



# Big Brothers Big Sisters

# Big News



## Dear Supporters

*By Melissa Underwood, Program Director*

This quarter marked an end to a wonderful school year with great accomplishments! It was the first year for the Lake Havasu High School Bigs Club which was involved in National Mentoring Month-Fall Fun Fair activities, and speaking engagements on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters Programs.

I'd like to congratulate our Senior Mentors and wish them luck as they embark on new adventures. While we are sad to see them go, we are proud of their accomplishment. They have been a wonderful support system for their Littles and they will be missed.

This next quarter begins a new fundraising and recruitment season. We are always on a quest for mentors and event coordinators. Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you at our upcoming events!

*Don't forget to support United Way as they support programs like Interagency's Big Brothers Big Sisters.*

## Lake Havasu High School Bigs Club

*By Claudia Hernandez-Customer Relations/Match Support*

The 2009-2010 school year is rapidly approaching. I am very excited to say that this will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> year for the High School Bigs Club.

We have a new Club Advisor, Bob Pauley, a counselor at Lake Havasu High School. He will be replacing Sarah Skemp. The High School Bigs Club will begin the new school year with a new board as well. Not only are they leaders among their peers, but they are also second year mentors (*Big Sisters as we call them*) in the School Based After School Buddy Program.

Shelby Orozco, President, is looking forward to recruiting mentors and fundraising for the club and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She is a motivated student and determined to achieve success. Some of you may know Shelby from her racing skills at Havasu 95 Speedway. So keep an eye and ear out for the High School Bigs Club and their leadership within Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Second Quarter 2009

### Highlights:

- Senior Mentors and their match bio.
- Volunteerism & Lunch Buddy
- Golf Tournament



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## Where You Can Catch Us

### Lake Havasu High School Registration

July 20-24, 2009

Big Brothers Big Sisters staff and the High School Bigs Club members will be recruiting mentors and club members at LHHS registration.

### Havasu Stick'em Event

Saturday, July 25, 2009

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

LH Community Aquatic Center

We will have a booth with an art & craft along with information about Big Brothers Big Sisters Programs.

### LHHS Freshman Orientation

Thursday, July 30, 2009

6:00- 7:00 p.m.

Big Brothers Big Sisters staff along with the assistance of High School Bigs, will be conducting an orientation for volunteers interested in mentoring.

### Orientation/Training for High School Mentors

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 & August 4, 2009

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Interagency Council

Big Brothers Big Sisters staff along with the assistance of High School Bigs, will be conducting an orientation for volunteers interested in mentoring.

### Don's Auto Body Summer Golf Tournament to support Big Brothers Big Sisters

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Shot Gun Start at 10:30 a.m. @ Havasu Island Golf Course

Team registration (2 player teams) and hole sponsorship is open.

### School Based Kick off Event

August 12, 2009

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

This is for the school based and community based matches. Big Brothers Big Sisters will host a kick off event to get the new school year started. The High School Bigs Club will be helping to get the event organized.

### A Night at the Races on a Sunset Cruise

Saturday, September 12, 2009

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This is a fundraising event. Enjoy a beautiful sunset on the Dixie Bell while wagering Big Bucks and Little Bucks on your favorite horse. More information to come soon or call to learn more.



" He [Big Brother] taught me how to be myself."



## Congratulations Senior Mentors!

The end of the school year was bittersweet for four of our After School Buddy matches as Littles said goodbye to their Bigs graduating from Lake Havasu High School. For the Bigs as well as the Littles, the memory of their new friendship will be carried with them forever. Among the graduating mentors are Jared Borquez, Justin Burns, Ashley Dorton, and Crystal Somers. Friendships have been formed and lives have changed.

Crystal Somers and her Little Sister, Alexa, met in November 2008 and immediately became good pals. Alexa looked up to her Big Sister especially since she was preparing to enter high school, so she had a lot of questions for Crystal. Crystal embraced Alexa's curiosity and enthusiasm while calming her nerves. Crystal plans to move to Tucson and continue her education.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jared Borquez and Jesse met in October 2008 and met over the summer until Jared left for the Navy. Jared provided endless encouragement and was a key factor in Jesse's self-confidence boost. As Jesse says, "He taught me how to be myself." Jared would like to pursue a career in the medical field in either Nuclear Science performing medical research or becoming a Thoracic Surgeon.

\*\*\*\*\*

Justin Burns was matched with his Little Brother Jonathan in February 2009. When Jonathan first enrolled, he was quiet and shy, but after meeting Justin and spending some time with him, Jonathan became more comfortable in social settings and is now engaging with his peers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ashley Dorton met her Little Sister in April 2008 and quickly found pleasure in spending every Wednesday with her. They talked about school, friends, family, and what they've been up to. As President of the Lake Havasu High School Bigs Club, involvement with other Lake Havasu High School Clubs, and preparing to attend college in Florida, Sabrina had a lot to look up to.



Let to Right:  
Alexa & Big Sister Crystal



Left to Right:  
Big Brother Jared & Jesse



Left to Right:  
Big Brother Justin & Jonathan



Left to Right:  
Big Sister Ashley & Sabrina



***Thank you to this quarter's supporting partners!***

Wal-Mart

Golden K Kiwanis

Soroptomist International of LHC

Rent-A-Center

Mad Dog Wireless

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"If I ever need to talk to someone, I know I can talk to her [Big Sister]."

In today's economic climate, we are reliant even more on the generosity of our donors. There isn't a donation too small. Please consider investing in your community's youth by investing in Interagency Council's Big Brothers Big Sisters. A donation as small as \$25 will help pay for a volunteer background check to ensure child safety. That's a start in making a lasting friendship between an adult/teen and a child. Visit our website at [www.mohavebbbs.org](http://www.mohavebbbs.org) to see how you can become a *Partner* of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mohave County.

**Events You'll Want to Attend**

*By Melissa Underwood, Program Director*

**Arby's Help Us Help Kids Campaign**

Visit Arby's through July 26, 2009 and donate \$1 with your purchase to Big Brothers Big Sisters and receive \$1 for a future visit.

**Don's Auto Body presents a Summer Golf Tournament**  
**To support Interagency Council's Big Brothers Big Sisters**

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"By being beside me the whole time..."

**Where:**

Havasu Island Golf Course  
1040 N. McCulloch Blvd.

**When:**

August 8, 2009  
Shot Gun Start at 10:30 a.m.

**Horse Race to follow for qualifying teams**

SPONSOR A HOLE FOR \$25 (Advertisement Displayed on hole)  
2 PLAYERS & HOLE SPONSOR FOR \$100  
\$80.00 ENTRY FEE FOR EACH TEAM

**A Night at the Races Sunset Cruise**

Saturday, September 12, 2009, 6-8 p.m.  
More information to come!



## An Investment You Should Make

### A few Words on Volunteerism

Over 1,000 youth in Lake Havasu City would not have received the benefit of a positive role model in which they could trust and count on if it wasn't for the generosity of local volunteers. Volunteerism can provide so many things to all types of people. The beauty of Big Brothers Big Sisters is that volunteerism has many opportunities that can fit anyone's schedule.

" Being a BIG is an unforgettable experience. I will never forget my little sister (when I was Big Sister in college)...and that bond we experienced. Board members enable and encourage community members and high school students to have that experience and bond. How cool is that!?!? At the picnic, watching the Littles with Bigs, hearing the laughter and joy....something precious to be part of that .....truly priceless."

- Sarah Skemp, an Alumni Advisory Board Member

Consider providing your time through volunteer opportunities with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Remember, you don't have to change your life to change a child's.

### Lunch Buddy

The 2008-2009 school year was the first year for our Lunch Buddy Program and it was great! The feedback received from mentors, school staff, and parents was very positive.

"Allena blossomed under the mentorship of her Lunch Buddy. Her attitude was much more positive toward her schoolwork and she began to care more about doing well in school, and working harder to improve her academics. Her relationships with adults and peers were greatly enhanced from the positive experience provided by the Interagency Lunch Buddy match. [Heather] Joyce was consistent and positive in her follow-through, and the relationship with Allena and her family has made a dramatic and positive difference for Allena! I am very impressed by the quality of this program, and have seen first-hand the wonderful difference it has made in a child's life." -Shaun Goodwin, Lake Havasu Unified School District Principal

We are looking for Lunch Buddy Mentors at the elementary schools for the 2009-2010 school year. It takes just 30 minutes a week for 38 weeks which is 19 hours over 9 months. And yes, it makes an impact!



Big Brother Ken & Little Brother Skyler on a fishing trip.

"I have two things I've never had before: a better role model, then, best of all, a true friend."



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## Calling ALL Volunteers!

Big Brothers Big Sisters staff recruit, enroll, train, and support our matches with the help of our community donors. However, it is with the help of our community volunteers that youth receive the one-to-one attention they need. Most volunteers only think of becoming a mentor when they think of volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters. But, this isn't the case. There are many other ways to volunteer and support the efforts of Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs. Staff and donors alone cannot provide the quality of work provided by our mentoring programs. If you're in the market to volunteer, please consider volunteering with Interagency Council's Big Brothers Big Sisters.

### **Be a Big!**

Be a Big Brother or Big Sister.

Mentoring is the single most effective way to have a positive impact on the life of a child at risk. The difference you make will be the difference that matters. If you are at least age 15 or a freshman in high school, please take the first step and give us a call TODAY!

### **Be an Advisory Board Member**

The Advisory Board's function and purpose is to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters programs and spread the word about the organization in an effort to recruit youth and volunteers as well as establish community partners. If you enjoy talking to people and being an ambassador and would like to advocate for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mohave County, please call TODAY!

### **Business Partnership**

Help us recruit "Bigs" at your place of business! As our point person, you will help us set up presentations at your place of business to recruit employees that want to be "Bigs."

### **Event Volunteers**

Becoming an event volunteer is a great way to get involved and learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters! If you'd like to get involved, email us or call us. Visit our website at [www.mohavebbbs.org](http://www.mohavebbbs.org) to find information on several of our event opportunities.