



the BIG NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

This issue:

- BIG Brunch: a BIG Success
- St Patrick's Day Shenanigans
- Exciting Upcoming Events: Bowling & John Michael Montgomery in Concert
- Mentoring Troubled Youth: YouthImpact Project
- Gold Star Youth Mentorship: Serving the Children of Our Fallen Service Members
- Girl Power: A Match Story
- Featured Waiting Little

About Us

Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

We are the only volunteer and evidence based mentoring program in the area.

Our office serves children ages 5-18 years-old residing within the region of Thurston, Mason, Lewis, Pacific and Grays Harbor counties.

We have various site-based programs to serve a wide range of needs, and a very flexible community-based program.

The minimum commitment for Bigs (mentors) and Littles (mentees) is one year, but many of our matches last years or even decades!

Learn more:

www.swwabigs.org



@swwabigs



From the CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington is only as good as those who support it, giving of their time, energy and resources and we are truly blessed to have the support of incredible individuals and organizations. On behalf of the Agency, I want to thank Amy Evans as she relinquishes her role as Board President. Amy's tireless dedication and support to Big Brothers Big Sisters leaves a lasting legacy of accomplishment serving children. We also want to welcome our new Board President, Mark Boyer, who is determined

to continue expanding services to even more families and children. To all our amazing donors, volunteers and corporate sponsors, Thank You for your unwavering commitment to children in our community.

Last year we grew our services 28%. More children have started a life changing journey with a Mentor because of you. We continue expanding our services through new programs like Gold Star Youth Mentoring that serves youth that have lost a parent through military service and the YouthImpact Project that serves youth in detention centers.

The power of "One" is the foundation of Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs. Whether through a financial contribution or by volunteering, one caring and committed adult can change the trajectory of a child facing adversity for the better, forever.

John Hicks, CEO

A Message from the President



Being an Olympia native, I am excited to be able to give back to my community by volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Growing up, I was very fortunate to have not only great parents and family, but also impactful mentors that helped shape me into the person I am today. I know that others aren't as fortunate and that is what is motivating me as incoming Board President. My vision is to continue seeing our programs grow and expand to reach more kids and for that positive impact to spread to this community that we all know and love.

Mark Boyer, Board President

Being a Big Sister and the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington Board President has gotten me out of my socioeconomic bubble and expanded my world view. If kids only see one path, that is the road they will take. Mentors provide another option. Our organization is one of only a few that focuses on prevention, not treatment, which is what can break the cycle of poverty and change lives forever. I look forward to serving the organization and the kids we serve as a donor. Go Mark!



Amy Evans, Immediate-Past Board President

2017 Board of Directors

Mark Boyer, President
Kiley Juergens Wealth
Management LLC

Justin Erickson, Vice President
Harbor Wholesale Foods

Jim Winkle, Treasurer
Harbor Wholesale Foods

Jen Foley, Secretary
TBG Holdings, LLC

**Amy Evans,
Immediate-Past President**
Kidder Mathews

Vicky Churchill
First Citizens Bank

Courtney Drennon
Virgil Adams Real Estate

Jeff Dunn
CFO Selections

Mary Ferris
Olympia Vision Clinic

Jeff Johnson
Callisons

Darla Krug
Retired Labor & Delivery Nurse

Kara Meyer
Kara Meyer PhD

Benjamin Paylor
Olympia Federal Savings

Chris Richardson
Chehalis Tribal Enterprises

Maria Robinson
Community Volunteer

John Snaza
Thurston County Sheriff

BIG Hearts



2017 BIG Brunch

The 2017 BIG Brunch was huge success! Thank you to the over 250 guests who joined us at Hotel RL on January 25th. Together you invested over \$42,000! Those dollars will provide life changing mentors to kids right here in our community!

Event highlights included: a video featuring Big Brother, Jeff and Little Brother, Lee who have been matched for over four years, presentation of the Community Partner of the Year award to Harbor Wholesale Foods, and a keynote address by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky on the positive role mentors can play in helping children overcome trauma, and how the community can support mentors and agency staff navigating the effects of secondary trauma.

St. Patrick's Day Shenanigans



The rain didn't deter guests from having some St. Patrick's Day Fun. Around 150 supporters of the agency enjoyed tasty Irish food and beverages at the Olympia Country & Golf Club. All proceeds from the raffle at the event benefited the agency, raising over \$1,000!

Upcoming Events

Rock 'n Bowl for Kids' Sake

Saturday, April 22nd
Westside Lanes

swwabigs.org/BOWL

John Michael Montgomery

Benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington

MAY 12

TICKETS \$30 - \$40 - \$55
LITTLECREEK.COM

BEER GARDEN OPENS 7PM
SHOW STARTS 8PM

BIG Impacts

2017 Mentor Appreciation

January was National Mentor Appreciation month. To show our gratitude to our amazing volunteer mentors, we packaged and distributed some delicious Callisons mint chocolate truffles, and invited our adult mentors to join us for an evening with hosted appetizers and drinks at Fish Tale Brew Pub in Olympia.

Our mission is only possible because of the generous commitment of time from our volunteer mentors.



Featured Match



Big Sister Charli & Little Sister Ciana

Being a 14 year-old girl can have many challenges. Having someone you can talk to about those challenges can make this sometimes turbulent time a bit steadier, and that is exactly what Little Sister Ciana now has in her Big Sister Charli.

These two quintessential girly-girls were matched in April of 2016 as part of our Community-Based program. They have enjoyed many outings together in the community including the movies and a visit to the Painted Plate in Olympia. When not out on the town, they can often times be found singing their hearts out. "We do a lot of singing together," says Charli.

Charli has tried to help Ciana navigate the world of adolescence in many ways. They spend time together reading books such as *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens* or *Be Okay with Your Bad Hair Day* which has led to many fun and thought provoking conversations between the two.

Charli even helps Ciana when she is contemplating a new look. Taking her to try on wigs, for example, when Ciana was thinking about dying her hair black.

When asked about their match, Ciana said, "Charli is so happy and springy and sweet," and Charli said, "Ciana is like a member of my family, and I want to be there when she graduates."

Waiting to be Matched: Meet Jacob!

Jacob's mom contacted Big Brothers Big Sisters hoping to find him a male role model. For the last 10 years Jacob has not had a consistent relationship with his dad, and he is constantly surrounded by girls – his mom and 2 younger sisters. Jacob is a 12 years-old self-titled "jokester" who loves to make people laugh. Like many boys his age, he also enjoys all things outdoors and active, especially basketball and skateboarding, and hopes to be matched with a Big Brother who shares the same interests.



Featured Programs



Youth Impact Project

A unique partnership between Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington. Career training and mentoring for youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Available in Mason, Lewis, Pacific and Grays Harbor counties.

GOLD STAR YOUTH MENTORSHIP

Saturday, April 1st -
Monday, May 29

Make a positive impact on
the children of fallen
service members

- 9 weeks of training runs
- Heroes' Hike
- Memorial Day Run



swwabigs.org/BIG

10.14.17

HAVANA NIGHTS

THE BIG AUCTION

swwabigs.org/BIGgolf



\$700 per team

Olympia Country & Golf Club

10:30 am Shotgun

Friday, July 28th

Caddyshack

BE THE BALL!



SAVE THE DATE!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington



Big Brothers Big Sisters
 of Southwest Washington
 1802 Black Lake Blvd SW, #102
 Olympia, WA 98512

NON PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 OLYMPIA, WA
 PERMIT NO. 36

"I feel like I have a family here. I feel like she's my family."

-Little Sister Haylee
 (school based)