



Spirit Mountain Community Fund dedicates \$10,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest

Donated funds drive a new site-based, culturally-specific mentoring and service learning model at the Baltazar Ortiz Community Center located in NE Portland

Portland, Oregon (September 7, 2011) ---- Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest is the beneficiary of \$10,000 from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund for the Baltazar Ortiz Community Mentoring Initiative (BOCMI). The initiative is a new site-based, culturally-specific mentoring and service learning model that directly benefits 40 Latino youth: 20 children in 3rd – 6th grades and 20 teenagers in 10th – 12th grades. The initiative provides at-risk Latino elementary school students with culturally-specific mentoring from Latino teens. This is a year-round mentoring program with recreational and educational activities scheduled during the summer months to foster long-lasting relationships and keep both teens and children engaged.

The teen mentors and their Little Brother or Sister will meet weekly after school at the Baltazar Ortiz Community Center (6736 NE Killingsworth, Portland 97218) and engage in structured activities such as playing sports, doing homework, learning a new hobby, or working on a craft project. All activities will be supervised by a Big Brothers Big Sisters bi-lingual match support specialist who will also provide weekly case management to each child and teen mentor. In addition to after-school time, each child and teen mentor will participate in four quarterly off-site activities a year.

The teen mentors will meet quarterly as a group, with the Big Brothers Big Sisters site-based coordinator to plan and organize match activities. The coordinators will also provide the teens with emotional and academic support needed to keep them in school. To further support the teens' future aspirations, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Latino Mentoring Advisory Council, comprised of leaders from the local Latino community, has committed to providing job shadowing and lunch networking opportunities to all teen mentors in the program.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. The agency serves Clackamas, Clark, Cowlitz, Marion, Multnomah, Skamania, Wahkiakum and Washington counties. In 2010, Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest supported 2,784 children — and the volunteer mentors who serve them, making it the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters agency on the west coast and 8th largest nationwide.

About Spirit Mountain Community Fund

Spirit Mountain Community Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Spirit Mountain Community Fund derives its funding from Spirit Mountain Casino which dedicates 6% of the net proceeds to area non-profits. Since its inception in 1997, Spirit Mountain Community Fund has proudly and quietly given more than \$54 million dollars to non-profit organizations in an 11-county service area.

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