

Big Brothers Big Sisters Looking to Expand Mentoring “Lunch Buddy” Program

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Henry County are looking to recruit some corporate/community adults to mentor students at **St. Augustine School** in Napoleon during lunch.

What is Lunch Buddy?

- A positive adult volunteer from the community goes to the school to have lunch with one student, one time per week. They might get help with school work, talk, share, or laugh.
- All volunteers are thoroughly screened to ensure child safety and the child’s benefit from the program.
- Children participating in this program have shown significant improvement in schools, peer and family relations, and increased self esteem

What would you have to do?

- Assist with identifying adults who would be interested in participating in this program.
- Go to lunch at school with a child who wants to have a lunch buddy.

A young girl in a Henry County program recently said to me, “I can’t have enough positive people in my life...it helps me to make good choices and do the best I can in everything I choose to do. I didn’t used to feel that good about myself, now I think I can do anything!” It is statements like these that drive us to help provide as many avenues of positive support as possible for youth in our community.

If you are interested in volunteering or just to receive more information, contact Becky Leonard at **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** at (419) 599-2353 or email her at bleonard@bbbsbigfun.org.

HC Humane Society Looking for Your Help

The **Henry County Humane Society** was recently awarded a \$20,000 challenge grant opportunity by a trust based in Cleveland. The grant is to support improvements to the exterior

of the Humane Society’s Animal Shelter. Their challenge is to raise the additional \$12,000 needed to side the entire Animal Shelter building on the north side of Napoleon just off of US24. Their building is cement block, which has fading and peeling paint and provides nothing in the way of energy insulation. The new siding would save the Shelter on their energy costs and provide an improved look for a facility at a gateway to the City of Napoleon. The Trust has very generously given the Humane Society until the end of 2008 to raise the matching funds. Their goal is to make the shelter a more efficient and attractive facility for the adoption of companion animals in Henry County and the surrounding area. If you would like more information or would like to give funds that would then be matched, please contact the **Henry County Humane Society** at (419) 592-3777 or at hchs@embarqmail.com. Any help, no matter how big or small, will eventually benefit the animals of Henry County.

The Humane Society is also looking for help from any business or organization who has recently upgraded their phones. They are looking for the donation of phones with 2 line capability.

The Last Word

February allowed me the opportunity to attend a statewide Chamber Conference in Columbus. I look forward to these opportunities to learn from our friends from all around the state. It’s also a great opportunity to network with the other Chambers located right here in NW Ohio.

One of the main things I walked away with was the need for local businesses to build a network of “advisors” that they know they can turn at any time and receive honest and well thought information. Does your business have this mechanism? Whether it is a formal structure or a circle of trusted friends and team members – think about forming this network today. And always know we at the Chamber can be counted on to fill a role in your circle if you choose. We are here to serve you and your business.

- **Executive Director Joel Miller**