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LYNNE AND BEV AT BEV'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION IN 1988.



THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS TOGETHER, WHEN BEV WAS 11 YEARS OLD.



A SURPRISE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY WHEN BEV WAS NAMED COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR.

"I love you, Ms. Kincade."

That's what you hear as children swarm around Beverly Kincade, guidance counselor at the School of the Osage Upper Elementary in Osage Beach, when she enters the room.

Bev has been working to improve the school experience and the lives of her third through sixth grade students since August 2007. Included among her many responsibilities are therapeutic sessions with individuals, small groups, and families; managing school records, overseeing and administering standardized testing programs, and consulting with various agencies to provide services to students and their families. Clearly she is an expert at her work: Bev received the Central Missouri School Counselor of the Year Award in 2008.

Bev attributes her success to a positive attitude and strong work ethic. She feels she acquired these, at least in part, from her association with her "Big Sister," Lynne Best, through Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

When Bev was 6 years old she lost her father to leukemia. Her mother, a special education teacher with five children to support (the youngest mentally challenged), looked to the community for assistance. Enter Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS).

BBBS reaches out to children ages 6 to 14 who need extra support, guidance and encouragement. Their mission is to positively influence the lives of these children by uniting them with caring and committed volunteers. A child is

matched with a stable person who serves as a special friend and role model, a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister."

Lynne Best became Bev's "Big Sister" when Bev was 11 years old and Lynne was 26. Lynne truly lived up to her name. Each weekend she took Bev on day trips; they biked, sewed and did homework. Lynne encouraged Bev to be the best that she could be.

"Lynne didn't have much money to spend," Bev says. "She gave me the gifts of her interests and her heart."

While Bev's high school friends were experiencing all of the confusion and challenges of their teen years, Lynne was a consistent force in Bev's life. She cheered Bev through college at Southwest Missouri State University, where Bev received a BS degree in International Studies in 1993. They kept in touch while Bev taught in Roatan, Honduras in 1998. When Bev earned her MSE in Counseling and her Missouri Certification as an Elementary and Secondary Guidance Counselor, Lynne was proud.

Both Lynne and Bev are Catholic, and Lynne reinforced Bev's Christian values by serving as Bev's confirmation sponsor. When Bev graduated from college she spent a year working as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for St. Joseph Parish in Los Angeles, coordinating outreach ministry and programs for Hispanic youth. She returned to Missouri to serve for seven years as Director of Youth Ministries in Independence, leading spiritual retreats and other character development opportunities. She presented faith formation and adolescent development activities at local

