

2006 Ross Family Scholarships Awarded

Littles in the BBBS program often face challenging circumstances throughout their childhoods. However, with the support of a Big Brother or Big Sister, many Littles can overcome these challenges and live a life of accomplishment. The Kenny Ross Scholarships, eligible to current or former Littles entering or currently enrolled in post-secondary education, honor those Littles who have proven to be exceptional in their achievements. Three exemplary women are the recipients of this year's awards. Their current and future success is a testimony to their character, as well as the power of mentoring.

BBBS is honored to announce the following Little Sisters as the winners of this year's Ross Family Scholarship Awards:

- **Kristen Frankert** is a freshman at California University of Pennsylvania where she plans to major in elementary education. She graduated in June from Keystone Oaks High School where she was captain of the tennis team and involved in S.A.D.D., church activities, and Bowl For Kids' Sake, among others. She is currently working two jobs as she attends Cal U. Kristin had been a Little Sister in our program since 1999.
- **Montaja Simmons** is a freshman at Youngstown State University where she is majoring in musical theater. She had to successfully audition in order to be admitted into the musical theater program at YSU. Montaja graduated from Woodland Hills High School where she received many voice and musical awards. She has competed in beauty pageants and remains active in church activities, including choir and youth ministries. Montaja had been a Little Sister in our program since 1996.
- **Angie Woods** is in her third year at Clarion University where she is majoring in speech communications. She was on the Dean's List last semester at Clarion. She is a 2004 graduate of Westinghouse High School. Angie received the Ross Family Scholarship in each of the first two years that it was made available. She was a Little Sister in our program from 1997 to 2004.

The Ross Family Scholarships, established in honor of Nancy Zappala and Judge Tom Hardiman, have been made possible by the generosity of Kenny and Claire Ross.



Volunteers and students at Hill House.

BBBS Site-based Program Teams With Higher Education

The BBBS Site-based mentoring program has developed progressive new methods of volunteer recruitment through partnerships with students of area universities. The program is working with student leaders to organize student-run BBBS "subsidiaries" that play a formal role in on-site recruitment.

BBBS of Carnegie Mellon University, the first of these student organizations, was established in April 2006. It is headed by president and CMU student Yuri Gordon along with its newly elected student Board of Directors Melissa Lee, Danielle Eytan and Cindy Fernandez.

These leaders are responsible for internal recruitment, fundraising, promotion of CMU's on-campus mentoring through BBBS, and arranging times and dates for monthly match support for all CMU volunteer mentors. The CMU board members correspond with BBBS staff on a weekly basis.

Volunteers from CMU primarily serve Littles at the Hill House Association through two currently existing programs. The first program serves children in grades K-5. Bigs meet their Littles at Hill House and help them with homework, work on crafts, visit the on-site library or computer lab, or just hang out in the gymnasium and shoot hoops.

The second program is through Hill House's and Carnegie Science Center's joint after-school program, known as *Mission Discovery*. Designed for students in grades 6-8, *Mission Discovery* is more curriculum-based, but also provides other activities including sports, live animal interaction and weekly MURALS projects. MURALS is a program of the MGR Foundation that explores how students can grow and develop non-violent communities by expressing themselves through art. Local artists are on-site and guide both students and mentors through weekly discussions and art projects that directly relate to non-violence. The program is lead by the foundation's Program Director, Phil Koch (who also happens to be a BBBS Community-based Big Brother).

Further expansion of the BBBS and CMU relationship is in the works with help from BBBS Board of Directors member, and CMU alumnus, Luke Skurman.