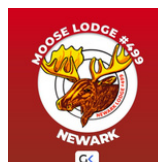# 20th Year of the Beat Michigan Bash

By now everyone will be aware that Ohio State suffered a devastating loss to Michigan, however on November 15th everyone was a winner at the 20th annual Beat Michigan Bash. Adena Hall on the OSU Newark campus was decorated in scarlet and gray, abuzz with excitement, as attendees gathered in a team effort to celebrate and raise funds for our community's Little Brothers and Sisters. We honored the commitment of the Shmucker family with the Jennifer Utrevis Award for their 40 years of unwavering support. We also took time to recognize the Big / Little Matches of the year: Big Brother Ryan & Little Brother Waylan, Big Sister Kelly & Little Sister Journey. The Newark High School Band gave a rousing rendition of Hang on Sloopy which pumped up the guests as they bid on the silent and live auction items. Trips and Bourbon were the BIG draws this year, with a weekend getaway on Saint Simons Island donated by Megan & Brent Shroy and Chad & Rion Cramer villageseahouse.com, being the largest fundraiser with a bid of $6,000 by Kim & Brian Sherman. The evening ended with a BIG win of $85,000 raised to support the ongong mentoring matches in our community. Thank you to all those who contributed auction items, bid on them, reserved a seat or table, and came out to celebrate the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Your support will continue the 54-year tradition of empowering children to reach their full potential through mentoring and helped to lighten the loss to Michigan.

To view all the BMB 2024 photos go to
bbbslp.org/past-event

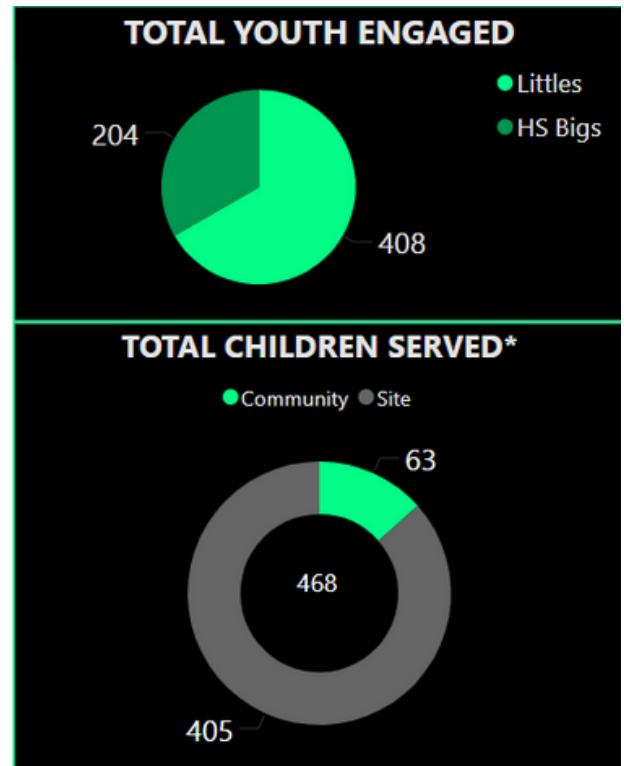## Big Thanks to our Sponsors

BIG Grant for 2 New Programs

We are proud to announce that our agency received a three-year $315,000 grant from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation. Our Little Steps, Big Futures: Big Brothers Big Sisters Opioid Prevention Initiative will enhance and expand BBBSLP programming. This initiative will address the great need for easily accessible, quality substance abuse prevention for Licking and Perry Counties youth. While BBBSLP is proud to have programming in four Licking County and three Perry County school districts, this grant provides us with the money to initiate programming in two additional school districts: Southwest Licking and Southern Local. The money will be distributed annually with $50,000 going to each county and the final $15,000 paid upon achieving the grant proposal's goals. This vital revenue allows our agency to make a three-year commitment to our new school partners.

 BBBSLP mentoring has been proven to combat depression and anxiety that can lead to risky behaviors. According to a study done by Grossman and Tierney, participants involved in BBBS programs for 18 months or longer were significantly less likely to have started using illegal drugs or alcohol, hit someone, or skip school. They were also more confident about school performance and got along better with their families. Likewise, BBBSLP 2023 statistics reveal that 39.08% of our Littles showed reliable improvement in coping with depressive symptoms, 13.64% reliable improvement in emotional regulation, and 18.2% reliable improvement in avoiding risky behaviors. These statistics highlight the benefits of intervention and mentoring in the lives of youth whose adverse experiences have the potential to destroy their future. Thanks to OneOhio, many more children in our community will have access to crucial mentors who will help empower them to reach their full potential.

2023-2024 BIG Data

At of the end of November 2024, BBBSLP has served 468 youth: 405 Lunch Buddies and 63 Community Matches. We have had 14 new Community Matches this year which is exciting because for the last few years we had stayed stagnet at around 40 matches. We are also proud that 204 high school students (HS Bigs) have volunteered as mentors to our elementary school Littles.

The data is in, and mentoring makes a Big difference!

TOTAL YOUTH ENGAGED

- Littles
- HS Bigs

204
408

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED*

- Community
- Site

63
468
405

Photos of Fun ...

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