

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Monroe County Inc.,  
12 E Third St.  
Monroe, MI  
48161  
734-242-8450

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 17, 2007

**Little Moments, Bigger Magic: A stronger, more comprehensive advocacy for mentoring in Monroe County emerges out of local merger**

Monroe, Mich--

It is with great pleasure and excitement for the Board of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Monroe County Inc. (BBBS), to take this opportunity to announce to our mutual colleagues, friends and supporters of the recent merger of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monroe County Inc. with the Monroe County Mentoring Program. The combined programs will continue to operate under the name Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Monroe County Inc.,

Both organizations are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the youth in our community and by doing so, positively impacting the state of the community as a whole. We firmly believe that having one centralized mentoring program to serve both medium and high risk youth in Monroe County will make our combined advocacy for mentoring in this community both stronger and more comprehensive - enabling us to serve more youth, more effectively.

Lynda Nickelson previously the Program Coordinator of the Monroe County Mentoring Program, has eagerly accepted the position of Executive Director of BBBS. Lynda's new position requires her to be primarily focused on Agency Planning and Development. In addition to Lynda we have welcomed aboard Kelly Hunter in the position of Community Coordinator. Kelly is currently a student of Eastern Michigan University and will be graduating with a Bachelors degree in December. Her new responsibilities will be to head up both our community based and school based mentoring programs while matching, supporting and supervising our Bigs and Littles.

We are very much looking forward to moving BBBS ahead to a new level of success – meeting new challenges head on and taking full advantage of new opportunities. Our mission and our vision however will remain unchanged and will continue to reflect that of Big Brothers Big Sisters nationally. We will continue to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships in addition to pursuing our vision of providing successful mentoring relationships for all children who need and want them, contributing to better schools, brighter futures and a stronger community for all.

We have already outlined several goals we wish to vigorously pursue in the year ahead. These goals will include but are not limited to: sustained quality and targeted growth (in the number of children we serve); building strong and robust community-based as well as school-based mentoring programs in Monroe County, and of course, resource acquisition.

As we forge the mentoring movement ahead in Monroe County we recognize that a significant portion of achieving success, reaching our goals and maximizing our community impact is heavily reliant upon the gracious support of both old and new community collaborations and partnerships. We are grateful to all of you for your past support and commitment and we invite your continued dedication to making a difference for our youth through mentoring. Remember, Little Moments make Big Magic!

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY;**

General information: [info@bbbsmonroecounty.org](mailto:info@bbbsmonroecounty.org)

Lynda Nickelson: [lynda@bbbsmonroecounty.org](mailto:lynda@bbbsmonroecounty.org)

Kelly Hunter: [kelly@bbbsmonroecounty.org](mailto:kelly@bbbsmonroecounty.org)

We look forward to working with you all in the future!