

# Local News

## LAKE AREA

# 'Big' difference

Big Brothers Big Sisters seeking more volunteers to participate in program's lake-area chapter

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In today's fast-paced society, there seems to be less time for the simple things in life, such as playing catch with a boy or sitting on the front porch sipping lemonade while talking to a child about his or her day at school. This is not necessarily premeditated, but it is very real and very widespread.

With the current sluggish economy, many families rely on two incomes just to survive. This often leaves children on their own at times because their parents are out working

to be involved. BBBS takes time.

When an adult spends his or her time mentoring a child, that adult's life can be enriched and take on new meaning and fulfillment.

### 3 programs to choose from

BBBS knows each person's schedule is different. Therefore, they have several programs a "Big" can choose from to make it an easy match.

### BBBS' community program

A "Big" is asked to share eight hours per month for a minimum of one year with their match.

### School-based mentors

One of the easiest of all the programs begins at the start of every new school year. A school-based mentor will be matched with a child and meet at the child's school.

A "Big" visits the child for about one hour a week before or after school or during the child's lunch hour.

"One of the largest problems in our schools is at-



Brett Parks drives the Celebration cruise boat on the Lake of the Ozarks on a recent trip with his "Big Brother" mentor David Creel. The Lake Area Big Brother Big Sister program matches children with adults who serve as a special friend and role model. PHOTO PROVIDED

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