



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Central Vancouver Island**

## Annual Report 2008



### *Vision Statement*

*“Every child who needs a mentor...  
has a mentor”*



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Central Vancouver Island**

## *Mission Statement*

*“We commit to the children and youth of Central Vancouver Island that we will be leaders in providing them with the highest quality, volunteer-based mentoring programs”*





# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **AGENDA**

*Annual General Meeting*

**March 12, 2009—6 pm**

*Nanaimo Curling Club*

*#106 Wall Street., Nanaimo, BC*

Introduction / Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of AGM Minutes from March 6, 2008

Reports

President

Executive Director

Case Worker / Program Manager

Treasurer's Report

2009 Budget Approval

Approval of Finance Statements

Appointment of Accountants 2009

Guest Speaker : Peter Skipper, Principal of Uplands School

Election of Directors

New Business

Adjournment



# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **President's Report**



Every child who needs a mentor has a mentor.....  
This is the vision of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island. It is a simple statement, but it is a difficult goal.

Over the years, our organization has built a great team of committed volunteers and dedicated staff who work very hard to move towards our goal. We are fortunate to be supported by many generous sponsors who also believe in our vision. It is a privilege for me to work with such a great team.

We all work together for this goal because we do know that it **DOES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN WE SERVE**. I would also like to point out that we never charge for our services to children.

Our mentorship programs include:-

**Community (traditional) matches** in which a child is matched with a Big who will provide friendship, guidance and will be an adult role model.

**In school mentoring**, in which the mentor meets the child in his or her school for one hour per week. This may be an adult mentor or....

**A teen mentor** from a nearby secondary school. This very successful program was pioneered by BB/BS of CVI and has now been adopted by other BB/BS agencies.

We continue to look for new and innovative ways to serve more children and two new programs are being initiated in 2009. **The Go Girls program** and the **Between Generations program**, both of which I shall touch on later.

Regrettably, two smaller BB/BS agencies on Vancouver Island were closed in 2008 and we have been meeting regularly with the other two BB/BS agencies on Vancouver Island, to find ways in which we will be able to re-introduce services into these and other up island communities.

With downturn in the economy, the next couple of years will probably be even more challenging than the past few years but I am sure that our great TEAM will rise to meet these challenges with determination and innovation.

### **Staff.**

We are fortunate to have had minimal staff turnover during 2008 and Paulyne and Dean continue to do a great job for us in casework. Tiffany, who finishes her studies towards a Child and Youth Care Diploma at Vancouver Island University this year, continues (cont..)



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

to accomplish huge volumes of varied tasks with amazing energy.

We are fortunate that Denise returned to us in May as full time Executive Director. Ashley, our summer student and subsequently part time office worker, did great work, especially in assisting in fundraising events but had to leave in December to concentrate on her studies.



Sarah Bramley who has supported us for a number of years as a fundraising volunteer has now joined our staff and she and Tiffany complement each other to generate terrific energy and excitement to fundraising.

Marjorie Driscoll has been contacted to write proposals and not only has she had notable success but has been a great friend and neighbor. Marjorie is ED with Volunteer Nanaimo.

### **Board**

During the year, we had some turnover on our board. Regrettably, we lost several board members:

Jason Fleming, who was a former little brother, finished his studies at VIU and moved to a new job in Vancouver.

Kerry Cargill resigned due to the pressures of parenthood. Congratulations Kerry.

I would also like to mention Jen Skogland who has been a volunteer and supporter for several years and was about to become a board member but could not do so due to impending motherhood.

We are most fortunate to have welcomed Rachel Robinson to our board. Rachel was a member of the leadership team and a speaker at our last AGM. Rachel brings many skills and great energy to our board.

We have a great board with members who give most generously of their time to make our organization successful. Thank you for the many hours you have put in to make this agency a success.

### **Fundraising.**

During 2008 we had three successful fundraising events:

- Bowl for Kids Sake held at Splitsville Entertainment, who have been very supportive over the years. Splitsville will again host this year's event on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Our first Run for Kids was held May 11<sup>th</sup> of last year. Mike at the Running Room was most generous with his time and resources in helping us put on this new event. This year's event will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Our 2008 Golf for Kids was held at Cottonwood Golf Course on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> where the management and staff made us feel most welcome.

(cont..)



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

Of course, the success of our agency is dependent on the generosity of our sponsors and donations from the community. Without them, we would not be able to do what we do.

### **Casework.**

I will not go into great detail as our Caseworkers will be providing a report, however, I will mention that we served 131 kids in 2008 and that Paulyne and Dean do a great job in screening, matching, training and follow up. They are the hub of our organization and the reason why we are all here.

During 2008 the Leadership team, comprised of Rachael Robinson, Pamela Hadikin, Sharon Erikson and Cam Wrigley worked with our agency in developing public awareness of our agency. The results were outstanding including recruiting 16 new bigs as direct result of their work.

### **The Coming Year.**

This year will again be very busy. We received a grant from the Job Creation Program to hire three people to complete an internal and external scan of our agency. This will enable us to increase our effectiveness and ultimately, serve more children.

Another new initiative is the Between Generations program which will recruit seniors as ambassadors to recruit seniors as mentors. This initiative is funded by a grant from Service Canada.

As always, a stable revenue source is very high on our wish list. We have received a grant to complete a feasibility study into opening a social enterprise. A social enterprise is a business in which all profits are channeled back into the charity. If the study indicates that there is a possibility of such an enterprise, we will apply for another grant to help complete a business plan. We will continue to work with the other island agencies to seek ways to again provide services to kids in those areas where we currently have no presence. For many reasons, the coming year will be most challenging but we have a great team who will continue to strive towards our vision.

Howard French  
Board President



# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **Executive Director's Report**

This year has been a year of restructure and commitment. Our focus was on decreasing our waitlist of Little Brothers by recruitment of Big Brothers; our mission was accomplished through the dedication of the Leadership BC Nanaimo Team. The Leadership team was extremely successful and committed to developing and executing a recruitment and marketing campaign that would engage men in our community to mentor boys on the wait list. The Leadership team delivered a very compelling speech at the legislative reception as well as to businesses and service clubs throughout Central Vancouver Island. The impact of this message resulted in a record breaking number of new Big Brothers in the community program.

Another significant highlight for 2008 was to focus on revenue-growth, sustainability and diversifying funding. The first step to achieving this goal was to contract out a proposal writer and restructure staff positions. We began with a great new sponsorship and partnership from Best Buy with a \$20,000 donation towards our In School Mentoring programs. Another partnership was secured with the Nanaimo Hospice Society that would support our recycled clothing service. In addition to the Bowling and Golf events a new special event was implemented this year Run for Kids sake in partnership with the Running Room. Our new partners are a collaborative approach to better implement the much needed services in our community.

This year our agency was approved by Service Canada to embark upon a Growth and Sustainability Project. The project will focus on an environmental scan and internal program survey; results will guide us by providing insight in what's working well and areas in need of improvement. This project will also provide us with a marketing plan and revised program and operation manuals. Although the contract was signed in 2008 the project did not get underway until 2009.

Our vision is that every child in Central Vancouver Island that needs a Mentor will have a Mentor. This could not be achieved without the outstanding and continued support of our outstanding volunteers, staff, board, partners, funders and our families and the young people we work with. Together we can make a difference in the lives of children. Our sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for your time commitment and contribution to our agency and the communities we serve.

We are Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island. We are friendship and teamwork. And we are very proud to support those who need us most, our community's children and youth.

Sincerely,  
Denise Robinson





# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **Caseworker's Report**

We had a wonderful year full of new matches and new programs.

### **Community Based Program, Big Brothers, Big Sisters & Big Couples – 32 Children served**

In 2008, there were 16 *new* children matched in our Community Based program. This is by far a greater number of matches BBBS has had in previous years. In the past 5 years, Caseworkers averaged 3 to 4 new matches per year, but that did not reduce the continued waitlist for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. In early 2008, a group was formed through Leadership BC, and the group approached BBBS with a proposal to help us recruit and match 10 *new* Big Brothers. Through different strategies, the group did a wonderful job in promoting our agency to the Nanaimo community, as well as other areas outside of Nanaimo, such as Ladysmith and Parksville. The Leadership BC group worked with the community and with all types of media to help promote awareness regarding the number of boys waiting to be matched with a Big Brother. Due to their hard work, 12 boys now have a special friend, a role model and someone to call a Big Brother. We had 3 Big Couple matches in 2008 and our first Big Brother match in Ladysmith in over five years also.

### **In-School Mentoring Program (I.S.M) – 47 Children served**

This past year, the I.S.M program continued to serve as many children as possible. There are a couple of schools in Nanaimo where the mentors continue to mentor the same child year after year. The mentors have developed a special connection with their mentee and continue to see the benefits and growth as the duration of the school year goes on. At the start of the school year in September 2008, there was a large influx of adults interested in the mentoring program. These adults were informed about the mentoring program through many ways, such as radio, T.V, posters, friends and word of mouth. The Leadership BC group played a huge part in the recruiting for this program as well. Later in the year, the mentors were asked how their mentoring was going, there were plenty of positive replies. Such as,



“He’s really a nice boy and I have lots of fun spending time with him” or “we’re having a great time baking, knitting, playing games and we started a scrap book” or “I went to the assembly to watch her receive an Ups Award from the Principal.” These are quotes from new mentors who are really enjoying the mentoring program and who are truly making a difference in a child’s life

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## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### Teen In-School Mentoring – 53 Children served

During the summer, many of the teen mentors from the previous school semester asked if they could be matched up again with the same mentee. Each teen commented on how much fun they had the previous semester and felt they had developed many new skills, such as leadership skills, patience, listening skills and confidence. The start of the 2008 school year was a fairly slow start with new applications. We went to each high school to set up an Information Table to try to recruit teens. Some schools showed great interest by the number of students signing up, while other schools showed little interest. Plenty of grade 9 students showed interest but were unable to find one hour during school hours to mentor. We also went into the high schools Planning 10 classes, but again, students were having a hard time to find the time to mentor, due to a full school load, extracurricular activities or not having an elective or spare. In previous years, the Secondary schools got out much earlier than the Elementary schools on Friday, so this was an ideal time for teens to mentor. Unfortunately, the Elementary schools are now getting out at the same time as the Secondary schools so this has had some drawback on the mentoring program. Overall, the program is still running successfully by having 53 children served and the start of 2009 has shown an increase of both teen and adult mentors.

BBBS would like to thank the Independent Order of Foresters (I.O.F.) for their partnership and continued support for our Community Based programs. Once again, the I.O.F. had an Easter Hunt for the matches at Shady Mile Farms Market which would be the last one, since the market is now closed for good. The I.O.F. put on a Halloween swim at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre which was a lot of fun. They supplied all the snacks and refreshments which our matches really appreciated. Lastly, the I.O.F. organized a Christmas swim, but due to the cold wintery weather, the swim happened in January. Their generosity is greatly appreciated. We also received 10 Christmas Hampers from the community last year. Thank you to all who donated.

In June, BBBS had a BBQ for the Bigs and Littles at the Surfside RV Resort in Parksville. There was a great turnout and many fun activities throughout the day. Such activities included, swimming in the outdoor pool, a Jacuzzi, volleyball, kite flying, beach combing, prize giveaways and a scavenger hunt. The two top prizes were a GPS system, which went to a Little and the other to a Big. Overall, the BBQ was a great success and a good opportunity for matches to mingle and get to know each other.

In conclusion, the Project Manager and Caseworker continue to strive to meet the needs of our children and to learn from each other so that “Every child who needs a mentor...has a mentor,” for many more future generations.

Paulyne Robinson-Program Manager

Dean Laviolette-Caseworker



# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **Treasurer's Report**



On the financial front 2008 was a great year for the agency, although some funding requests were approved lower than expected, other non anticipated donations came in during the year. One of which included a \$17,000.00 cash donation as well as some much needed electronic equipment from Best Buy. Our fund raising events all went well this year especially the used clothing program.

Our staff remained fairly consistent during the year; we welcomed Denise Robinson back as Executive Director after her temporary leave of absence and Gwyn McKay back as the book-keeper for the agency. The dedication and commitment of staff greatly contributes to the success of our agency.

At lot of discussion throughout the year was focused around sustainable funding and one step towards that this year was the creation of a social enterprise operating reserve. These funds have been set aside to be used for the research and feasibility study into creating social enterprise for the agency.

2009 from a financial view shows the Board and Staff's focus will be on continuing to provide excellent service to those we serve while keeping our costs down. We will continue our quest for sustainable funding to ensure the continuation of our programs.

In closing I would like to thank our staff, all our supporters, volunteers and various funding agencies for their hard work and support through 2008 and ask for you continuing support for 2009.

Janice McAllan  
Treasurer



# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **Sponsors 2008**

### **DONORS**

<b><u>DONORS</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
BC Gaming Commission	60,000+
United Way Central Island	25,000+
Best Buy	20,000+
Ministry of Education	10, 000+
La-Z-Boy	5000+
Loyal Protestant Association	5000+
Rotary Club of Nanaimo North	5000+
Sutter Fund	5000+
Nanaimo Community Foundation	2500+
Quality Foods	2500+
Surfside RV Resort	1000+
Thrifty Foods	1000+
Woodgrove Shopping Centre	1000+

### **PARTNERS**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria	Independent Order of Foresters
Ladysmith Health Care Auxiliary	Splitstville Entertainment
Hospice Thrift Shoppe	Cottonwood Golf Course
Volunteer Nanaimo	Island Radio
Shaw Communications	Nanaimo News Bulletin

*Thank you for your support!*





## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### **Shyla's Story**

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this on behalf of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island. I have been a little sister for 12 years. I was matched with my big sister when I was six years old. Having a big sister changed my life forever.

Throughout the years my big sister and I have done many things, we have attended plays, did arts and crafts, went swimming, went to the movies, planted a garden and many other activities. My big sister has done a lot more than just spend time with me; she has given me self-confidence and a role model to look up to. My big sister is someone I can rely on. She has attended all my important events such as dance recitals, Grade 7 graduation, concerts and plays. She became more than just my big sister; she became a part of our family. She is included in Christmas dinners, birthday celebrations and even family events. My big sister has made a huge impact on my life. I know I can always count on her for anything. I cannot imagine where I would be without her! I can truthfully say that she is the best sister anyone can ever ask for.

Being in this program has helped me more than anyone can ever imagine. I have done many things I would not have been able to do otherwise. I think that if my mother would have never signed me up for the program, I would not be the person I am today. I know that when I turn 19, I will become a mentor for a child and give back what was given to me.

Shyla  
Age 18



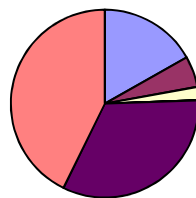


# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **Program Statistics for Total Matches**

January—December 2008

### **2008 Total Matches**



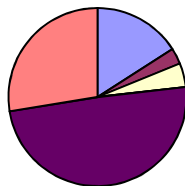
- Big Brothers
- Big Sisters
- Couples
- Cross Gender
- Adult ISM
- Teen ISM

### **131 Children Served**

## **Program Statistics for New Matches**

January—December 2008

### **2008 New Matches**



- Big Brothers
- Big Sisters
- Couples
- Cross Gender
- Adult ISM
- Teen ISM

### **69 New Matches**



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### **Testimonials from the Community**

***“Being a Big Brother has given me a purpose in life”***

***Big Brother since 2002***

***“When I had to say goodbye to my mentee in June, it actually hurt!”***

***In-School Mentor, Brechen School***

***“I love my Big Brother more than I love my guinea pig”***

***8 year old Little Brother***

***“...Our students have the opportunity to develop close relationships with these mentors as they receive extra individual attention. This helps build self esteem and develops confidence. They learn to develop friendship behaviors that create opportunities for them to make new friends... In conclusion this program is very beneficial to our most vulnerable students”***

***Principal, Ladysmith Primary School***



***“Mentoring has filled a hole in my heart: the gift of giving. Over the past two years, I have grown very close to my mentee and hope to return to work with her for many years to come.” Teen In-School Mentor***



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

***“I cannot stress enough the positive change this program has had on my son. Everyone who knows him, including a high school teacher has commented on the difference...He’s now gained self confidence, he engages more when spoken to, he stands taller and he’s been making better decisions. It’s like he’s finally enjoying life”***

***Parent of a Little Brother***



***“Since this program has been running in our schools, we have seen remarkable changes in the behavior of our young needy students. It is difficult to contemplate why we didn’t have such a well received and beneficial program before... I wholeheartedly recommend this program to any school that wishes to know more about it.”***

***Principal, Upland Parks School***

***“Coal Tyee has a very needy clientele and it is hard to meet the needs of all the students. The in-school mentoring program has been a significant and positive addition to the support that we offer our students and it is my hope that the program will continue at our school in future years.”***

***Principal, Coal Tyee School***



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### **Thank you to our volunteers!**

- Shantini Abraham
- Aline Arlett
- Kuldeep Basi
- Janna Bastian
- Cole Battie
- David Beer
- Gina Bethell
- Jenna Blakemore
- Barb Blott
- Doug Blott
- Brent Boehler
- Chris Boldt
- Pamela Davidson
- Teresa DeMelo
- Neil Dentoom
- Kylee Dixon
- Aaron Dodd
- Juliann Donnelly-Reeves
- Marjorie Driscoll
- James Eagles
- Margaret Elliot
- Sharron Erikson
- Kyla Ferris
- Joseph Forsyth
- Ben Freiteg
- Howard French
- Heather Bower
- Rob Bradbeer
- Sarah Bramley
- Melvin Bramley
- Kristina Bridgen
- Stephie Brown
- Ashley Buhr
- Rita Bulger
- Keri Cargill
- Trystan Cates
- Alicia Clish
- Shyla Colton
- Peter Couchman
- Jennifer Cox
- Natalie Cuthbert
- Nitu Thakur
- Shawn Trivett
- Candice Tubbs
- Jayse Van Rooyen
- Anne Venema
- Lorie Vickers
- Erika von Poser
- Victoria Walsh
- Ian Warbrick
- Dennis Webb
- Jean-Anne Webb
- Malcolm West
- Emily White
- Vi Windley
- Cameron Wrigley
- Victoria Zhang
- Bev Plaxton
- Scott Wilson
- Faith Glavica
- Tali Campbell
- Julie Rogers



## **Thank you to our volunteers!**

- Bridget Frewer
- Nathan Gates
- Geoffry Genge
- Kayleigh Gillespie
- Jamie Gilliland
- Veronica Grocott
- Pamela Hadikin
- Bob Hall
- Megan Hansen
- Daniel Hayward
- Ashley Hrenyk
- Philip Hu
- Amanda Hulshof
- Mandeep Jaswasl
- Sharnnelle Jenkins-Thompson
- Maria Kawahara
- Holly Keen
- David Kim
- Kathy King
- Angela Kinsella-Jones
- Carly Koelpen
- Dean Laviolette
- Gavin Lin
- Yang Liu
- Patrick Louie
- Quinton Luck
- Sonja Luck
- Roger Lytton
- Russ Mac Donald
- Taleynn MacLeod
- Nikita Malhotra
- Caitlin Malli
- Anecca Maxwell
- Janice McAllan
- Erin McCauley
- David McGarry
- Alyssa McGinness
- Ian McGlashan
- Tori McIndoe
- Barry Metcalfe
- Shelby Milholm
- Kelsey Moore
- Allan Morrison
- Linda Murray
- Cameron Murray
- Brett Nadronzy
- Jessica Nielsen
- Katie Norman
- Dean Oliphant
- Anthony Oliver-Cutillo
- Andrew Parker
- Jennifer Parker
- Colin Payne
- Amanda Potvin
- Brooke Power
- Christie Rathbone
- Lacey Redding
- Linda Reynolds
- Tim Richards
- Carolyne Rickett
- Rachael Robinson
- Scott Robinson
- Chris Rogers
- Kristina Ronning
- Darlene Rough
- Randi Rundel
- Ray Sabourin
- Marjorie Sabourin
- Ricky Saluk
- Sally Sanders
- Amanda Sannes
- Keith Schindler
- Jessica Semper
- Michelle Seymour
- Mike Shaw
- Shelby Shemilt
- Line Simpson
- Katie Sims
- Jen Skogland
- Marie Skuse
- Anita Smith
- Craig Smith
- Lauren Smythies
- Barry Sparkes
- Chelsey Squire



# **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

## **Board of Directors 2008**

**Howard French - President**  
**Roger Lytton - Vice President**  
**Barry Sparkes - Secretary**  
**Janice McAllan - Treasurer**

**Directors: Kathy King**  
**Linda Murray**  
**Rachael Robinson**  
**Jason Fleming**  
**Keri Cargill**

*Thanks for making 2008 such a success!*





