

# Children on waiting list for big brother or sister

One of the most difficult aspects of this position is trying to help the child who is waiting for a Big. As will all Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliates, the waiting list is something that is part of the process, but for the child waiting, it can seem like forever.



**dennis daise**

• big brothers big sisters

blind to others' problems and pains. Not seeing them means denying their existence."

There are kids on the waiting list, and just because people don't see the list, it doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. I encourage you to think about opening your eyes to the child who needs a friend. For some, reading a novel can be an escape, but lending your time to volunteer can be a powerful reality.

For the second year in a row, the Goodland Public Library is assisting us with a "Big For a Day" activity. Starting at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday and the 100th year celebration of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The event is open to all kids in first through sixth grades. Karen Gillihan does an excellent job of providing a fun-filled time for all involved.

I also encourage those who are interested in being a volunteer to attend this event. You will have a good time and possibly meet a child who needs a friend. Please call if you have any questions concerning this activity.

"Bowl for Kids Sake" teams are rapidly forming for the yearly fundraiser, so be sure to call and enter your team if you haven't done so. That event will be at Bowladium Lanes on Saturday, April 3.

To close, let me share with you an excerpt from a book by Roy Borges entitled "No Such Thing as a Mutt." Borges offered to watch his brother's dog one afternoon. This dog and Borges had never seen eye to eye.

The dog would always chew up his personal items but not touch his brother's. Once the dog even chewed up the title to his car.

"I despised the mutt. But I loved my brother very much," he said.

Borges, for some reason, agreed to watch the dog one afternoon.

"That sneaky mutt ran right out into the street," Borges said. "Suddenly I heard the screeching of tires and a sad, mournful yelp. . . . There in the middle of the road lay my brother's dog. I knew he was dead. I'll never forget the pain on my brother's face. . . . I had never seen my brother cry, not even when I smashed up his brand new car.

"But he cried that day. I cried inside as I watched my brother suffer. Suddenly I realized that just because I didn't see anything good about this mutt didn't mean there wasn't anything good about him.

"My brother saw this dog with a

different set of eyes than I did. He loved him a lot."

I believe those who want to help a single parent and his or her child see things "with a different set of eyes."

From an article by Chuck Colson: "What the Arts Can and Can't Do," he shares an account of a professor who lived in Iran in the mid-1990s. The professor, Azar Nafisi, author of "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books," committed a terrible crime — she started a reading group.

One part of the article caught my eye in which the professor shared that reading the novels "were an escape from reality in the sense that we could marvel at their beauty and perfection. . . . led us finally to question and prod our own realities, about which we felt so helplessly

speechless."

Colson, expressing Nafisi's perspective, noted that the novels "'taught these women the virtue of empathy. 'If the chief sin of their oppressors was to judge people unfairly,' Nafisi argues, 'the study of literature was a safeguard against the same trap.'"

As a professor of literature, Nafisi told her university class, "A good novel is one that shows the complexity of individuals. . . . Empathy lies at the heart of (The Great 'Gatsby,' like so many other great novels — the biggest sin is to be

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