MATCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE VOLUNTEER:

• Statements made by the volunteer about the volunteer’s desire for a type of client, including preferences regarding religion, race, age, client family lifestyle and type or extent of problem behavior of client;
• Geographic location;
• Skill levels of volunteer;
• Interests and hobbies; and
• Overall personality.

FOR THE CLIENT:

• Statements made by the parent/guardian about volunteer’s religious, racial, age and cultural background preferences;
• Geographic location;
• Identified needs of client for adult intervention;
• Interests and hobbies; and
• Overall personality.

MATCH DETERMINATION:

• Similarity of proposed match participants;
• Compatibility of values and attitudes;
• Mutuality of interests; and
• Geographic proximity (a potential key to the success and longevity of a match).

Courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.
TIPS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MATCHING PROCESS

Considerations Prior to Matching
- Comprehensive assessments of families, clients and volunteers.
- Awareness of one’s own stereotypes and assumptions.
- An interviewer trained in dealing with diversity.

Parental Approval
- At each step of the standard screening process.

Common Interests
- Vocational, educational and recreational.

Goals for the Client
- Educational enrichment, self-esteem enhancement, cultural enrichment, family and peer relationship improvement.

Backgrounds
- Childhood upbringing, culture, religion.

Life Experiences
- Absence of parent in household, growing up as the oldest child in a large family, death of a parent, raised by a grandparent.

Expressed Preferences
- Race, gender, culture, sexual orientation, age.

Acceptance of Cross-Gender or Alternative Types of Matching
- Agreement by volunteer, youth and parent/guardian.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Volunteer and Client
- Personality types, academic level, open-mindedness, energy level.

Client and Volunteer Willingness and Ability to Travel
- If the program is community-based, will the volunteer pick up the child at the home? Is the child able to travel alone? Are the client and volunteer within a reasonable, commutable distance?

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