



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Central Indiana

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## **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Mathis as President and Chief Executive Officer effective September 15, 2009. In the interim, Judy Vredenburg will continue to serve as the organization's leader.

Mathis comes to Big Brothers Big Sisters with a demonstrated commitment to children and their families. She is a former Big Sister; she created the Youth at Risk program for the American Bar Association; she serves as a director on the Board of Volunteers of America; and she is a past board leader for the Mile High Girl Scout Council.

Mathis has a long track record of service, which includes past president of the American Bar Association, a \$300 million organization and as a partner and leader of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney and Carpenter, a multi-state diversified law firm with 230 practicing attorneys. Mathis is a collaborator with many external relationships and has significant experience as an organizational leader, coalition builder, fund raiser, and advocate.

Mathis has partnered with the U.S. Department's of Justice and Education, testified before many congressional committees, and worked with White House staff. She has addressed prestigious audiences worldwide and nationally including the National Conference of State Court Chief Justices, Justices of the International Criminal Court and many Universities. She has worked with all five branches of the U.S. military, and lobbied successfully on behalf of service men and women.

Mathis is currently on a one year assignment as the executive director for Central European and Eurasian Initiative Institute (CEELI), a preeminent international non profit provider of post graduate professional legal education.

Mathis is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Denver, received a law degree from the University of Colorado Law School, and has honorary degrees from five other institutions. She has been honored by many organizations, including the National Network for Youth, the U.S. Air Force, and the National Association of Women Lawyers.

Mathis will be at the organization's National Conference in Miami in June, where she is scheduled to speak Wednesday, June 17.

### **About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana is a non-profit organization that develops mentors committed to helping boys and girls grow into the next generation of caring, confident and competent adults. An affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and a United Way partner, BBBSCI has been creating and supporting mentoring relationships in central Indiana for over 35 years. To volunteer, donate or for more information, visit [www.bebigforkids.org](http://www.bebigforkids.org) or call (317) 921-2201.

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