

March  
2008

# BIG PARTNER LITTLE PARTNER



## Upcoming Events

- **March 10th: St. Patty's Day Event in Alumni Hall from 6-8pm**
- **March 18th: Easter Egg Hunt. Keep your eyes open for more info.**
- **April 22nd: Earth Day Event in the Arboretum at Gustavus**
- **May: There will be the annual end of the year picnic in the beginning of May. More info to come**

## Movie and Pajama Night

Movie night turned out to be a fun and exciting pajama party as well! Big Partners brought their Little Partners to GACs Nobel Hall, which is a lot like a movie theater with stadium seating and

a big wide screen to watch movies on. Popcorn was served and it turned out to be a great large group event inside the warm auditorium during the cold weather this February. If you

have any suggestions for large group events please let us know. You can email Michelle at manders3@gac.edu or call the Community Service Center at 933-6060

## Feedback from Mid-Year Check Ins

Parents and/or Guardians- This past month we have conducted mid-year check-ins with all of our participants.

Overall, our Big Partner's comments were very enthusiastic and full of excitement concerning their experiences this year. However, a few gripes were expressed by numerous Big Partners including:

\*Parents don't call me back.

\*Parents are asking too much of me.

\*Siblings are tagging along.

\*I feel like a babysitter.

Just to remind you all, the program is meant to be a one-on-one mentorship. Big Partner's are not expected to look after numerous children or expected to baby-sit. Also, communication is a very important component to making your child's match successful. Please don't forget to call you BP back and respect his/her busy schedule.

The BPLP coordinators strive to make your match be as successful as possible. Please work together with your Big Partner to make that happen! If you have any questions/concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Kristine McGlennen  
BPLP Parent Communication Coordinator

## Big Partner Little Partner Pairs of the Month

Once again this month we have **TWO BPLP Pairs of the Month**. We are excited to hear about peoples stories, and hope that nominations continue to come in. Don't forget, if you would like to nominate a Big Partner, please email Michelle at [manders3@gac.edu](mailto:manders3@gac.edu) or call the Community Service Center at 933-6060.

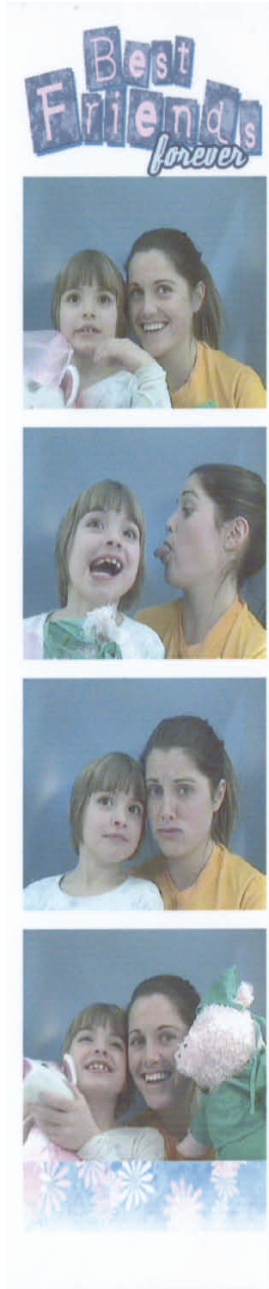
**Our first pair of the month is Dain Clausen and Sam. Here is what Dain had to say about his experience this year:**

"As a first-year student I was excited to get involved with the long standing tradition of community service here at Gustavus. Through BPLP I met my little partner Sam, an outgoing, creative, and intelligent nine year old boy. Sam has brought the inner child in me out, we enjoy building snow forts, tubing at Mount Kato, watching comical movies (The Austin Powers movies are some of his favorites), and playing the Wii. One of our most memorable moments was on Halloween 'trick or treating' through St. Peter and the dorms in our costumes. The BPLP experience has benefited both Sam and I in many ways and I'm very glad I became involved."

**Our second Pair this month is Alicia Cameron and her partner Ashley. Here is what Alicia had to say about her experience.**

"Every Monday and Wednesday I pick up 7 yr old Ashley from South Elementary. Half the time I have a plan to go to Lund to play basketball (she loves to see how tall the basketball guys are) or even to the library where we go upstairs and act out books in the group rooms upstairs. Most of the time though, I let Ashley decide (within reason) what she wants to do for the 3 hours I have her. My favorite memory is during January, We had a few hours so we went down to Kato Mall and adventured into Wacky Bear. We each made our own stuffed animal, Ashley made Kate the Unicorn, and I made Dr. Oinkers the pig. Ashley has made every time we hangout exciting and fun."

Thanks again BPs for helping make our program so great! Also, thanks to all the other BPs ... we had a great deal of evaluations turned in from the parents/guardians of the LPs and they had really great things to say about you guys!  
**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**



ALICIA AND HER LITTLE PARTNER, ASHLEY

