



BOWL for kids sake



Big Brothers of York (905) 727-1251

BY LISA CARTWRIGHT
FEATURES WRITER

For many people, Bowl for Kids Sake has become an annual tradition.

Business people, individuals and families from across York Region and Canada get together at a designated bowling alley in their community to raise money for Big Brothers.

"It does become a tradition," said Kathryn Henderson, a recruitment officer for Big Brothers of York.

"It's only two hours and (people) have so much fun, they want to come back."

While everyone plays for fun, there are some groups who take the day quite seriously, Henderson said.

Every year, financial institutions, car dealerships, restaurants as well as high schools challenge each other. The team that raises the most money for Big Brothers wins a trophy. (The newest team which raises the most money also gets a trophy.)

"Challenging someone always makes it more interesting."

BOWLING TO HELP CHILDREN

Interested participants should call Big Brothers of York to sign up their teams and get their pledge sheets.

"We ask for a minimum of \$60. This will cover the cost of the bowling and have some money for the kids."

Henderson said many people come with several hundred dollars in pledges.

This not only means more money for children, but also more chances to win.

Every participant receives a gift and two free games of bowling when

they turn in their pledge sheets.

People who raise \$75 in pledges also receive one chance to win one of 20 \$100 dinner vouchers.

Participants who raise \$100 receive two chances to win the dinner voucher and one chance to win one of five get-away week-ends. In addition, participants receive one

extra chance to win for every \$50 increment after \$100.

"(Bowl for Kids Sake) is a great way to help a child."

TAKING TIME TO HELP

"At Big Brothers we match little boys in father-absent homes with adult male volunteers," Henderson said.

Interested boys between the ages of six and 16 are paired up with male volunteers 18 and over.

"Big Brothers do make a very big difference. Studies have shown that (the boys) lead happier lives, do better at school and their social skills improve."

The Big Brothers themselves have numerous options to choose from. They can

take part in the traditional program which is four hours per week, flex-time which is four hours every two weeks or the Big Bunch program. (This is where there are three to four Big Brothers and eight boys).

Big Brothers also offers a mentoring program, where men and women go to various schools in York Region and help children for an hour each week.

Presently, there are more than 100 boys want who want a Big Brother as well as numerous schools which have identified children who need in-school mentoring.

And this is where the money raised in the Bowl for Kids Sake is going.

Money will be used for, among other things, recruitment of volunteers, money for activities and the assessment of volunteers.

Bowl for Kids Sake information

What: Bowl for Kids Sake

When: Saturday, Feb. 13

Where: Markham, Club 300 Bowl at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Stouffville, Stouffville Bowling Centre at 1:30 p.m.

Why: To raise money for Big Brothers of York Region

Details: For pledge sheets and any further information contact Big Brothers of York Region at 727-1251.

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Father's
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