HAVING WHEEL FUN! BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS TEAM UP WITH WHEEL FUN RENTALS FOR OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT

"You'll thank me for choosing you! to come and have some fun! on a bicycle built for two..." So goes "Bicycle Built for Two," a children's nursery rhyme crafted for friendship. It is in this spirit of companionship and happiness that Wheel Fun Rentals, a nationwide franchise with a Carolina Beach location, will once again partner with the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) nonprofit organization this summer.

Wheel Fun Rentals will provide free bike rentals to Big Brothers and Sisters and their "Littles" across the nation. The program itself originated in 2006 as BBBS could have access to free rentals any time they're together with their "Little sibling." It isn't just limited to bikes, either. The rentals range from bikes to Sunny cycles, kayaks to canoes, and much more. Across America over 5,000 biking buddies have been distributed to BBBS volunteers in 2016—that equals to around $125,000. It continues these volunteers always have something fun, fit and free to do with each other.

"We chose to partner with BBBS because we believe children who would benefit the most from mentorship and wholesome activities," Sherina Valenta, marketing director at Wheel Fun Rentals, says. "Physical activity builds confidence and resiliency, relieves anxiety, and, is just plain fun!"

Named the number one recreational rental company in the United States, Wheel Fun Rentals has two locations, both in Carolina Beach. The company was founded in 1987 and expanded from its original Annabelle Sunny Cycles to include bike rentals and bike tours. It offers family friendly fun at affordable prices. "At Wheel Fun Rentals, we like to see children moving, biking, paddling, laughing, and enjoying the great outdoors," Valenta says.

As for the partnership with BBBS, which is entering its eighth year, the free and fun outdoor bonding experience comes to tens of thousands of pairs across the nation. Lynne Radford, a member of the BBBS advisory board, says, "This is a great gesture that will bring lots of fun to our Littles. It's these types of activities that mean so much to them and may be something they wouldn't get to try otherwise."

Considering the numerous video games and screen distractions today's youth, it provides an opportunity to reconnect with the nature. Plus, it helps the kids connect with people doing fun activities together.

A Big Volunteer at BBBS out of the San Diego Chapter says, "My Little, Joey, and I always had a bond on the wrestling team. I knew the time spent on the rental products makes a big impact in his life."

"When Little Brothers and Little Sisters feel good about themselves, they can positively impact our families, their schools and their communities," says Karen J. Motich, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. "[]these young people believe in themselves because a Big Brother or Big Sister believed in them."

BBBS started in New York in 1954 and since has spread across America. Over the last 110 years, the program has provided one-on-one mentoring for children from ages 6 to 18. Children benefiting from BBBS are less likely to skip school and use illegal drugs, and are more likely to get along with their families and peers, according to BBBS statistics.

Children in the program are offered the opportunity to form relationships with their "brothers and sisters" that give them benefits those outside the program do not have. They learn how to form better relationships, and their mentors keep them striving for achievement. The program generates lasting, positive friendships. The application process is simple and can be found on the BBBS website. Registering a child for the program is free.

**DETAILS:**

Wheel Fun Rentals and Big Brothers Big Sisters

107 Carolina Beach Ave N
(910) 485-4055
www.wheelfunrentals.com
Big Brothers Big Sisters
www.bbb.org

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Living With Grief
Phileps Urgent Care & Counseling Center
6:00 PM

Boysen Gallery Opening: All Student UNCW Student Art Gallery
6:00 PM

Pecking for Pages: Bicycle Book Club
Old Books or Front St
6:00 PM

Neighborhood Food Truck Night
Surf City Pier Park
6:00 PM

Patrolist & Democracy
Santora Brewery
6:00 PM

Equinox Fitness
Towneplace Suites
6:30 PM

Banning Hill (Jazz)
The Palette Cafe
6:30 PM

**ADD EVENTS**

**FULL CALENDAR**