

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED



Several years ago, Erika became a Little Sister through the school-based mentoring program in the Geneva City School District.

A shy, quiet little girl, it was hard for her to engage in the normal social life of her peers. It didn't help that she was taunted for how she looked. That only deepened her lack of communication.

Fortunately, Erika was matched with an outgoing, independent Big Sister for the next two years. As Erika went into Middle School, their friendship flourished. Erika became animated in her quiet conversations with her big

sister. Blossoming under her big sister's encouragement, she never failed to attend the program –and she started making friends with other kids in the program.

By the time Erika was in 9th grade, she was one of the "Littles" the staff at BBBS looks for – a girl just right to become a Big Sister in high school. At first, it must have seemed daunting. But Erika accepted and gave it a try.

All the way up to senior year, she was a devoted Big Sister, matched twice in enduring relationships. She shared the same patience and understanding her big sister showed her.

In her senior year at Geneva, Erika applied to enter college. It was a long shot -- due to her grades, finances at home and her social experiences. She also applied for a community service grant for school. She got both! Today Erika attends a local community college. She's applying her "investments in relationships" toward a business degree.

**When we all work together, we can make change happen.
Together, when we LIVE UNITED, we can make a real difference.**

To give contact United Way of Ontario County, Inc. 585.394.6550
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