

# PRESIDENTS' COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Monadnock Region *Keene State College***

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Monadnock Region (NH), Inc. promotes positive change in children at risk of future negative behavior. The change process is achieved through one-to-one, professionally guided relationships with caring role models and friends. Locally (Monadnock Region and Claremont) the number of children served has grown from 35-50 children served per year in 1974 to 432 children served in 2006. Through the work of Keene State College students the program has been able to expand services and increase the amount of children served in the area. The program operates community-based mentoring and site-based mentoring. Community-based matches meet in the community to share activities and experiences and the site-based mentoring takes place once a week in schools, libraries and community centers. This year 120 Keene State College students expressed an interest in volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Currently 60 students have been successfully matched. Most of these students are majoring in education and this gives them the hands on experience that they need to develop their skills as future educators. Under the leadership of Peg Monahan, the staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters has been committed to working with the students at Keene State College and improving the lives of children in our community.