HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE PARENT

• Reminder your child before the volunteer comes to pick him/her up and make sure they are dressed appropriately for the activity.

• Encourage your child to talk about his/her volunteer and their activities but don’t pry.

• Do not use denial of seeing the volunteer as punishment.

• Encourage your child to come up with ideas and activities to share with his/her volunteer and express his/her feelings to his/her volunteer.

• Never break an appointment with the volunteer without first giving an explanation and then only if necessary. He/she has freed up time especially for your child.

• Call your BBBS Mentoring Specialist when you have a question, need help or want to relate an experience (either pleasant or unpleasant).

• Notify your BBBS Mentoring Specialist if you move or get a new phone number. Also let BBBS know of any other important changes.

• We encourage open communication with your child’s volunteer. If there is a problem with the volunteer (for example, always 15 minutes late), try to relay it to him/her. He/she wants to know how you feel.

• Please remember the volunteer is NOT a babysitter. If you do not leave your child home alone on a regular basis, please be home when the volunteer brings your child home. This alleviates any parental decision on the volunteer’s part as to where to leave your child.

• Please remember the volunteer’s major role is not as a disciplinarian or parent substitute for your child. He/she is an older friend.

• Apply these and your own ideas to contribute to a successful experience for your son/daughter!

Can the youth be home alone?
If not, and no approved persons are home upon returning from an outing, the volunteer will:
1) Call and text the parent/guardian.
2) If no response after 15 minutes, call and text the emergency contact and the Mentoring Specialist.
3) Volunteer may leave a note and go to a different location.
4) If no response after 1 hour from initial communication attempts with parent/guardian, volunteer calls police.