

Little Kids With Big Needs

Big Brothers, Big Sisters recruit at UPEI

By Kelly Mason

Children need mentors and Big Brothers, Big Sisters can help.

Big Brothers/Sisters PEI needs more volunteers than ever before. Children awaiting a Big Brother or Big Sister may wait up to two years for a match.

The non-profit organization has made commendable efforts to recruit volunteers from UPEI faculty, staff and students. Students have been eager volunteers, making the program a success.

Yvonne Cartner, PEI chapter coordinator applauds the on campus success.

"We've had some great matches with [UPEI] students for some of these kids," says Cartner.

Cartner insists that present volunteers are very much appreciated but more male volunteers are needed. It has been found that women typically find it easier to come forward and offer to be a volunteer.

The program has grown over the years.

"In 1975 the program was just Big Brothers. [Seven years later] in 1981 the name of the program was changed to Big Brothers/Big Sisters," says Cartner.

Potential volun-

teer can join in two ways, either through the traditional match program in which the organization pairs up a volunteer and child for the best possible match or through the in-school mentoring program.

Mentoring gives volunteers with a busy schedule a chance to do their part also.

Matches are relatively short lived.

"[A typical] relationship lasts about 2 and a half to 3 years," Cartner says. "Some of the reasons why the relationship is so short is that either the volunteer or the child moves, or the child matures and doesn't need the relationship anymore."

Yet, more volunteers are needed.

"Anyone [can volunteer]," Cartner says.

UPEI volunteers are encourage to introduce their little brother or sister to campus life.

"It's [a] great exposure for the kids when allowed to visit the library or the computer lab," says Cartner.

UPEI recruiting began 5 years ago, steadily improving every year. Although Cartner is unsure of the number of UPEI volunteers, there is always a need for more.

Potential volunteer should not be discouraged by the assumption that large amounts of time or money are needed to become a Big Brother or Sister. The program wishes that the relationships not to be based on buying the child's affection. An attentive ear, an hour a week, is often enough.

UPEI Students critique Speech from the Throne

By Sarah Murphy
NEWS EDITOR

The 3rd Session of the 60th General Assembly opened on November 16th with a rather disappointing Speech from the Throne for PEI students.

"I have to say I was quite disappointed with the Speech from the Throne," says Patrick Young, Senate Representative and 4th year

how the Tory Government plans to better the community," Young says.

Binns, who during his campaign made a point to include UPEI, promised to work towards improving higher education in the province and lower its [higher education] financial toil on students, has obviously disappointed students.

In his speech, Binns says his Govern-

"Unfortunately, we really don't see anything substantial."

Political Science Student. "Traditionally, the intent is for the government to lay out their proposed legislative plan or direction for the coming session. Unfortunately, we really don't see anything substantial."

Young found Premier Pat Binn's address to be very philosophical and ambiguous, especially concerning post-secondary students and young people in PEI.

"Vagueness was consistent throughout the speech, and really does not give us any solid indication as to

ment "will develop a tuition credit program. It will offer Island students entering Island post-secondary institutions, a tuition credit based on their hours of volunteer work."

Binns believes this initiative will encourage voluntarism, and support volunteer organizations, all while assisting students in achieving their educational goals and providing valuable experience.

"I think the volunteer tuition credit is a positive step in the

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