



Big Brothers Big Sisters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Amachi Program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saginaw Bay Area today announced it will host a complimentary breakfast to celebrate the Gift of Friendship and its continuing Mentoring Children of Prisoners grant on Friday, Feb. 29. The breakfast will take place at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1114 N. 6th Ave., in Saginaw and begins at 8 a.m.

The keynote speaker for the breakfast is former Philadelphia Mayor Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., who was the first to carry out the Amachi program in his capacity as mayor and who currently is the Senior Advisor on Faith Based Initiatives for Public/ Private Ventures, where he also directs the Amachi Program. Also participating in the breakfast is Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saginaw Bay Area last fall was awarded a three-year \$300,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, to match children of incarcerated parents with adult mentors as part of the agency's Amachi program.

The Amachi program was initiated at Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2004. Amachi brings people from faith communities together with mentees to offer hope and understanding through a positive community-based mentoring relationship. Youth and their mentors meet for at least four hours monthly. More than 178 youth have been served through the program. The agency's goal is to reach 300 additional youth.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the nation's oldest and most experienced mentoring organization in the country. A cross section of community, government and faith based leaders throughout the area will come together for this mentoring event. The breakfast is open to the public and those with an interest in helping children...one child at a time.

To register please call (989) 755-6558 by Feb. 25.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters has been serving Saginaw and Bay counties since 1953. The agency's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of youth by providing professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships. The agency serves youth ages 5 to 18 from families where one adult figure of the same sex is either not available or is available on a limited basis. Research has shown these youth are "at risk" for certain unhealthy or destructive behaviors ranging from truancy to increased drug usage, alcoholism and violence. Research also consistently demonstrates that one-to-one mentoring helps youth overcome the many challenges they face. For more information about the agency, visit its Web site at www.sagbaybbbs.org.