these challenges and reach their potential.

Thank you to each family member, friend, Little and Big who made a difference in each other's lives. We wish you the best year yet in 2019!



from page 1

BBBSNEW is shining the light on the relationships that our volunteers are building within the community. In this issue, we get to know Carly Resch and Rhiannon. Here's what they have to say about their match in their own words:

### What do you do when you spend time together?

**Carly Resch:** Rhiannon and I love to try new things together, so we like to do a variety of different activities. We both love art so we like to try out different art studios in the area and complete different projects. We also really enjoy going to as many of the "match activities" that BBBS puts on. Whether it be going to the movies, the NEW zoo, the wildlife sanctuary or just out to dinner, we love just hanging out and spending time together!

### Why did you want to have a Big Sister?

**Rhiannon:** Because I was lonely. I wanted someone to spend time with and my friends live far away.



### Is there something in particular that stands out as a memorable time with your Little?

**CR:** Rhiannon and I have been matched for almost four years now so there are a lot of memories that stick out to me. I remember the time when we went from being just "Big" and "Little" to when I really started seeing her as my family and someone I knew I would have a lifelong bond with, long after our ties with BBBS would end. It happened very naturally and over the course of time, but for a while now I have considered her to be so much more than just a "little sister."

### What is your favorite memory with your Big?

**R:** Roller Skating – I was really bad at it but had fun.

### In what way has being matched with your Little affected you and your life?

**CR:** I don't see Rhiannon as much as I would like to due to my work schedule but when I do see her, I hope I am making some sort of impact on her life. I think being matched has also given me an opportunity to be in a role I have never been in before, that of a true big sister.

Read more about our featured matches in Brown, Door and Shawano counties: [bbbsnew.org](http://bbbsnew.org)

## FOCUS ON TEENS: MIXING LEARNING & PLAY

For Bigs (and parents) with Littles who aren't so little anymore — age 12 and older — this article is for you! One of the things that I do as a program specialist for BBBSNEW is help plan match activities.

We call them REACH activities — it's an acronym for Recreation, Education and careers, Arts and culture, Civic engagement and Health and fitness.

As our Littles grow up, there's a certain coolness credibility they often try maintain — am I right? I hope you're nodding.

Participating in a REACH activity alongside a 7, 8 or 9 year old, no matter how awesome that activity is, erodes a teen's coolness cred.

That's why the program team at BBBSNEW is working to plan REACH activities specifically geared for teens.

Our goal is always to help our Bigs plan new and different activities with their Littles that are low cost, or no cost. In addition to that, we believe it's important that Littles in this age group see there are other Littles their age, and that we plant seeds for them to think about a future beyond high school.

Here are a few examples:

- Hands On Health Care (Feb. 11)
- Edge VR Arcade (March 6)
- Hands On Firefighting/EMT (April)

Our REACH activities for all ages of Bigs and Littles will continue as they previously have, with about two per month at low-cost or no cost.

Contact me at 920-489-3539 or [dawnd@bbbsnew.org](mailto:dawnd@bbbsnew.org) if you have ideas for REACH activities for matches of any age.

Thanks for all that you do for children in our community!



**Dawn Daniels**  
Program Specialist  
[dawnd@bbbsnew.org](mailto:dawnd@bbbsnew.org)

# WE'RE MOVING TO DOWNTOWN GB!

BBBSNEW is moving to **520 N. Broadway St. (Green Bay)** after more than two decades at our current location. BBBSNEW expects to be operating from its new space in April.



Members of the BBBSNEW staff in our new office space, still under construction.

The organization is leasing 3,200 square feet of office space from Base Cos. LLC, the developer connected to construction in the Rail Yard Innovation District.

The new location offers more usable space, particularly for meetings, and more flexibility to grow staff as BBBSNEW serves more children.

"This move will allow us to continue our strong commitment to serving children," says Katie Hess, Executive Director.

**SCHNEIDER** Thank you Schneider for the in-kind printing of this newsletter.



1345 W. Mason St., Suite 210  
Green Bay, WI 54303

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 321  
Green Bay, WI

**Feb. 11** Hands on Health Care career exploration in Green Bay (13 and older)  
**Feb. 16** Snowshoeing at Green Bay Botanical Gardens in Green Bay  
**Feb. 18** Ice Skating Party in Shawano Green Bay (13 and older)  
**March 6** Edge VR Arcade activity in Green Bay (13 and older)  
**March 23** Barkhausen Maple Syruping in Suamico  
**April** Basketball Fundamentals — details to come  
**April** Hands on EMT/Firefighting career exploration (13 and older) — details to come  
**April** BBBSNEW moves to 520 Broadway St. Green Bay  
**April 30** BBBSNEW Appreciation Banquet — details to come



## CALENDAR

for more info visit [bbbsnew.org/events](http://bbbsnew.org/events) or contact your program specialist Questions? call 920-498-2227

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 22** Bowl For Kids' Sake in Ashwaubenon  
**March 9** Bowl For Kids' Sake in Sturgeon Bay  
REGISTER AND RAISE PLEDGES  
ONLINE: [bbbsnew.org](http://bbbsnew.org)



**BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE**  
**WHAT DOES OUTER SPACE MEAN TO YOU? Star Trek? Star Wars? Aliens and Astronauts? Take your creativity to Infinity and Beyond!**  
Our annual pledge-raising fundraiser is a fun way to support youth mentoring in your community with friends, family and colleagues. Can't make to the bowling alley? There are great opportunities to sponsor teams and individual bowlers, or be a virtual bowler and raise pledges online only! Call Deb Polster 920-489-3544 for details.

