



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**

*Little Moments. Big Magic.™*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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## **N e w s**

### **2008 FRANKLIN WINE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE KICK OFF HELD**

*Big Brothers Big Sisters to benefit from Event Scheduled for October 24*

**FRANKLIN, TN** (July 8, 2008)... The fourth annual Franklin Wine Festival, presented by Cool Springs Wines & Spirits and supported by Nissan, held its Executive Committee Kick Off last month. The food and wine tasting event is a benefit for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee, and will be held Friday, October 24 at the Factory at Franklin.

Members finalized plans and formed subcommittees to strategize for the upcoming fund-raiser. Lead by 2008 Event Chairperson Sandy Draper, the largest steering group ever later enjoyed a wine and tapas tasting at Criallos' Bistro in Cool Springs, one of the event sponsors already confirmed.

"The Franklin Wine Festival is one of Williamson county's signature events," commented Lowell Perry, Jr. – CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters. "This committee is poised to reach new heights in the quality and distinction of the wines offered, the food sampled, and the overall experience of this first class event for such a worthy cause as the children of Middle Tennessee."

Sandy Draper, Event Chairperson, commented, "I have been blessed to serve as a volunteer Big Sister for the past three years with this wonderful organization, and I am deeply honored to once again chair the 2008 Franklin Wine Festival."

Committee members joining Draper include: James and Jackie Woodard, Honorary Chairs; members Cindy Bock, Ed Bortle, Lisbeth Couser, Shelley Davis, Angela Evans, Penny Floyd, Sandy Inman, Jerry Lankford, Michael Martin, Julie McLellan-Palecki, Dale Monjar, Diane Murphy, Connie Murray, Michelle Petree, Lisa Reid, Regina Riesen, Bryan Robbins, Tammy Russell, Rachel Scott, Matt Sigmund, and Mary Ann Stafford.

The funds raised by the event will be used to serve more children with a mentor throughout Middle Tennessee through Big Brothers Big Sisters programs.

Instructions for purchasing tickets and other details are available at [www.franklinwinefestival.com](http://www.franklinwinefestival.com). For more information, contact Sarah Beatty with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee, (615) 522-5659. To volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a mentor, visit [www.mentorakid.org](http://www.mentorakid.org).

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**Some of the 2008 Franklin Wine Festival Committee members paused for a group photo after the meeting at Criallo's Bistro in Cool Springs.**

Front row, left to right: Diane Murphy, Mix 92.9/Jack FM; Shelley Davis, The Tennessean; Regina Riesen, The Tennessean; Julie McLellan-Palecki, Cool Springs Complex; Event Chairperson Sandy Draper, Wirtgen America; Dale Monjar, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Michelle Petree, AmeriChoice; Ed Bortle, Fleming's Steakhouse; Matt Sigmund, The Sigmund Group; Sarah Beatty, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Jerry Lankford, Avondale Partners; Tammy Russell, Crye-Leike; Lisbeth Couser, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Bryan Robbins, Cool Springs Wines & Spirits.

## **About Big Brothers Big Sisters**

Youth development experts agree that, in addition to their parents, children need additional supportive, caring adults in their lives. Studies show that children with a mentor are less likely to become involved in drugs, gangs, and violence... and their grades and behavior improve as a result. Big Brothers Big Sisters is certainly a part of the answer to improving these children's lives and their communities.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters are, foremost, friends to children. They share everyday activities... exploring new horizons, and experiencing the joy that simple moments of friendship can bring. The initial commitment is an hour or two a week, and the volunteer and child are out enjoying everyday activities like playing the park or working on a car. It is through the one-to-one attention that the child comes to think of themselves as the special individual that they are – full of potential and promise.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee (BBBSMT) was recently honored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America by CEO Lowell Perry, Jr. being named CEO of the Year and their Board of Directors being named Board of the Year. In addition, the agency was a finalist for Agency of the Year. BBBSMT was the only agency nominated in all three categories at the annual conference held last month in Phoenix, Arizona.

For more information, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee at (615) 329-9191 or visit their website at [www.bbbsmt.org](http://www.bbbsmt.org). The administrative offices for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee are located at One Vantage Way, Suite C250, Nashville, Tennessee 37228.

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