

Great Game Huddle Notes

March 14th, 2017

Associate Commissioner Lincoln Hough introduced our guest speaker for today, Rob Blevins of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks.

Rob presented us a very insightful overview of the program, its mission and the importance of “Bigs” in the lives of their “Littles”.

Mission: “To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.”

Coming from a family of eight, Rob himself had a mentor who happened to be his older brother. Rob credited his going to college and his success in life to his brother, and in turn had been able to make a difference in his younger sister’s life. The children and young adults who are mentored in the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, often come from families at or below poverty level, and may never break the cycle of poverty without one caring adult who can truly make a difference. Mentors (Bigs) are fully vetted and closely matched with a chosen Little and their family. Littles typically come from backgrounds that meet the following criteria:

- Large and diverse family backgrounds
- Facing adversity
- 56% in single parent homes
- One fourth have one or more incarcerated parents
- Kids apply and interview for BBBS programs

Referrals are sometimes made from grief counselors and centers.

Programs include the Traditional Community Program, the Lunch Buddies Program and Mentoring 101. Please go to bigbro.com for more information on these programs.

If you are interested in donating your time and making a difference in a child’s life, please see Trysta Herzog, Greene County Director of Communications & Public Engagement. The process typically involves orientation, an interview, screening and decision making.

A big thank you to Rob Blevins for introducing us to these life-changing friendships!

“One key relationship can end the cycle of poverty” – Dr. Ruby K. Payne, educator and author.