

## The Facts

- Almost two million children in our nation have at least one parent who is incarcerated. 3,000 of those children currently live in our area of Central PA.
- Half of all children with incarcerated mothers are cared for by grandparents.
- Nearly two-thirds of children being raised by single grandmothers live in poverty.
- One in ten children of prisoners will be incarcerated before reaching the age of 18.
- The average term being served by parents in state prison is 80 months.
- One in eight African American children has a parent behind bars.
- Three in 100 American children will go to sleep tonight with a parent in jail or prison.

## Research Indicates

Little Brothers and Little Sisters are:

- ✓ 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- ✓ 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
  - ✓ 53% less likely to skip school
  - ✓ 37% less likely to skip a class
- ✓ More confident of their performance in school work
  - ✓ Less likely to hit someone

## Think of the possibilities. What will you start?

BBBS is looking to form partnerships with faith-based organizations (through AMACHI program models), civic groups, service organizations, sororities, and fraternities.

## Contact us today and start something!

### Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Blair County

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United Way of Blair County

Impact Grant Recipient

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Huntingdon County United Way

Member Agency

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# Start Something

## Mentoring Children of Promise

(Children of incarcerated parents)

Big Brothers Big Sisters



Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Blair County

serving  
Blair & Huntingdon  
County's

## **BBBS Mission Statement**

To help children reach their full potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with measurable impact.



## **BBBS Vision Statement**

Successful mentoring relationships for all children who need and want them, contributing to better schools, brighter futures and stronger communities for all.

**Changing the world  
one child at a time.**

## **Mentoring Children of Promise (MCP)**

The MCP program utilizes the Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach to build on children and youth's strength; it also works to develop in children and youth and 40 Developmental Assets.

The PYD approach helps children and youth develop in positive and productive ways by providing them with a sense of competence, a sense of usefulness, a sense of power, and a sense of belonging. It promotes healthy messages about bodies, behaviors, and interactions. It encourages strong relationships with adults such as parents, mentors, and coaches. It stresses the importance of safe and structured places to study, recreate, and socialize with peers. Moreover, it focuses on skill development and promotes the involvement of children and youth in community service opportunities.

Building the 40 Development Assets, which are comprised of 20 Internal and 20 External factors, in children and youth decreases the engagement in risky behaviors and increases their chances to make healthy and responsible choices. Assets give power to young people regardless of their gender, economic status, family, or race

(Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets, 2011)

## **What do the children of promise need?**

- Structure
- Caring adult role models
- Someone to listen
- Nonjudgmental adults
- Understanding
- Compassion
- Support

## **Who are their caretakers?**

On average, children of prisoners are cared for by relatives who are:

- 60-plus years old
- Living on a fixed income
- Caring for multiple children
- Receiving minimal TANF subsidy
- Concerned about their parenting skills
- Proudful and ashamed
- Distrusting of agency services
- Difficult to engage in services