



The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington dedicates \$5,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest in Cowlitz County

The generosity of the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington helps Big Brothers Big Sisters expand services in Cowlitz County by 21 percent

Longview, Washington (September 7, 2011) ---- Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the Cowlitz County Community Fund of the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. The fund's generosity will help Big Brothers Big Sisters expand mentoring services by 21 percent in Cowlitz County.

This donation helps provide professionally-supported, one-to-one mentoring to 110 at-risk youth between 6-12 years of age. Mentoring is provided either through the agency's Community-Based or School-Based mentoring programs — depending upon the individual needs of the child. A Big Brothers Big Sisters case manager — known as a match support specialist, provides on-going training and support to matches in both programs.

Deepening the reach Big Brothers Big Sisters provides in Cowlitz County is an important piece of the agency's five-year strategic plan to expand its presence in Southwest Washington. On December 7, 2011 the agency will hold its first *Start Something* breakfast in Longview — 200 community and business leaders are expected to attend.

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.

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