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'Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake'

Annual two-day fundraiser to help fund mentoring programs for local youths

By ALAINA FAHY
The Eagle-Gazette Staff
afahy@nncogannett.com

FAIRFIELD COUNTY - Deanna Sayre is used to diligence and professionalism when she's working at Fairfield County's Job & Family Services division of Community Services.

Saturday gave her a chance to show her co-workers her sillier, more laid-back side at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County's Bowl for Kids' Sake at Tiki Bowling Lanes.

Sayre screamed and high-fived her co-workers after each of them bowled a good score on a frame. She did a little celebration dance with her arms above her head after bowling a strike in the first of two games.

"We're so used to working hard," Sayre said. "This gives us a chance to come together and unwind. We're all having a wonderful time."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County, a mentor program that pairs children with positive, adult role models, kicked off its fundraising efforts for the year with the event Saturday.

The event continues today at Tiki Bowling Lanes.

"It's all for a good cause," she said.

Job and Family Services was one of the organizations that sponsored the annual Bowl For Kids' Sake.

Players raised at least \$25 to bowl two games. Businesses donated money to sponsor lanes, prizes for raffles and prizes for the teams that raised the most money, said Anna Tobin, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County.

The members of the organization hoped the events would raise \$23,000 for the local chapter.

The fundraiser is also being done nationally, at other chapters of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The money goes to help fund the organization's programs, such as monthly activities for the program's participants.

The majority of children in the program live in single-parent households, Tobin said. They are paired with a mentor based on interests and backgrounds.

"This event helps us do that," Tobin said.

Todd Kauffman helped raise \$45 from sponsors. He bowled in the event for the first time Saturday.

But he's no stranger to bowling. He's in a league that meets once a week.

He likes that bowling gives him the chance to get away from everything and take a break.

Bowl for Kids' Sake is an important event because it helps needy kids, Kauffman said.

"I think it's a good cause," he said.
