

Share a
little magic



Big Brothers Big Sisters
Edmonton & Area

Relate

Fall 2009

You're Invited

Big Brothers Big Sisters Volunteer Appreciation Night

When Tuesday, October 27
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Where TELUS World of Science
11211-142 Street, Edmonton

RSVP To Karen Sauve at
k.sauve@bbbsedmonton.org
or leave a voicemail in our
general mailbox 780.424.8181

Program

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Munchies & Gallery Viewing
7:30 pm – 8:00 pm Program & Awards
8:15 pm – 9:00 pm IMAX Movie

Big Brothers Big Sisters invites YOU — all volunteers, children & youth, families, funders and supporters — to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. Join us for a fun-filled evening of great snacks, awards and entertainment, including the amazing galleries at TELUS World of Science, and the awe inspiring IMAX movie.

Because of you, children's lives have been transformed. This is your chance to hear and share stories as well as meet other incredible people involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Letter from Liz

So much to celebrate!

I love the fall, especially because I have the privilege of working in such a beautiful office built by the

Kinsmen Club, in the hidden gem of Riverdale. The hues of red, orange and yellow leaves in the River Valley and Riverdale take your breath away! I've had a few other experiences that have taken my breath away this year, and I want to share some of them with you.

I recently celebrated my 30th anniversary as the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton, and I was privileged to enjoy one of those evenings this past June that beautifully illustrated in full colour why my job couldn't be more rewarding, even after 30 years of rewards. We hosted a 10 year celebration for the CIBC Youthvision Scholarship, and the memories, tear-filled accounts of life-altering friendship, and warm thank-yous shared by our courageous, brilliant young people, is something I won't soon forget. You can read more details in this newsletter, including Zafira Bhaloo's compelling story of her journey, and the impact mentoring has had on her life.

On a warm August day, the Africa Centre in Wellington Junior High School was alive with the happy murmurs of over 140 immigrant and refugee children and their hosts. For seven weeks, four days a week, these Sudanese, Somali and Ethiopian children and their parents had played and learned together; now they were gathered in the school gymnasium to celebrate the successful run of the program. Everyone was sitting at tables in the school gymnasium, waiting quietly for a video presentation of a Somali-Canadian rapper. As the adults struggled to get the video going, a seven-year-old girl named Amina, who had been sitting quietly at the back of the gymnasium, spontaneously began to sing. In the general hush of the room, her voice rang out with a quiet clarity. To the amazement of her Canadian hosts, she was singing O, Canada.

I remember very clearly standing next to the video projector upon hearing the first softly sung phrases of the national anthem. When Amina piped *my home and native land*, the table of children sitting beside her joined in: *True patriot love, with all thy sons command*. More children joined in; *with glowing hearts, we see thee rise, the true north strong and free*. Tears came to my eyes as the song grew in volume; all 140 immigrant children and Canadian volunteers and coordinators joined in: *From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee*.



To this day, I cannot hear the national anthem without thinking of that day. I realized how much Canada mattered to them.

There was this sense of unity. I remember thinking it's not "they" anymore. It's "we!"

The Africa Centre and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area with the financial support of the **Edmonton Community Foundation** are working to

build on a strong foundation of great programming to serve and support a new generation of citizens. With the help of caring citizens in our community, we can continue to give children like Amina something to sing about.

I hope to see many of your smiling faces at our **Volunteer Appreciation Event** this year on October 27 at the Telus World of Science from 6 – 10 p.m. Celebrating the contribution of the thousands of incredible role models that help to shape positive futures for our young people, is an event I look forward to every year. We have listened to your feedback, and tailored the event this year specifically to one that volunteers and children can enjoy together. Join us for a brief awards celebration, light dinner, tours of the galleries and conclude the evening with an IMAX film.

Liz O'Neil, Executive Director

BBBS 8th Annual Golf Tournament

The 8th Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Golf Tournament

was held on August 27 at Cougar Creek Golf Course. Thanks to our extremely generous sponsors & donors, skilled golfers, Cougar Creek Golf Course and fantastic volunteers & staff we raised over \$90,000.

We proudly present our amazing partners who have made the 8th Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Golf Tournament a huge success!

Thank You to ...

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Photos clockwise from left: Board Member Barbara Komisar, President Maureen Crush, Sharon Lazariuk and Karen Jensen; a very well-guarded lemonade stand; Peter Steblyk, Locke Boros, Jolene Burke and Krysta; golf cart with added horsepower!

Chuck E Cheese • Citadel Theatre • Corus Radio • Cougar Creek Golf Course • Creative Quality Catering • Dallas Pizza • Dan O'Brien • Dennis Goddard • DeVine Wines • Digital Communications • Earl's Restaurant • Edmonton Eskimos & Kamau Peterson • Edmonton Flying Club • Edmonton Soaring Club • Edmonton Oilers • Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge • Finesse • Firefly Theatre • Flirt Cupcakes Flowers by Merle • Gainey Suites Hotel Scottsdale • Gini's • Global Edmonton • Golf Town • Hotel MacDonald & Andrew Ihasz • Hotel of the Rockies Canmore • Icon Hair Archtecture • Jasper Tramway • Judi O'Rielly • Judy Dickout • Keith Reichert • Kuhlmanns • Liz Covey • Marmot Basin • Michaela Bily • Michelle Dias • Miller Thompson • Nathan Winski Photography • Normads/Glenora Grill • Northwest Scuba • Ogilvie LLP • Outback Steakhouse • Packrat Louie's • Papillion Hair Stylists • Penny Dietz • Perguia Salon & Spa • Piccolino's • Priority One Security • Rapid Fire Theatre • Re/Max • The Creperie • Red Robin • Research in Motion • River Ridge Golf Club • Robbie Holmes • Ruth's Chris Steakhouse • Sonic 102.9 • Sawmill • Spa Club Whyte Ave • Sport Chek • Stacey Harasiuk • Starbucks • Stawnichy's • Studio J • Sugar

Swing • Sundance Lodges • Sutton Place Hotel • The Bounce • The Arthur Murray Dance Studio • The North Face • Todd Collister • Tranquil Mobile Spa • Tyla Cooper • United Cycle • Upper Crust • Way Past Fast • Wayne Loehr • West Edmonton Mall • WestJet • Jasper White Water Rafting • Wholesale Sports • Wick Agencies • Winalta Inc. • Worly Parsons Canada • Windship Aviation • YMCA of Edmonton

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Our Media Sponsors

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Our Friends Of BBBS

Power Office • Anonymous Donor

Our Golf Committee

Jan Butler of Landrex • Heather McLeod of Landrex • Rick Zasada of Chandos Construction • Dennis Goddard of Digital Communications

The amazing volunteers, staff and Cougar Creek Golf Course



From left: Darcy Courtepatte, Kevin Montgomery, CIBC Associate Vice President Retail Banking, Sean McClure, Nathan Winski, Tasha Halldorson, Ian McLeod, Jessica Naidoo, Cameo Cunningham, Zafira Bhaloo, Tamara Brown, Allan Chau.

CIBC Youthvision Scholarship Event

Ten years ago, CIBC, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and the YMCA created the CIBC Youthvision Scholarship Program to address the academic and financial needs of Little Brothers and Sisters and to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education. To date, CIBC has invested in the dreams of 330 scholarship recipients across Canada and helped shape their futures in ways that they could have only imagined.

At BBBS Edmonton, we have been privileged to receive scholarships for 30 young people in our community. Together with the Edmonton YMCA, we hosted our first annual CIBC Youthvision scholarship reunion dinner on June 11th. We recognised the three 2009 recipients, and were warmed by the accomplishments and stories of the journey of past recipients. Watch for their stories in upcoming newsletters.

All of the recipients, parents, mentors and BBBS Staff were gleaming for days after the event! Our cups were full after hearing of the amazing accomplishments of our youth, all made possible by CIBC. Thank you for your investment in youth! You continue to make an incredible difference, and we are honoured to partner with you to invest in the healthy futures of youth together. Thank you to Kevin Montgomery, CIBC Associate Vice President, Retail Banking for participating in the event, and presenting the 2009 recipients with special certificates and back packs. It was an evening none of us will soon forget, and we look forward to next year.

If you are a Little that is in grade 9 this year, please ask your caseworker about the scholarship program. You may be eligible to apply for the scholarship, and receive \$40,000 for four years of education, and summer employment throughout high school and university.



Zafira's story

Thank you for the honor of sharing my story with you today about my experience in the world of Big Brothers Big Sisters... in particular, the importance of mentoring and the opportunities that arose out of my involvement with this organization.

My involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters has shaped my life in such a way that is difficult to put into words.

Those who know me well see my passion and hard work that I put into education and volunteering. However, many don't know that my interest, my passion, and my source for volunteering and education began with my involvement as a little sister with this organization.

I have learnt through life experiences that it is important to have positive role models. I have grown up in a single parent home and therefore have witnessed first hand the difficulties that life can bring. Whether it be divorce, the death of a parent or the unsteady flow of income; the presence of a mentor, a role model is critical and life changing.

My sister provided me with the following thought: A positive role model who does not expect anything from their mentee but is there to offer support, care and advice... that is a solution to poverty, that is a solution to decreased self esteem in youth, that is a solution to violence, that is a solution to negative peer pressure... and ultimately, positive mentorship is a solution to a negative outlook on life.

For me, Big Brothers Big Sisters exemplifies community spirit in their mentorship program. My experience with this organization does not stop at my mentor, Lisa, but continues with my case-workers, Val Campbell and Tracy Lockhart. Having a mentor with this organization creates a new family of people who care about you, and who I can say with certainty, was a huge part in making me the... hopefully positive person... that I am today.

I'd like to share with you a rare and wonderful opportunity that Big Brothers Big Sisters provided me when I was 16 years

old. I received a phone call from my caseworker indicating that I received the CIBC Youthvision Scholarship which would pay my undergraduate tuition for 4 years and provide me opportunities to work during the summers in a non-profit field of my interest. I remember the day I received this phone call and the shock and tears and hugs that accompanied it. The opportunity to receive a post secondary education was always a goal for me and a financial stressor for my mom. For someone to tell me that I could not only have the opportunity to receive an education at any Canadian university, but additionally, I would be guaranteed employment during the summers, rendered me speechless. I had witnessed this same experience with my sister, Danisha, when she had received the same call not too long before and which led her to complete a Criminology degree from the University of Alberta. But to experience it first hand is indescribable. The security, thankfulness and reassuring feeling that accompany that phone call are emotions I had never experienced all at once.

Because of this opportunity, I am currently completing my Bachelor of Science degree with a Major in Biological Sciences and a Minor in French at the University of Alberta...and I spend my summers working in a volunteer capacity with various non-profits. I am currently working at the Metro City Medical Clinic with the interest of pursuing a health-care related field.

My sister and I both look towards Big Brothers Big Sisters as a non-profit leader in Edmonton... and look towards Liz O'Neill as a mentor. We understand the hard work and the commitment exemplified by the staff and volunteers at this agency. Although they don't expect to be appreciated in a job like theirs, I want to appreciate you, and to thank you for making a difference. A difference not only made in the life of one child but a difference felt and experienced by a family... my family.

My passion, my accomplishments, my motivation to help others... I owe to this organization.

Over the past years... you, as funders, staff members, volunteers and supporters of this agency, fulfilled a dream. And the only request I make of you today, is that you continue and enhance your commitment to this organization... because our story is only one of the hundreds of the children and youth at risk in this city that you have helped to support.

— Thank you.

A Big



The three **July Casino fundraising events** we hosted were resulting in over **\$50,000** raised. Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers and staff who participated.

Thank you very much to **Laura** at **Evelyn Charles** for this summer's **Beauty Bootcamp** for three girls! Not only did the girls look beautiful, but they felt more confident!

Thank you to **Sandy MacLaren** for sponsoring two spots at the **Humane Society Day Camp** for teen girls.

A huge thank you to **Terry & Virgil Huculuk** and **Corey Nault** for the 4 day fishing camp

A gigantic thank you to **Darcy Hans** of **M & M Meats** for all

of the amazing food at this year's picnic, not to mention your fantastic BBQ skills!

Thank you to **Northern Light Theatre** for donating two spots for your summer drama camps. This was a uniquely amazing opportunity for kids who would never get to experience a camp like this.

Thank You to **Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch** for donating day camp sports for our waitlist kids!

The **Butler Foundation** donated \$8000 for the **Africa Centre Summer Programs** this year and on behalf of all of the kids, volunteers and staff who were part of the camp – THANK YOU!

Thank you to the **Edmonton Eskimos, The Capitals, Laughing Dog Photography** and **Constable Joe** for coming out to visit some of the kids in our programs this summer! It's great people like you who motivate kids to participate in sports and the community.

Thank you to **Kids Up Front** who supply us with fantastic tickets to events. Kids Up Front is committed to promoting free tickets for kids in need. Can't use your tickets? Give it to a kid that can.

Through the **Kids Up Front Program**, we are one of the organizations that receive tickets regularly from the generosity of donors. This allows us to provide tickets to our Bigs and Littles who under normal circumstance would not attend an event.

Since 2003, Kids Up Front has provided over 127,200 opportunities. To the donor it may only be a ticket, but to a Big/Little match, it's a memory that will last a lifetime.

Africa Centre Summer Programs



An awesome time was had at the Africa Centre this summer with nearly 100 kids enjoying a variety of activities. Tuesday to Friday of each week from July 6 to August 14, 7 to 15 year olds were welcomed to the BBBS Africa Centre Summer Camp. The days were filled with great food, education, entertainment and physical activity with special

visits from the Edmonton Eskimos, Constable Joe Slemko and laughing Dog Photography. Summer 2009 at the Africa Centre is one these amazing kids will never forget!

This year there were about 25 amazing volunteers who dedicated their time helping run this program. We also had around 30 staff members from Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre who did an outstanding job helping out this summer. Thank You!

We would like to thank the Edmonton Food Bank for providing breakfast and snacks to all of the children each day the program ran. As well a big thanks goes out to The Brick Sport

Central who generously donated the sports equipment used for games like basketball. Some of our other amazing partners are the YMCA, John Humphrey Centre, Red Cross, Inspiring Education Public Library, Tools for School, University of Alberta Science & Drama and the Athletics Alberta - track & Field program. Thank you to the Edmonton Eskimos for coming out to inspire the children with your stories and lessons in jump rope & football. Thank you Constable Joe Slemko for stopping by this summer and teaching the kids about your role protecting the citizens in our community and letting them take a look at your police car. Thank you very much to Laughing Dog Photography for your amazing photoshoot (some pictures are displayed below). None of what we do here at Big Brothers Big Sisters would be possible without the continued support from amazing people and companies who contribute each year, for that we again thank you.

This fall the Africa Centre will be hosting Somali Basketball & Homework Clubs during the evenings and the Somali Girls Swim which will be held on weekends. If you would like to find out more about the Africa Centre Fall Programs or how to get involved today, please contact: Anita Saini: phone (780) 424.8181 ext 227 email a.snini@bbbsedmonton.org

Two Lucky kids will win a movie pass, good for admission — any movie, anytime. Colour the picture and send it to us at 10135 – 89 Street, Edmonton, T5H 1P6.

Or, pass it on to your caseworker who will get it to us at Big Brothers Big Sisters House. The colouring contest is

Done by: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____

open to any matched or wait list child or youth in any of our programs. **Entry deadline is November 2, 2009.**

Congratulations to entries selected from the last colouring contest. Your movie pass is on its way to you! Just a note to all our entries, to make sure that the selection is completely unbiased, the names of the entries are covered when the judges make their choices.



Colouring Contest

October, November, December 2009

Sorry! We forgot to include Nicholas Schwabe and Liane Rinn last issue, who were matched for 1 year in June — Congratulations!

Years Matched

Mentee

"Julie" Julianna P
Abigail L
Aidan T
Aj N
Alex G
Alexander C
Alisina (Ali) S
Allen R
Amana E
Amanda O
Amanda S
Amanda S
Amy Diaz A
Andrew B
Angel S
Anthony M
Antonio I
Ashika D
Ashley G
Ashtin A
Atera S
Austin W
Avery K
Ayoubia T
Bay-Lee W
Behrooz S
Benjamin S
Brandon B
Brandon B
Brandt M
Brenda A
Brendon G
Brendon L
Brett G
Brittany U
Brooklyn-Jade B
Chae G
Chevaz M
Cheyanne H
Chris M
Christopher G
Courtney V
Cynthia B
Dakota H
Dakota M
Daniel D
Daniela P
David D
Dawson H
Deanna D
Deanna J
Dennis H
Desriel S
Devon L
DezmOnd D
Dorian H
Dre Anna R
Dut T
Edwin B
Ellison H
Emma J
Emmanuel Z
Fadoumo S
Farista S
Fatime A
Frederick M
Gabby F

7

Mentor

Maura A
Christina G
Matt S
Paige H
Jesse M
James C
Jennifer K
Paul D
Carina P
Christina P
Colleen R
Cindy W
Caeleigh S
Eric G
Jessica H
Brieanne D
Kyle M
Alexandra M
Andrea B
Joy L
Kendal G
Brittany B
Meghan P
Saher M
Dedith D
Richard B
Larry K
Roni K
Timothy S
Timothy S
Cory O
Joyce Z
Danielle L
Rebecca C
Catherine L
Grace W
Michelle S
Kathryn W
Sean G
Connie L
Amjad K
Maud M
Wendy E
Paulina G
Jade P
Andre P
Gabriel (Gaby) F
Kristine W
Steven D
Eugene R
Rena F
Courtney B
Vanessa J
Sarah M
Alexandria G
Alexandria G
Genevieve F
Cheyenne O
Sarah W
Janet S
Hans B
Jen H
Anna-Kristen S
Ann-Marie L
Tara S
Nancy M
Felicia T
Maggie G

Gentille N
Giorgio D
Grace I
Gurkirpal M
Haley M
Heanog N
Heather D
Ivuesyn M
Jamie G
Jayde M
Jayden C
Jaydn B
Jaylee K
Jaylene W
Jesse D
Jessica D
Jessica H
Jessica M
Jessica W
Jiwan N
Jordan G
Jordan S
Joshue T
Josua B
Justin A
Kaela-Raen E
Kah Nuo T
Karlee G
Katey O
Kelson Y
Kristin S
Kristina S
Kyla B
Kyle T
Landen D
Lauryn B
Lawrence C
Leanne D
Leaona N
Lina D
Lisa W
Lucy W
Lynndsie K
Mackenzie S
Madison D
Marianne B
Marisa C
Markis K
Martin I
Mary D
Maryam M
Mason K
Matthew D
Melissa F
Michael T
Michalia Z
Micheal K
Michelle C
Miranda K
Mitchell P
Nahom G
Nakota C
Naledi D
Nathaniel M
Nikita D
Niklas P
Nikolas B
Noel S
Nolan A
Paige C

Marie-Claudette K
Dale C
Chalsey K
Stephanie R
Dolly B
Jodie O
Keely E
Sandra P
David M
Jacqueline K
Stephanie J
Gabriel (Gaby) F
Megan P
ROBIN S
Ashley M
Lillian K
Melissa T
Kiruba T
Rebecca T
Alexandria G
Joe B
Brenda W
Maylese G
Annette M
Rene M
Alexandria G
Fatoumata K
Elaine C
Catherine H
Cheng-Hsin C
Sheilah P
Samantha L
Lorraine L
Danny M
Maxine C
Mary Grace E
Vivian C
Malori S
Melissa G
Sarah P
Joanne H
Jennifer M
Sabrina H
Tristan D
Maxine C
Katharine S
Tanis H
Andrew S
Tyler P
Suzanna K
Patricia A
Jordan L
Cameron S
Christina W
Jeffrey B
Margarita (Rita) C
Ted (Teodor) K
Misti S
Kelsey D
Kim P
Elizabeth H
Zahra M
Lisa C
Terin C
Diana C
Matthew L
SarAh R
Kasia K
Neil M
Sylvia T

Pavel S
Precious T
Priya C
Raven L
Rawda B
Rebecca L
Regan L
Rennie C
Rosie L
Ryan H
Sabrina S
Samantha G
Samantha W
Sambath K
Samiha S
Samuel G
Selina S
Shannie L
Shenice K
Shyanne G
Shylee T
Shylo W
Silver H
Steels V
Stephanie B
Thomas S
Toan L
Tony C
Trevor M
Tristian A
Tyler D
Tyler M
Vanessa C
Victoria B
Adele S

Years Matched

Mentee

Airaka J
Alejandra C
Alex B
Amber V
Ashley D
Athan B
Ayden F
Breana O
Brendan F
Celina S
Christopher M
Cole A
Connor G
Dakota M
Dan N
Danielle F
Darcy C
Darlene D
Dominique D
Elizabeth N
Elizabeth P
Emad H
Emily W
Emily W
Gage C
Halle T
Hayley S
Jade C
Jasmine M
Jaylene H
Jayme R
Jennifer R

Ruth M
Michelle S
Caitlin C
Sarah R
Deborah L
Stacie S
Brienne R
Mike A
Marchy H
Brad H
Lauren K
Sarah B
Michelle M
Christopher K
Katie K
Etienne H
Sharon E
Kayley W
Vasiliki G
Salina H
Lori C
Nakita P
Czarina I
Kurt M
Stephanie B
Jennifer C
Gwendolyn W
Nicole B
Devon W
Ian G
Dalal A
Lyndon A
Cindy L
Megan Y
Janel D
Ulysses N
William W

Years Matched

Mentor

Jennifer A
Lenore W
Solange D
Gretchen S
Nina M
Alyssa R
Gordon W
Nicole F
Dan B
Casault J
Sarah W
Chris L
Amy L
Michele C
Kevin M
Heather K
Darcy H
Justine C
Alexandra L
Mariya N
Hilary M
Steve D
Gillian L
Nirveli V
Prashan G
Jane D
Medly B
Denise C
Kailyn J
Kim N
Danielle M
Jo-Anne W

Jesse P
Jessica N
Jordan L
Joshua B
Justin Y
Kaila G
Katelyn G
Kent A
Kim T
Kyle S
Lady T
Laplante T
Lucky M
Madison G
Mary M
Michaela R
Nathan N
Nicholas W
Nicole L
Noah D
Olof P
Ona K
Owen N
Rai-Lynne B
River M
Rose G
Ryan H
Rylee D
Sage L
Sarah W
Sean M
Shayleigh L
Sunshyne B
Taylor A
Tyrel S
Ulysses N
William W

Years Matched

Mentee

Abdishakar M
Albert B
Alyna B
Alyssa R
Amanda B
Anthony S
Brooke T
Chance L
Chenisse S
Cherice D
Christina H
Cindy T
Coleen L
Dakota H
Danny V
Dawson S
Ian H
Katie A
Naomi B
Nicholas T
Raymond C
Riley C
Shayla P
Steffany T
Tatum D
Valerie S
Wyatt S

Ava S
Ashley Y
Andy B
Brandon M
Rashmi S
Sabreena D
Megan S
Wardene W
Shaughnessy F
Harry S
Liliana A
Holly S
Mandy C
Kurstin G
Kaila G
Jacqui L
Chris D
Patricia M
Tricia K
John C
Anita F
Patricia D
Joel A
Jacqueline J
Brent M
Donna W
Amanda T
Jacqueline C
Janet W
Melba B
Justin D
Shannon P
Wendy A
Michelle S
Krista M
Greg G
Braelan K

Years Matched

Mentor

Nick K
Natasha L
Jasmin C
Jody H
Liz R
Prashan G
Zahra G
Jessica H
Sharon F
Katherine A
Toni B
Kacey B
Guerrette M
Jade P
Jillian M
Garth T
Ben V
Heather M
Krista O
Tricia L
Darcy H
Anupinder (Andie) B
Johanna A
Dana A
Carol S
Amber S
Eunice P

Years Matched

Mentee

AMANDA K
Arianne C
Brian B
Brock D
Cassie W
Devin R
Emily T
Jacob K
Jesse S
Kailey C
Kevin S
Madison W
Kaila G
Jacqui L
Chris D
Patricia M
Tricia K
John C
Anita F
Patricia D
Joel A
Jacqueline J
Brent M
Donna W
Amanda T
Jacqueline C
Janet W
Melba B
Justin D
Shannon P
Wendy A
Michelle S
Krista M
Greg G
Braelan K

Years Matched

Mentee

Ashley M
Kristina M
Linda T
Meagan W
Serena W

Years Matched

Mentee

Cassandra W
Darcy C
Darren P
Hannah C
Joshua D
Priya G
Talia L

Years Matched

Mentee

Allan C
Natasha S

Years Matched

Mentee

Travis H

Years Matched

Mentee

Tristian N

4

Mentor

BECKY B
Ashley R
Rene R
Theresa K
Pauline P
Nicole L
Katie P
Robin B
Heather M
Tawnya C
Michael Y
Tanis E
Phyllis V
Lese S
Wesley T
Gordon S

5

Mentor

Tricia G
Tracy L
Sheryl K
Angela W
Heather M
Sara B
Babs J
Jody D
Karen C
Linda W
Trudy R

6

Mentor

Tasha S
Julie E
Amber K
Melanie C
Christine P

7

Mentor

Myrna B
Darcy H
Stacy A
Nicola L
David M
Tasha G
Anita C

8

Mentor

Khom H
Kate O

9

Mentor

Irene W

11

Mentor

Jessica R



Strangers are friends waiting to happen

For

5 years **Mel** and **Meg** have been matched as a Big Sister and Little Sister with each other. Mel's initial impression of Meg was, "this tiny girl bursting with energy!" Now that 5 years have passed Meg is still bursting with energy, but much taller! Mel and Meg enjoy a variety of special memories including skating in the winter and celebrating Halloween together. Since Mel was a little girl herself, every year her mom throws a huge Halloween party for the family. There are crazy costumes, spooky decorations, pumpkin carving and delicious goodie bags for everyone. This is the fifth year running that Meg has attended the awesome Halloween party with Mel. Not only has it become a tradition that the girls look forward to sharing together each year but Meg has become part of Mel's family.

Mel first got interested in Big brothers Big Sisters through her old job with United Way where she decided to begin volunteering, "I looked through the list and when I saw BBBS I knew that was exactly what I wanted to do. I've had such great mentors in my life; it was my turn to give back." Since becoming a Big Sister Mel has learned many important life lessons from her Little Sister. "I've learned that children in our community need role models

and that the more positive role models they have in their life, the more likely they will succeed. These kids are the future generation – we need to step up and let them know that people in their community care about them."

Mel's advice toward people who are looking to become a Big brother Big Sister is, "I would tell them that the time to become a Big Sister or Brother is right now. It doesn't take up too much time and the feeling that you get after time spent with you little is magical. I would also assure them that they will probably get as much or more out the match than their little."

One thing people often wonder is what kind of support Big Brothers Big Sisters offers once you've decided to become part of one of our programs. When asked Mel's reply was, "The training was exceptional, Big brothers Big Sisters prepared us for everything and anything that might happen. The ongoing support from case workers is also great, I always feel supported."

Congratulations Mel & Meg on a fantastic friendship! We hope you have a spooktacular time at your Halloween Party this year and that you send us more pictures so we can share them with everyone else!

A 'Little' Bit of Fun!

Summer 2009



On Wednesday, August 5th **Kamau Peterson, Patrick Kabongo** and **Willie Amos** from the **Edmonton Eskimos** visited the **Africa Centre Summer Camp** for a day of fun! The Eskimos spoke with the kids about their backgrounds and why participating in a sport is important to each of them. They signed autographs and played a little jump rope & football with the kids. Thank you for being great role models on the field and off.



On Monday, August 17th the **Edmonton Capitals** paid a visit to **Eastwood Elementary School's grade 5 & 6s**. **Joe Giannetti, Chris Avery** and **Mitch Graham** brought baseballs and bats to teach the kids a few important drills in the game of baseball. The goal was to get the kids more interested in sports and by the end of the visit all the kids were lining up for autographs with a new found love of baseball.



On Friday, July 24th **Constable Joe Slemko** and **Laughing Dog Photography** stopped in to meet the kids from the **Africa Centre Summer Camp**. He spoke with the kids about his job protecting the citizens of Edmonton and how to go to the police if they are ever in danger. All of the kids had a blast, especially when they got a chance to sit in Constable Joe's police car!



Amazing Race

This year **Abbott** and **RJ Scott Elementary Schools** had 450 kids, parents, school staff, and volunteers participate in the **5th Annual Amazing Race** on Wednesday June 24th. Students from grades 3-6 started off the race by swimming a lap at Eastglen Pool. Younger students participated in the many fun stations set up for their kiddie carnival. It was a beautiful sight to see all of the students from Grades Kindergarten to Six in their brightly

colored shirts then ran through the River valley to the Kinsmen finish line.

We completed our Amazing Race Day with a **year end BBQ**. Thanks to all the volunteers, parents, partners, and staff that helped make this day a success. Volunteers manned water stations along the race route, manned stations at the kiddie carnival,

helped with BBQ preparation and serving, monitored the race route and helped keep out kids safe while they had a ton of fun!



Summer Picnic

On Friday, July 3 **Big Brothers Big Sisters** hosted our **Annual Summer Picnic** at the **Valley Zoo**. It was an evening filled with a tricky zoo animal questions hunt, a delicious BBQ courtesy of **Darcy Hands** from **M&M Meats**, cool prizes and lots of zoo animal visiting. A tremendous thank you goes out to each and every volunteer and staff member who helped out with this event and of course the amazing Valley Zoo! For those of you who were photographed we have sent out a media release form for you to sign and mail back if you would like us to use your Summer Picnic pictures in future publications, such as our website.



Africa Centre Talent Show

To wrap up an excellent summer at the **Africa Centre Summer Camp** all of the staff and kids in this year's program put on a spectacular show for parents, supporters and anyone interested in finding out a little more about the program. There was singing, dancing, drumming, and lots of laughter. Afterward there was a cultural pot luck filled with delicious traditional foods. Thank you to all of the volunteers, staff, parents, supporters and kids who participated.

Youth in Care Graduation

On June 19 we had 23 accomplished **Youth in Care Graduates** take the stage to celebrate their achievements. **September 26** is their big **BBQ** where they will be welcoming new teens, veteran teens and mentors to learn more about the program. The group is always looking for mentors and teen referrals (13-18+) so if you know someone who may be interested give our offices a call **780.424.8181**.

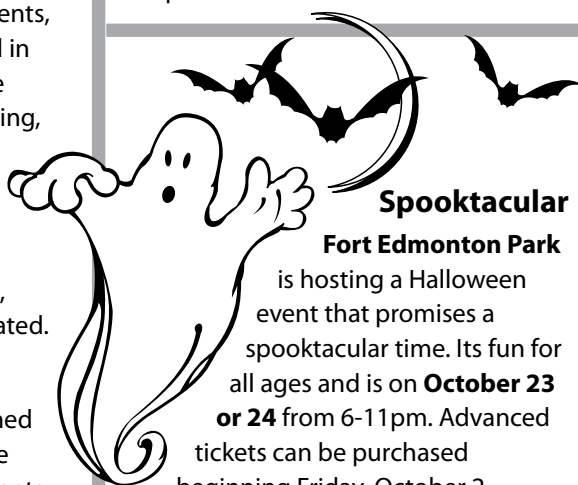


Kristyn and Amy at Summer Camp

What's happening in Edmonton this Fall?

Edmonton Corn maze

Located in **Parkland County** is the infamous Edmonton Corn Maze! Check out the 2009 maze design and see if you can untangle your way out in under 30 minutes, which apparently is easier said than done! The Maze is closed Mondays but open every other day of the week; Tues-Fri 4pm-9pm, Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 1pm-5pm up until October 17. General admission is \$9, Kids 5-12 is \$7 and anyone under 5 yrs is FREE. For more information call **780.554.4540** or visit www.edmontoncornmaze.ca for your Maze \$1 OFF coupon



Spooktacular

Fort Edmonton Park

is hosting a Halloween event that promises a spooktacular time. Its fun for all ages and is on **October 23 or 24** from 6-11pm. Advanced tickets can be purchased beginning Friday, October 2 through www.ticketmaster.ca \$16/general (13 years & older), \$12.75/child (2-12 years)

NEW Muttart Conservatory: Mad Hatter's Party!

On **October 25** from 1:05-4:05pm join the **Muttart Conservatory** for an afternoon of backwards fun. There will be backwards games, prizes, puzzles, and music along with **The Mystery of the Mad Hatter's Watch**. The **Sculptors Association of Alberta** will have pumpkin ornamentations on display so you don't want to miss out on the action. Admission is regular \$5/child, \$9.75/adult. Visit www.muttartconservatory.ca for more information.

BOO at the ZOO

Mark **Sunday, October 18** in your calendar for a day of unique Halloween fun at the **Valley Zoo**. Show up in your creative costume to trick or treat while

enjoying the special events the zoo has planned. There will be police, fire, rescue, and transit groups there to talk about Halloween safety and let you take a tour of their vehicles. You can make a **Slithering Snake Door Hanger**, win a funky prize at the **Pumpkin Patch Prize Hut**, get a spooky face painting, watch the unicycle stunts or fire juggling and even check out a very scary **Witches Den** attraction. Admission is \$3.75/child, \$5.50/youth, and \$7.25/adult. For more information check out www.valleyzoo.ca

Christmas Party

Jingle your merry little selves down to the **Empire theaters** this **December** for the **Big Brothers Big Sisters Kids, Families and Volunteers Christmas Party!** Come check out a rad flick (movies to be announced), followed by a tasty lunch and presents from **SANTA!** Don't miss out on the holiday spirit; RSVP with Karen Sauve at k.sauve@bbbsedmonton.org or leave a voicemail in our general mailbox **780.424.8181**.

Where: Empire Theaters
City Centre Mall
10200 – 102 Ave, 3rd floor

When: **10 am, December 6**
(kids 11 & under)
10 am, December 13
(kids 12 & up)

Volunteers Needed!

Thanks to the **Edmonton Oilers Association** for selecting BBBS as a **50/50 draw recipient for 2010!** We need 65 volunteers (18 years +) to sell 50/50 tickets at the January 23, 2010 game. Call **Allison Cammaert** at **780.424.8181** ext 249 to sign up!

Training Sessions

All parents, children and youth registered to be matched in our Big Brother Big Sister or TEAM (Group) programs need to attend one of the following workshops before they can be matched.

All training sessions are held at Big Brothers Big Sisters House, 10135 – 89 Street in Edmonton.

Please call **780.424.8181 Ext. 325** to register for one of the following dates:

Child and Parent Personal Safety

September 19 10am – 12pm
October 17 10am – 12pm
November 21 10am – 12pm

Teen Training from children over 12

September 24 5:30pm – 7:00pm
October 29 5:30pm – 7:00pm
November 26 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Congratulations!

To **Dallas D'aoust** and **Natalie Smotkowicz** who got married on July 11th, 2009 at the Edmonton Shaw Conference Center. Dallas is a Big Brother to **Tyree M.**

U of A BBBS Club

U of A BBBS Club will be having a meeting next month. If you want to attend or have any questions please contact Paul Grewal at paulgrewal@hotmail.com

Agency Staff

Executive Director
Liz O'Neill

Executive Assistant
Penny Dietz

Manager of Finance & Technology
Dawna Morgan

Finance Assistant
Cheryl Smith

Administrative Assistant
Karen Sauve

Manager of Development
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Fund Development Assistant
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Quality Support Caseworkers
Erica Lauridsen, Angie Undheim

Customer Relations Case Workers
Robin Way, Anita Saini

Managers of Service Delivery
Kerry Woodland, Chris Arsenault

Coordinators of Service Delivery
Annette Malin, Roslyn Henderson, Kari

Readman, Kimberly Bradburn, Sandra Pate, Shellie Dodd

Enrollment Caseworkers
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PFK Caseworkers
Cindy MacNeill, Janelle Maharaj, Amy Jeske, Andrea Yacyshyn, Lasina Ironstone, Breanne Noel

Program Support
Gail Wallace, Aura Acevedo, Alyssa Butler, Judy O'Reiley, Katie Plazier

Event Planner
Kristyn Emmerzael

Training Facilitators
Kristyn Emmerzael, Katie Plazier

Community Caseworkers
Janice Gargas, Viki Panos, Ashley Cantwell, Vivien Lam, Katie Reese, Jody Belter, Chelsie McFarlane, Meagan Emes, Cindy Mason – Digital Heroes Abukar Nur, Somalian, Keleigh Larson – Club Connect: Cheyenne Peters – Strathcona, Shannon Baert – Francophone Gabrielle Roy, Tina Macumber – Parkland, Laura Sturrock – Vegerville, Shelly Bertschi – Lac Le Biche, Laurie Russell – Mornville, Alison Stang – Camrose



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Edmonton & Area is proud to be a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and receives funding from:

Alberta Advanced Education & Technology

Alberta Children's Services, Edmonton, Lac la Biche, Vegreville

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada
Camrose & Area Child Family Services Authority - Region 5

Canadian Tire (Jumpstart)

Edmonton & Area Child Family Services Authority - Region 6

Edmonton Community Foundation
Alberta Lottery Board

Family & Community Support Services – Edmonton, Strathcona, Lac la Biche

TELUS

The Family Centre

United Way, Alberta Capital Region
Volunteer Alberta

Thank you!

Phone (780) 424-8181

Fax (780) 426-6689

Email bbbs@bbbsedmonton.org

www.bbbsedmonton.org