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PLANET FITNESS SHARES SUCCESS WITH ‘BROTHERS AND SISTERS’

Uniontown, PA – Planet Fitness of Uniontown celebrated its latest renovations and equipment upgrades this morning, but decided to share the spotlight with a local nonprofit.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region, headquartered in Greensburg, was invited to participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house Thursday morning to receive a \$2,500 donation from Planet Fitness.

Founded in 1975, Big Brothers Big Sisters matches children with adult volunteers who share similar interests and hobbies in the hopes of fostering long-lasting relationships through positive influences and experiences.

Planet Fitness Uniontown Club Manager Jordan Homer, District Manager Andrew Tatich and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region CEO Kelli Belanger were joined by dozens of gym employees, local legislators, members of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, nonprofit volunteers and guests for the big reveal. Renovations began in June as an update to the 5-year-old facilities.

Homer said, although her staff was excited to introduce attendees to the gym’s new cardio machines, hydro lounges, rowers and facility renovations, she was most looking forward to the Big Brothers Big Sisters presentation.

“It’s really neat to see how our company partners up with these types of organizations,” Homer said. “I think because the community gives so much to us, we just want to give back.”

Tatich said Planet Fitness, as “the judgment-free zone,” loves to support children’s organizations, specifically those that focus on anti-bullying, promoting active lifestyles and positive community outreach.

“We wanted to let the community know we have this new facility and equipment for them to use, all while promoting the Big Brothers Big Sisters message, as well,” Tatich said. “It’s extremely gratifying to be able to present them with a monetary donation to help them with their efforts in our community.”



Belanger said the Laurel Region office currently serves about 50 children in Fayette County annually, and there is currently a waiting list for child/volunteer matches. She said every donation received is critical, as it primarily covers the costs associated with each match.

“There’s a lot of behind-the-scenes work and we are so thrilled about this donation, because we’ve never had a connection with Planet Fitness before this,” Belanger said. “Any time we can get support for our Fayette kids is great, so we’re very excited.”

Belanger said she hopes Thursday’s festivities lead to a long-term partnership between the two entities, with a possibility for brother and sister matches to participate in gym activities.

“It really means a lot to have a fitness company reach out to us and recognize that the work we do is important,” she said. “They were willing to reach out, and we certainly want to help the people who help us, too.”

Belanger said Big Brothers Big Sisters is always looking for volunteers for community- and school-based mentoring. For more information, call 724-439-8055, email mail@bbbslr.org or visit www.bbbslr.org.

Tatich said Planet Fitness is committed to supporting its communities because “those are the folks that we interact with every day.”

“Staying ultra, hyper-local is very important,” he said. “We want to give back to the community and organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters, because it’s important they know that we support them in their efforts.”

For more information on Planet Fitness Uniontown, call 724-439-3200 or visit www.planetfitness.com/gyms/uniontown-pa.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.info.

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