



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big News



Dear Supporters

By Melissa Underwood, Program Director

I don't think I say it often enough. "I appreciate you!" You are using your life, time, money and energy to make the world a better place. I'm so grateful you choose to do that through Interagency Council's Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Whether you volunteer, donate currently or in the past, or support our events, YOU have helped change the lives of thousands of young people-for generations to come.

Together we've accomplished so much, but with the number of children still in need of a caring and committed mentor, there is still so much to do. We hope you'll continue helping in the way that fits you best. Whether that's by volunteering, donating, forwarding this newsletter or any way you choose to make a difference. Thank you for all of us at Interagency Council's Big Brothers Big Sisters. We couldn't do it without you!

From our Advisory Board Chairman *By Randy Reddicks-Havasu Regional Medical Center*

This our first attempt at providing a quarterly newsletter. It is being done by e-mail so that the program does not incur any costs. I hope that you find it informative and would appreciate any feedback that we could use to improve it.

Our distribution of this newsletter is limited to those businesses and individuals that we have e-mail addresses for. If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please let us know.

I would like to thank all of are contributors whether businesses or individuals. Your continued support is what will allow us to continue making matches and expanding our reach throughout Mohave County.

I would also like to thank the dedicated volunteers who give their time, energy and effort to make this program successful.

To our "Bigs" and "Littles" it is all about YOU.

First Quarter 2009

Highlights:

- The [Impact of Your Investment](#)
- What Our Littles Say
- Where You Can Catch Us

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Where You Can Catch Us

Please keep your eyes open for the upcoming Lake Havasu High School Knight Life article recognizing our Senior Mentors.



Wal-Mart Check Presentation
Thursday, April 9, 2009
8:30 a.m.

Linda Murphy called and asked that I be present to accept the grant check as well as share a little about Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Rotary Radio Days
Saturday, April 11, 2009
11 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Murphy Broadcasting Parking Lot

While we will not be one of the charities receiving money from the event; we have been given the opportunity to set up a table to share information about BBBS.

Major League Baseball Alumni Home Run Derby
Friday, April 17, 2009
Rotary Park Ball fields

Two of our local Littles will be the bat boy and girl for the event. We have chosen two Littles based on an essay contest answering the question "My Big has made a difference by..."



LHC Chamber-Havasu Leadership Development Fun Fair
Saturday, May 2, 2009
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

DES Tradewinds Building

We have been invited to be a part of the youth friendly event to share information about our programs.

End of School Year Event
Friday, May 8, 2009
5 p.m. -7 p.m.
Rotary Park

This is for the school based and community based matches. A kickball and volleyball game is on the itinerary. The High School Bigs Club will be helping to get the event organized.

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.

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



Your Investment

By Melissa Underwood, Program Director

Your investment in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mohave County-Lake Havasu City Office is allowing our one-to-one mentoring programs to achieve success for youth served in the areas of academic engagement and achievement, ability to develop and maintain effective relationships, and avoiding risky behaviors. Results from Program Outcome Evaluations completed by volunteers and parents/guardians of matched youth include:

Community Based Matches in their First Year: (changes in youth)

- 85% reported positive changes in youth in the areas of self-confidence, ability to express feelings, and sense of future
- 96% reported an increase in academic performance, attitude toward school, and ability to avoid risky behaviors (delinquency, substance abuse, and early parenting)
 - 94% reported better relationships with family and peers

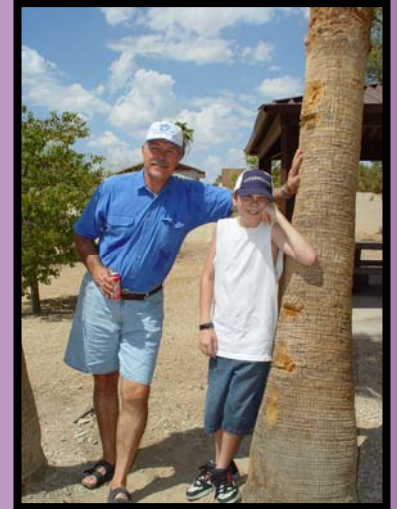
School Based Matches in their First Year: (changes in youth)

- 85% reported positive changes in youth in the areas of self-confidence, ability to express feelings, and sense of future
- 69% reported an increase in academic performance, attitude toward school, and ability to avoid risky behaviors (delinquency, substance abuse, and early parenting)
- 78% reported better relationships with family and peers

School Based Matches in their second year of the relationship reported an average of an additional 8% increase in same areas as those in matched in their first year.

School Based Matches in their Second Year: (changes in youth)

- 92% reported positive changes in youth in the areas of self-confidence, ability to express feelings, and sense of future
- 75% reported an increase in academic performance, attitude toward school, and ability to avoid risky behaviors (delinquency, substance abuse, and early parenting)
- 88% reported better relationships with family and peers



Big Brother Kirk & Little Brother Mark.



Big Brother Skip & Little Brother Tony



Thank you to this quarter's supporting partners!

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

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Copier Source | Lake Havasu Mail & Business Center |
| Havasu Regional Medical Center | Havasu Legends & Banderolos |
| American Eagle | Crystal Alger-American Family |
| Dr. Nelson | Insurance Agent |
| Bennett & Company | Dairy Queen |
| Askland & Associates | Law Offices of Gregory A. Ring |
| Horizon Community Bank | Keller Williams Realty-Linda Denovan |
| Printing Plus | Walt's Motor Sports & Marine |
| Sunrise Rotary | Lake Havasu City Phone Book |
| Don's Auto Body | Robert & Gail McClory |
| Mohave State Bank | Kathy Schildbach |
| UniSource Energy Services | Dianne Day |
| Smith-Tryon Family Health | Jack in the Box Foundation |

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 to see how you can become a *Partner* of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mohave County.

What Our Littles are Saying

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

When asked to write an essay on how their *Big* has made a difference in their lives, our School Based Littles responded openly and honestly.

Little Brother Simon of Big Sister Kellie (first year match)

"by being beside me the whole time. She has also changed my life because she became my new friend and did everything with me. She is the best Big I've ever had, and I hope it stays that way. She is my best friend."

Little Sister Vanessa of Big Sister Sarah (second year match)

"by challenging me to try new things. Sarah helps me with things such as my math homework and accomplishing goals that will make my life better. She sets a good example for me by being good and respectful. Sarah is herself and it encourages me to be myself. My Big Sister has improved my ability to speak to people without being scared."



Fundraising Success & Opportunities

By Melissa Underwood, Program Director

Considering our economic climate, our 7th Annual Bowl For Kids' Sake event was very successful in raising \$13,000. All dollars collected go directly to creating mentoring relationship for our local youth. This year we had 30 teams and 139 bowlers participate in the event.

The Jamaica Elementary Crocodiles will be displaying the "School of the Year" plaque for the 4th year in a row as they raised the most pledges among their two teams, Nautilus Elementary's two teams, and the Daytona Middle School Coyotes. Thank you for your participation and support!

As a result of the 41% decrease in funds raised through our Bowl For Kids' Sake Events between 2008 and 2009, we are pursuing more fundraising opportunities to cover the deficit and prevent decreased services to our youth.

1. Havasu Family Phone Book-businesses pay a flat rate of \$35 to be listed among competitors equally in a non-residential directory including business in the 86403-86406 zip codes only. Visit www.havasufamilyphonebook.com to learn more and support this fundraising effort. In supporting this project, you will be supporting two other local projects/charities: Freedom Bridge Project and Havasu Community Health Trust
2. Summer Golf League at the Island Golf Club beginning in May 2009. Visit our website at www.mohavebbbs.org to learn how you can support this event.
3. Annual Banquet and Auction. Details on the event TBA. We are searching for volunteers interested in planning this event. If you are interested in being involved in the planning and preparation, please call the Big Brothers Big Sisters Office at 453-5800 ext. 242.



Jamaica Elementary Crocs
"School of the Year" Winners



New Match
Big Brother Jim &
Little Brother Michael.

"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 to find information on several of our event opportunities.