



KELLER J. BLACKBURN
Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: February 26, 2015 ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Athens County Prosecuting Attorney Keller J. Blackburn
Provide Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens County with Law Enforcement Trust Fund
Community Prevention Dollars

Athens County Prosecuting Attorney Keller Blackburn is delighted to announce that he will present \$1,000.00 to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens County.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens County applied to the Prosecutor's Office for Law Enforcement Trust Fund Community Prevention dollars with the hopes of strengthening their efforts to match more children facing adversity in our community with the caring mentors they need to bring joy, stability and emotional support into their lives.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens (BBBS of Athens) serves over 350 children annually through programming and enrichment activities that promote safe and healthy decision-making, increase school completion rates and strengthen respect for family and community authority figures. BBBS of Athens is pleased to announce that in 2014, none of the 350 children participating in the programming were arrested or faced any punishments through the juvenile justice system.

Prosecutor Blackburn states that "The programs offered by BBBS of Athens are extremely beneficial in guiding our youth along a positive path. It is apparent that these programs work and I am proud to be able to assist in the efforts of not only the Athens BBBS but each individual that donates their time to work as a Big Brother or Big Sister."

Tracy Kelly, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens County states that "We are sincerely grateful for the support Prosecutor Keller Blackburn has shown for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Athens. Each year, we serve over 350 at-risk children through community-based and afterschool programming and funding from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund will allow us to strengthen our efforts to match even more children facing adversity in our community with the dedicated mentors that they deserve. Research shows that participation in mentorship matches through Big Brothers Big Sisters reduces a child's likelihood of using illegal drugs by 46% and their likelihood of skipping school by 52%, while improving their confidence and self-esteem. Caring mentorship plays a vital role in helping children to see their potential for a happy and drug-free future and we support Prosecutor Blackburn's vision for a safe, healthy community."