



Helping people with developmental and other disabilities contribute to their communities

Monadnock Developmental Services Collaborates with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Feb 14, 2006...Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Monadnock Region and Monadnock Developmental Services have been awarded a \$5000 Venture grant from Monadnock United Way and a \$1000 grant from MDS's Family Council. These grants will help to launch a pilot program to provide mentors for children with disabilities. In the first phase, the program will work with five children who will be referred by MDS staff. Initially the children and their mentors will meet at Life Art in downtown Keene, as a Big Brothers Big Sisters Site-based program. When parents, staff, mentor and child are ready, the match may transfer to the BBBS Community traditional program, so that matches can participate in activities outside of the Life Art setting.

This collaborative program, when fully funded, will serve 25 children with significant disabilities from throughout the Monadnock region. Grandparents, parents, schools, agencies and others may refer children to participate. All Big Brothers Big Sisters and Monadnock Developmental Services standards, practices and policies will apply. Volunteers will be trained by MDS personnel and have the opportunity to be consulted by and work with parents.

This collaboration of MDS and BBBS of the Monadnock Region is one of a handful of programs nationwide with a specific focus on mentoring services for children with disabilities. Monadnock Developmental Services is the expert on disabilities, and Big Brothers Big Sisters knows mentoring. Together, these organizations can make matches to develop opportunities for true friendships and growth through mentoring.

Call 800-783-0244, or 352-9536, ext. 102 to volunteer to be Big Brother, Big Sister, or Big Couple or to refer your child to our waiting list.

***Contact:
Peg Monahan, 352-9536, ext 101
Big Brothers Big Sisters.***