



## Big Brothers Big Sisters

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November 14, 2013

Mark Berdan  
Northern Transformation  
2389 S. M-76  
West Branch, MI 48661

Dear Mr. Berdan:

Mid Michigan Big Brothers Big Sisters including the program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakes support the efforts of Northern Transformation – the lead applicant seeking Promise Zone initiative designation on behalf of a Consortium of Partners serving Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon counties. This letter is to acknowledge ourselves as a Participating Partner.

Mid Michigan Big Brothers Big Sisters is a 501c3 non-profit agency founded in 1975 to provide quality professionally supported mentoring services for children in Clare and Gladwin counties. In 2010 we expanded our service area to include Roscommon County under the program name of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakes. Our Mission statement is "To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever."

Our Big Brother Big Sister programming includes two types of programs 1) Traditional Big Brothers Big Sisters matching one adult to one child. In this program the adult meets with the child once a week for a minimum of one hour. Matches do things together that they both enjoy such as fishing, shopping, cooking, or crafting. Volunteers for this program require an extensive screening/training process along with ongoing training, coaching and monitoring of the match. 2) Site Based Lunch Buddies programs offer a child an adult to come and eat lunch with them at their school. Lunch buddies eat lunch together, share stories, perhaps play a game or work on schoolwork once a week. These matches only meet at the school or in supervised group settings. Volunteers for this program also are screened and trained along with ongoing monitoring, training of the matches. All types of matches have established goals, and are evaluated for progress by professionally supported by degreed staff. We also provide monthly activities for all participants matched or unmatched and waiting for a match. We provide on-going quarterly training opportunities for our volunteers.

We at Mid-Michigan Big Brothers Big Sisters recognize the value that a Promise Zone initiative may bring to help the children and their families that we serve.

Please feel free to contact me if you are in need of further information .

Sincerely,

Carol Gage B.A.A., M.N.P.M.  
Executive Director Mid Michigan Big Brothers Big Sisters  
104 W Fifth St, Clare, MI 48617  
[cgage@midmichiganbbbs.org](mailto:cgage@midmichiganbbbs.org)  
989-386-9304 Office, 989-429-6189 Cell phone

- BBBS OF MECOSTA/OSCEOLA COUNTIES 127 N RIVER ST. EVART 231-872-0360
- BBBS OF THE LAKES 129 S LAKE ST. ROSCOMMON 989-808-1296