

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Thanks Partners

*Wells Fargo unveils new tool to track mentoring progress*

By Joia Williamson • The St. Louis American

"I am not asking you to join just any organization," said Gov. Jay Nixon. "I am asking you to join a very special organization."

Nixon came to Wells Fargo Advisors in St. Louis last week to receive the President's Pioneer Award from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri and to encourage professionals to become a mentor with the organization.

The regional mentoring organization presented an award to Wells Fargo Advisors recognizing the brokerage firm's strong and consistent commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Wells Fargo Advisors' received the Innovation Partner Award.

Wells Fargo will contribute more than \$100,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri and recruit 100 mentors for the organization. The new mentors will work with students in St. Louis Public Schools.

Brand Meyer, managing director of Wells Fargo Advisors, encouraged everyone to become a mentor.

"There is nothing more important to creating a bright future for our community, for our entire society, than making a positive impact on the lives of young boys and girls today," Meyer said.

Becky-James Hatter, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, said she is not surprised that a major company or governor in the Midwest would donate their time and money to the mentoring agency.

"Midwesterners know how to be neighborly to each other," James-Hatter said.

Karen Mathis, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, stressed the importance of the program to a child's future. "We need to recognize how important the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to the entire country," Mathis said.

The mentoring program has been shown to have a positive impact on academic performance, behavior and attendance in public school with children ages ranging from five through 17.

At the program Wells Fargo demonstrated a new proprietary data analysis tool to support the organization's membership goals. Yohannes Tilahun, senior vice president and director of Business Vision and FA Analytics for Wells Fargo Advisors, demonstrated how the tool can be used to track a child's progress in the program.

"Behind every number, there is someone's success," Tilahun said.

The goal is to track the child's academic achievement, behavior and attendance. The tool tabulates data that show where the child may need improvement and his or her overall progress. Color-coded and in report card form, the data are easily accessible to parents and instructors.

"The new tool allows us to monitor our students' performance and to tailor our case management to ensure that the full benefit of the mentoring relationship is realized," James-Hatter said.

The new tool is still in the works, with only 425 students in the database, but already it has helped instructors focus on students' needs. Plans are in the works to increase the database.

"We bring every aspect and continue to do so within our organization to support Big Brothers Big Sisters," Meyers said. "We look forward to continuing a partnership."



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Eastern Missouri

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