

At this year draws to a close, I am honored to report that because of supporters like you 2006 has been unprecedented for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee.

I am excited to share these amazing results today:

- For the first time in our history, we will serve more than 1,500 children – a 150% increase compared to same time in 2005. Imagine what 1,500 Middle Tennessee children could accomplish after having a caring, one-to-one positive adult role model in their lives. Additionally, 1,500 children is the largest number of children served in a single year.
- Our site-based mentoring programs in Tennessee schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, Family Resource Centers and other after-school sites have more than doubled in number and there are 400+ children meeting with their mentors each week in the supervised setting of these new partner facilities.
- Our Amachi program serving children of prisoners has exceeded its goals, helping more than 300 to realize a brighter future. With the staggering statistics these children face without intervention... a 70% likelihood of following their parents' path of incarceration... these children's futures are especially important to our entire community.

I am proud of these and our other accomplishments. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee was recently ranked #1 in New Match Growth and #1 in Percentage Fund Development Growth among comparable-sized Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations across the country.

We are breaking records and changing lives, and we are grateful to the many people like you who have contributed to our efforts. ***But there is still so much more to be done.***

There are more than 300 children on our waiting list! This means it is imperative to increase volunteer ranks, particularly men. With more and more schools requesting our mentoring services, we must expand to meet the needs. As the crisis of generational incarceration continues in our neighborhoods, we must accelerate our efforts to serve more children of prisoners.

I cannot emphasize enough that we must meet the expanding needs of our Middle Tennessee communities by serving more children. ***To do this, we need your continued support.***

For the sake of all Middle Tennessee children, we must continue to shatter previous records for children served and dollars raised and reach for even higher ambitions. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee has a goal to serve 5,000 children annually by the year 2010. While we realize this is a bold statement to make publicly, we know that the Middle Tennessee community will continue to invest in the futures of all the children in Middle Tennessee.

Now more than ever we need everyone to give of their time, their talent, or their resources for the sake of the children of Middle Tennessee. Please make it your New Years' resolution and your personal mission to get involved in our growing concern and show these children that someone cares.

Your investment will pay dividends in the lives of children in need in Middle Tennessee for years to come.

We sincerely appreciate your support of youth mentoring and the children of Middle Tennessee through your involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee.

And as 2006 draws to a close, we wish you and yours a happy and healthy 2007.

