



The Link



July/AUGUST
2008



Big Brothers Big
Sisters of the
Cowichan Valley

Inside this issue:

Thank you Equinox	1
Upcoming Events	1
Thank you Teens	1
Big Give Challenge	2
Did you Know?	3
National Month	3
Car Wash	3
Looking for Teen Mentors	3
Board Members	3
Congratulations	4
Birthdays/Anniversaries	
Thank you Big Brothers needed	

A Big Thank You to Equinox Cafe and Catering!!

Thank-you Sean O'Connell and Jessica North-O'Connell from the Equinox Cafe and Catering for a fabulous dinner and benefit auction. We appreciate all your hard work in this third annual event. We look forward to a new exciting event next year! Just over \$3000.00 was raised at this event. Big Brothers Big Sisters would like to thank-everyone for your support in making this event a success. Thank-you to all our Parents, In School Mentors, Teen Mentors, Littles, Board Members, Big Sisters and Friends. You did a wonderful job serving and helping out on event day. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Upcoming Activities

Family Picnic – Sunday August 17th

It is that time of year again for our annual picnic. All Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Big Couples, Big Families, Teen Mentors, ISM, Little Brothers and Little Sisters, Board Members and your family are welcome to attend. We are hosting again at the Ellison's. For those who have not been before you are in for a treat. We have a great swimming spot reserved for you and your family. A lifeguard will be on duty during swimming hours. Mark your calendar for Sunday August 17th from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. We will be serving lunch and snacks. Please RSVP to the office by August 13th as we need to know how many people we will be feeding!!! Yum Yum!!!

Directions will be given when you RSVP.



THANK-YOU TEEN MENTORS AND SCHOOL STAFF

We would like to take an opportunity to thank all of our Teen Mentors who spent 1 hour per week in the school with a child who needed a mentor. You guys did an awesome job this year and we know that all your Little Buddies had a great time. We also would like to thank Richard Matthews and Wendy Lambert, who worked hard throughout the year to support our programs in the schools. You have been amazing and we couldn't do it without you. Thank-you to both, Cowichan Secondary and Chemainus Secondary for allowing us to come to your school and recruit teen's for this program. Your support and understanding in these programs are critical with it's success.

The BIG GIVE BACK Challenge

Raising Funds to Support the Children of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Cowichan Valley. The BIG GIVE BACK Challenge is a community initiative that invites you to support Mentoring Programs for Children and Youth. Teams made up of family members, friends, colleagues, or corporate partners raise money towards collective team goals through individual donations, team fundraising events, or activities.

Where the Funds Go!

Funds raised from the Big Give Back go towards our Mentoring Programs. We see an increased demand for Mentors as our Little Brothers Little Sisters waitlist is long and growing. We have many different programs including Teen Mentors, In School Mentors, Big Couples, Big Family, Big Brothers and Big Sisters. There is an increased demand especially for Big Brothers. Little Brothers can stay on the waitlist and often wait for a match for 2-4 years or may never receive a match during the time they are involved in the program. With your support we can work toward making these changes and provide more mentoring relationships for children on the waitlist.

You Can Help - Register Your Team TODAY!

Teams may vary in size from 1 individual to more than 20 members. It's easy, choose a team captain, plan an activity or event and then work towards your **minimum \$500 Team Goal**. Team fundraising can take an hour, a day, a week, or longer to complete — you choose the activity, and develop a plan on how you and your team will meet the target fundraising goal. Please contact our office and we would be happy to get you and your team started today.

**REGISTER YOURSELF OR YOUR TEAM AT 250-748-2447
and make a difference this summer!**

We can support you:

Big Brothers Big Sisters staff will support Teams and Team Captains by providing fundraising ideas, staff attendance at planned events, provide signage, letter of support, brochures and team guidance as required.

What Do You and Your Team Members Get From This Initiative?

- You get the satisfaction that you contributed to making a difference in the lives of local children and youth
- You have Fun! Who said raising funds had to be boring and hard work? You can let your creative side out and have a great time!
- We would be happy to share your team success with the Community

Teams are invited to attend the BIG GIVE BACK Challenge Wrap-up
at our Celebrating Mentoring Block Party on
September 5th, 2008 (Date Subject to change)

Did you know? A pop can CAN make a DIFFERENCE!

The Cowichan Valley Bottle Depot will take your bottles for Big Brothers Big Sisters. You can help support our program by donating your bottles. It's easy... Take your empty bottles to the Bottle Depot. Let the workers know that you would like to put your amount of return onto the Big Brothers Big Sisters account. The amount of your return will come to us and we will be very thankful. So return your bottles today and make a difference. Parents this is a great way to support our Big Give Campaign! Thank-you to Vancouver Island Health Association, who donates their empty bottles to us on a regular basis. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Did you Know? September is National Big Brothers Big Sisters Month

September is a time where all agencies across Canada celebrate their programs. We seek out business who can display our signs and put up our message on their reader boards. If you are a business and you think you have a way to help us celebrate our month please contact our office we would love to hear from you.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Suds it up!!!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Cowichan Valley held a carwash on Saturday June 28th. We had lots of fun in the sun because it was a super hot day!!!! Thank-you to Louis Spronken and the Cowichan Valley Bottle Depot who continues to be a great support to our programs. We raised \$159.00!! Way to go Little Brothers and Little Sisters. You did a fantastic job washing cars and trucks!!!

Looking for Teen Mentors

We are currently seeking Grade 10, 11, 12 students who attend Cowichan Secondary or Chemainus Secodary. If you would be interested in learning more about our Teen Mentoring program please call the office today 250-748-2447.

We are accepting applications now.

Attentions all Littles

For all Littles who are matched to a Big, this is a great time to thank your BIG for all the FUNTASTIC things they do with you. We encourage you to let your mentor know how much they mean to you. Make your Big a batch of cookies, make a card, tell them how much they mean to you, take a picture and frame it for them, parents send a letter telling the Big how much of a difference they are making. Be creative and let them know they are appreciated. Start planning now to show your Big how much you care!

Board Members

We are currently seeking Board Members. If you would like to participate on an active Board and make a difference in the lives of children and youth that live in your back yard, call the office today! 250-748-BIGS

Too busy to commit to Board meetings, become a member. As a member you will receive emails letting you know about what is happening in our organization. You would be invited to participate when you think it might fit for you. A LITTLE bit of your time makes a BIG IMPACT on our agency. Call the office today and learn more about membership.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Cowichan Valley

#24 127 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Phone 250 748-BIGS (2447)

Fax: 250 748-2445

Email: bbscowichan@shaw.ca

Website: bbbscowichan.ca

Congratulations Madi Walter our former Little Sister who was matched with Big Sister Coral Cargill. Madi was chosen to attend a Youth Summit in Toronto at the beginning of July through National Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. **Way to Go Madi.** We hope you learn lots!!!

ANNIVERSARY DATES

BS Candice LS Jessica 1 yr

Office Hours

Mon. 9:00am-3:00pm

Tue. 9:00am-4:00pm

Wed. 9:00am-3:00pm

Thu. 9:00am-4:00pm

Fri. 9:00am-2:30pm

Erin and Jamie are available to make appointments outside of regular hours

BIRTHDAYS

July

BS Alex 20

BS Bregitha 20

LB Jasper 23

August

LS Lillian 12

LB Micah 13

BS Candice 14

BM Oliver 30

BM Berenice 31

A Big Thank You to all those who came out and supported us at the parade. Everyone had a Great Time! Thank you to all Littles who helped hand out candy and 400 flyers for our Big Give Campaign. Way to Go! A Big Thank you to LINK for making a fantastic appearance!

BIG BROTHERS NEEDED

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a volunteer based program that mentors children and youth. Volunteers are the key ingredient to the mentoring magic. A volunteer can be a Big Sister, Big Brother, Big Couple, Big Family, In School Mentor or a Teen Mentor.

Typically our waitlist in our community program for Little Brothers is very long. We are in need of **BIG BROTHERS**, with boys waiting for a match as long as 2-4 years. This is difficult as many boys wait too long and at times may not be matched at all. We are working towards letting the community know that BIG BROTHERS are in need.

