Christopher David Girrbach, co-founder and President of Great Lakes Potato Chips and formerly Pangea’s in downtown Traverse City, has launched a 15-year + goal to complete a Triathlon in every state in the Country to raise funding for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Chris and his wife Shanna of 15 years, have three children, Gabe, Christopher and Annalise, and have lived in the Traverse City area since 2005.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, Chris and his dad, Ed Girrbach opened Pangea’s Pizza in 2008, because like “most of us”, they fell in love with downtown Traverse City.

They made their own potato chips at Pangeas, which became so popular, they developed the business Great Lakes Potato Chips.

Chris and Shanna have been supporters of Big Brothers Big Sisters for several years and the more Chris learned about the children in the Bigs’ program and its impact on youth, he decided he wanted to do something that would help the program, the children and the community.

In his words, “I do this because some kids get the short end of the stick and Big's makes a world of difference to those kids. It’s the least I can do”.

Besides spending time with his family, Chris enjoys running skiing, water sports and yard work, and is a history buff, and also enjoys a good movie.