

Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates office opening

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Like any other community, Milton has its share of kids in need of a little extra attention.

For the past decade, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Halton has been trying to fill that need through its mentoring programs. Now, it finally has an office in town.

Instead of a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the new office was officially 'bowled' open October 5 by Little Sister India, 10, and Mayor Gord Krantz throwing plastic bowling balls at the pins set up in the hallway.

The grand opening also marked the launch of BBBS Halton's Bowl for Kids Sake fundraisers, which will take place next year.

The Milton office is located in the bright, new complex at 410 Bronte St. S.

"With a growing community (in Milton), it was a strategic priority for us to have a physical presence here for families who need us and for volunteers," said Elaine Collins, executive director of BBBS Halton. "So we're thrilled."

Establishing an office in Milton is part of a BBBS Halton initiative to expand its In-School Mentoring (ISM)

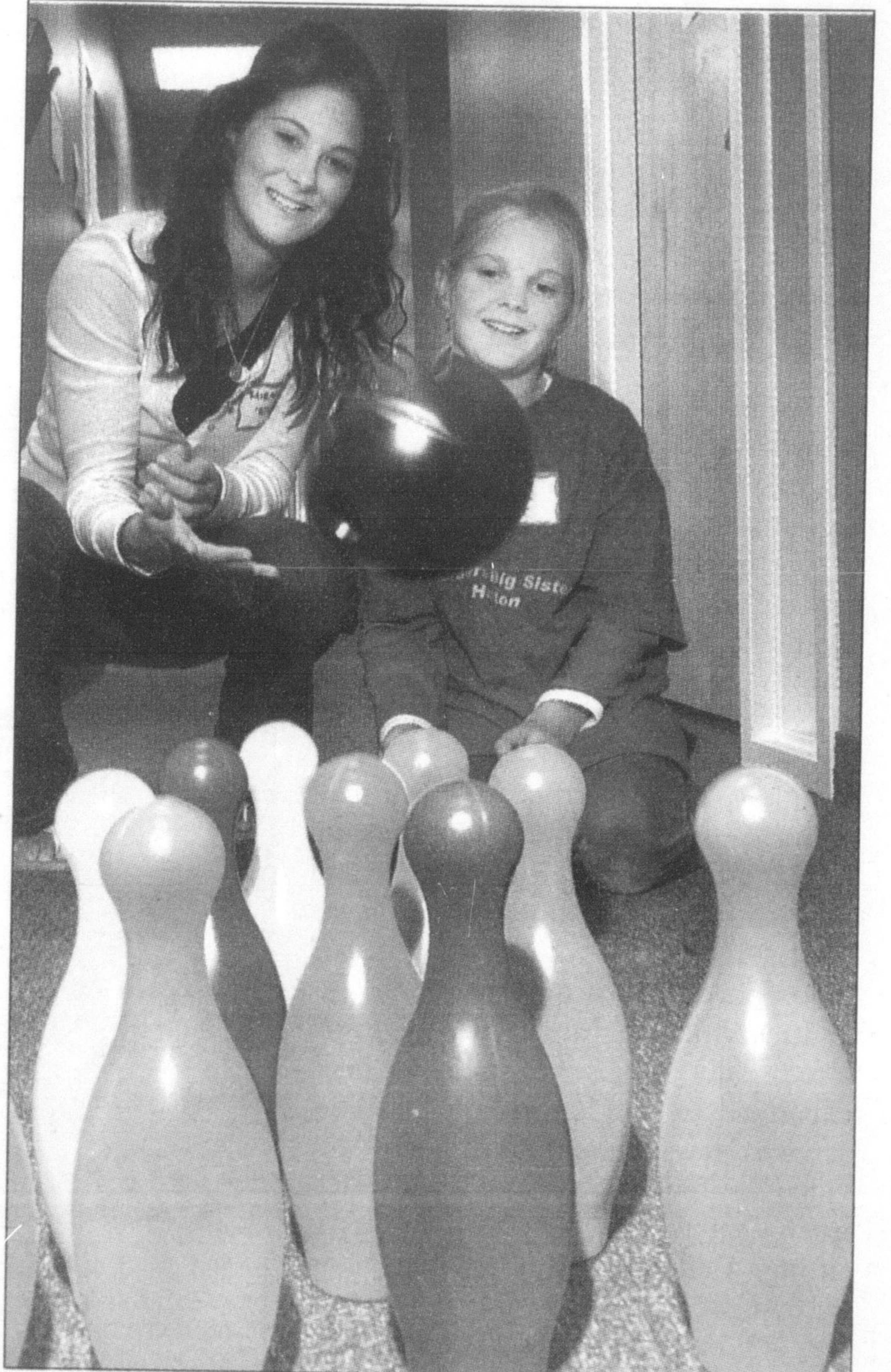
and The Club after-school tutoring program in North Halton.

The agency has been providing its traditional Big and Little Brother and Sister mentoring programs in the area for more than 10 years. It serves 500 kids in the region and has 600 volunteers.

However, there are many kids on waiting lists.

"Our vision for this agency is to provide a mentoring opportunity for every child and youth who needs one. That's a tall order," said Jean Wettlaufer, president of the BBBS Halton board of directors. "Events like this are one more milestone on the journey toward

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BARRIE ERSKINE / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION
Big Sister Miranda Furtado and her Little Sister India, 10, bowl as part of celebrations at the recent opening of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton office in Milton.



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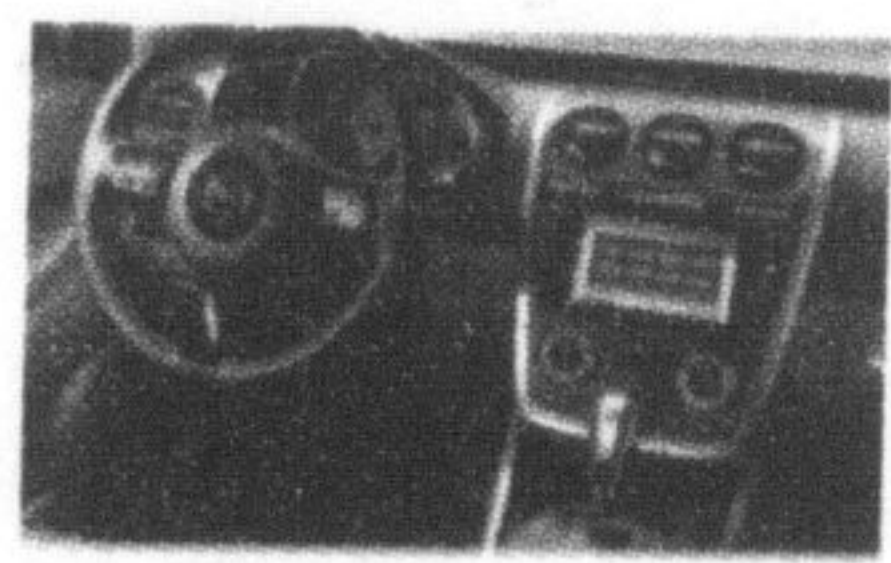
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