



Bowl For Kids Raises \$12,670 For Local Mentoring Programs

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Nick Heikkila bowls with his team From Christ Lutheran Parish at Bowl for Kids in Hurley on Saturday.



Top Bowl for Kids Team: "Strikes... No Gutter Balls!" L to R: Penny Paquin, Cindy Mazes, Cathy Tankka, Sue Pertile and Patty Auvinen.

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HURLEY - Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids 2008 raised \$12,670 for area mentoring programs for children. The event on Feb. 23 at the American Legion Lanes in Hurley included 49 bowlers on 11 teams. More than 30 business sponsors and 50 in-kind donors contributed.

"Everyone in the community really comes together in support of this event, and everyone we encounter does whatever they can to help. Community support is crucial to the success of our programs and we couldn't ask for much more support than this. We are extremely thankful to be a part of a community that so clearly demonstrates its commitment to children," said Maggie Munch, program director for the Western Upper Peninsula agency.

Cathy Tankka and her team "Strikes, No Gutter Balls" captured the Top Team Challenge for raising \$1,532. It was the sixth year in a row that Tankka has been a part of the top team. The team from the Gogebic County Sheriff's Department, lead by Cory Aijala, won the Workplace Challenge by raising \$931. The sheriff's department has participated in the event every year since its inception in 2001. This team consistently raises a large amount of funds for the cause.

Prizes estimated at an overall value of \$1,500 were given away to participants throughout the day by the masters of ceremony, Sam Fontecchio and Jesse Baroka.

The annual Bowl for Kids invites the community to be a part of the **Big Brothers Big Sisters** mission of providing one-to-one friendship, guidance and opportunities to youth.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has served more than 250 youth on the Gogebic Range in the past year. For more information call 906-932-8463 or visit the Web site <http://www.upbiggs.com/>