

Dear Mr. Donais,

My name is Ann Matvick and I am the Program Director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN. Our agency has received federal funding to start our Operation Mentoring program. With this program we are able to serve **children who have a parent/guardian in the military (National Guard, Reserve, Active-Duty and Gold Star Families). The parent/guardian DOES NOT need to be deployed for their child to be eligible for this program.** I am emailing to ask for your help in spreading the word about our Operation Mentoring Program. Big Brothers Big Sisters is a **free service** that provides children with additional support by pairing them with a positive and caring mentor. Studies say that kids need support from at least 3 non-parental adults in their lives!

Our service area includes Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Morrison, and the northern tier of Wright County. Please find the attached a Fact Sheet for Parents and a Recruitment Flyer. **Big Brothers Big Sisters serves children between the ages of 5 and 16 (but once matched the child can stay matched until they turn 18).** Please find attached a Recruitment Flyer, a Fact Sheet for Parent, and a Fact Sheet for Bigs.

Here is a link to an article that was done by USA Today regarding our military mentoring program:

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/story/2012-02-14/military-mentors-children/53110146/1>

We are needing help in spreading the word to military families about this opportunity. We are also in need of mentors and who would understand what challenges military children/families face then those currently in the military or those retired from the military. Would the Retired Enlisted Association be willing to help us spread the word? Some possible ideas are; including information about our program in your newsletter/on website or sharing the information at an upcoming meeting. If you are interested, a representative from our agency would be happy to come and talk about our program. We would appreciate any assistance in spreading the word.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Ann Matvick