

## Beat Michigan Bash - a BIG Win!

Big Brothers Big Sisters and The Ohio State University both won BIG—first on November 14 at Adena Hall on the OSU Newark campus, and again on November 29 at the Big House in Michigan with a decisive 27–9 victory. But the wins didn't stop with the Buckeyes.

Rob Montagnese was honored with the Jennifer Utrevis Service Award, while our agency's Match of the Year recognized Big Brother Phil Frye and Little Brother Gage for their outstanding connection. Guests were also inspired by Megan Evans, who shared her firsthand experience of serving as a Big Sister for more than a decade. The Newark High School Band and Flag Corps energized the crowd, leading everyone in The Ohio State Fight Song and Hang On Sloopy.

Most importantly, thanks to the incredible support of our community, 444 children won BIG in 2025 by being matched with caring, committed mentors. This year's Beat Michigan Bash surpassed our fundraising goal, raising more than \$90,000—creating even more opportunities for life-changing mentorships in 2026.

Thank you to everyone who donated auction items, placed bids, reserved a seat or table, and joined us in celebrating the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Your generosity ensures our 55-year tradition of empowering children to reach their full potential through mentoring continues to thrive.

### Big Thanks to our Sponsors



Special Shout-Out to: Branham Signs & Shamrock Printing



To view all the BMB 2025 photos go to  
[bbslp.org/past-event](http://bbslp.org/past-event)



## Lunch Buddies is Expanding South

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Licking & Perry Counties is excited to announce the launch of two new Lunch Buddy programs:

- Southern Local School District at Millcreek Elementary in Perry County
- Southwest Licking School District at Watkins Intermediate, launching in January 2026

BBBSLP's Perry County branch kicked off the 2025-26 academic year by introducing a new Lunch Buddy program at Millcreek Elementary. Program Coordinator Taylor Strohschein has already created 34 matches, pairing 34 Littles with 34 Bigs from Miller High School—making this the largest Lunch Buddy program within our agency to date. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Taylor and the Southern Local School District for their dedication and collaboration in ensuring students have access to meaningful mentoring relationships.

In addition, BBBSLP recently hired a Program Facilitator to launch and coordinate a new Lunch Buddy program in the Southwest Licking School District. She has already met with school administrators, and excitement is building across the school community—especially among the students!

We extend a BIG thank you to the OneOhio Recovery Foundation for providing grant funding to support these two new programs. Their generous investment will ensure even more children in our community have access to caring mentors who empower them to reach their full potential.



## Photos of Fun ...



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## 2024-2025 BIG Data

At the end of November 2025, BBBSLP has served 443 youth: 383 Lunch Buddies and 60 Community Matches. We are also proud that 188 high school students (HS Bigs) have volunteered as mentors to our elementary school Littles.

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

