

The Big Scoop

*Help us top the search
in the Willamette Week Give Guide*

Stuart Mullenberg/Photoforce



Big Brother Earl and Little Brother Bobby

WE are thrilled to have been chosen by Willamette Week to participate in the 2011 Give Guide. Readers choose among 100 local non-profit organizations to make small or large donations. It's a great way to show your support for Big Brothers Big Sisters and receive some wonderful gifts in return. There are incentives and raffle prizes at every level of giving.

The Give Guide launches on November 9 and continues through December 31. Help us show up at the top of the search list by making a donation early on the Give Guide website wweek.com beginning November 9!

Start Something Breakfast November 17

JOIN us on Thursday, November 17 from 7:30 to 8:30am at the Oregon Convention Center to hear heartwarming stories about the life-changing impact that Big Brothers Big Sisters has had on children in our community. This year, thanks to creative assistance from Nike and Ivey Marketing, the breakfast will have a vibrant and very exciting new look—we promise that you'll be amazed! The Start Something Breakfast is a free event; it is also our most important fundraising event of the year. There is no minimum or maximum donation.

1,000 guests will have the opportunity to hear from Governor John Kitzhaber, as well as Board Member and

Nike V.P. Tim Hershey, former Trail Blazer Terry Porter, and Portland Timber's owner Merritt Paulson, who will speak about our exciting new Sports Buddies program. Attendees will also hear Big Sister, donor and musically talented Julia Marrocco, sing with her Little Sister, Hibo.

Do you have a passion for our mission? We invite you to be a table captain or co-captain. Table captains invite friends, colleagues and family to join them at their table for ten. **Please let Judi Charman know if you would like to be a table captain or guest at the event: judi.charman@bbbsnorthwest.org or 503.943.5790.**

Thanks to our Breakfast Sponsors:



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Sports Buddies program exceeds expectations

IT'S well known that folks who live in the Portland and Southwest Washington area enjoy an active



lifestyle, and that may be why the Sports Buddies program has surpassed all expectations in less than a year.

Sports Buddies was launched in March 2010 with a goal of signing up

50 volunteers by year's end. But by the end of summer, 80 people had become Sports Buddies with that number expected to reach 100 by December 31.

During the past several months the mentor and youth matches participating in the program have attended a variety of sports camps, taken in Timber's games, watched the Trail Blazers in action and visited the Nike World Campus, along with other special events.

Sports Buddies concentrates on promoting physical activity in our daily lives and encourages Big Brothers and Sisters to enjoy these activities with their Little Brothers and Sisters.

Of course Sports Buddies could never have been possible without title sponsors Nike (five-year partner) and the Timbers (three-year partner).

To learn more about the Sports Buddies program visit bbbsnorthwest.org.

Beyond School Walls

BIG Brothers Big Sisters is seeking a corporate partner to participate in "Beyond School Walls," our exciting new mentoring initiative that takes kids right into the workplace. In fact, we're so BIG on this program that we have secured a grant to completely fund the first year of operations at a new site in Oregon or Southwest Washington!

Beyond School Walls started in fall 2010 in partnership with Comcast. Twice a month, children from Barnes Elementary School are bused to Comcast's offices in Beaverton to meet with their Big Brothers and Sisters—Comcast employees who have committed to 12 months of mentoring. The matches have lunch together and participate in a variety of activities, including craft projects, reading and games. There are also occasional "reverse days" when employees visit their Little Brothers and Sisters at school or go on field trips.

The program encourages employee volunteerism and is proving to boost employee productivity—after meeting with their Little Brothers and Sisters, employees return to work highly energized. And Beyond School Walls is clearly popular at Comcast: 30 employee volunteers have signed up for the second year of the program—up from 19 last year.

Is your company interested in Beyond School Walls? Our grant will fund up to 30 mentor/child matches for the first year. The partner business is responsible for providing volunteer Big Brothers and Sisters (minimum 10 per company), a meeting space, lunch for the children twice a month, and a commitment to fund the program in Year Two. For more information, contact Al Sigala at 503.943.5766 or email al.sigala@bbbsnorthwest.org.



Comcast employees greeting their new Little Brothers and Sisters.



Hank Fore, Big Brothers Big Sisters board member and Comcast Senior Vice President, greets all attendees with his Little Brother Messiah

Timber Joey, hot dogs and a lot of fun at annual picnic



Big Sister Adrienne Hall and Little Sister Becky

HUNDREDS converged on Columbia Park in North Portland on August 27 for the Big Brothers Big Sisters annual picnic.

Big Brothers and Sisters, along with their Little Brothers and Sisters, joined families, friends and staff members for a great time that featured live entertainment, yo-yo experts, free giveaways, games and soccer with Timber Joey, the Portland Timbers Mascot.

The picnic is also a great time for our Match Support Specialists to meet with the mentors and families they serve and reconnect on a more personal basis.

One highlight was the special appearance of Timber Joey who took part in several games of soccer and competed with attendees in several soccer exercises.

A big thank you goes out to **Fred Meyer**, for providing all of the food and beverages for the event.

From Little Sister to Jr. Bridesmaid , this match has been the start of something great.

For Caren Seal, being matched with Little Sister Francesca or 'Franky' as she's known, has been an experience she could never have anticipated. Their friendship first started with sharing favorite colors, moved to making hand puppets and friendship



Big Sister Caren and Little Sister Franky

bracelets, and now as Franky has gotten older, involves texting and talking more via cell phone.

"The most notable thing I've learned is that our relationship evolves and we grow individually as life changes for both of us," said Caren.

The relationship has grown so strong that when Caren and her fiancé Matt started planning their wedding, they knew they had to include Franky, and chose her to be a Junior Bridesmaid/Flower Girl.

"I couldn't have imagined sharing that moment with anyone else," expressed Big Sister Caren. "Pre-wedding dress and shoe shopping

with her were so much fun... and she fit right in the day of the wedding with my (real) sister, who did her hair and make-up. She even helped my cousin greet all the guests at the door to the ceremony handing out programs and kazooos."

Having Franky involved in their wedding is a great example of the close relationship that the two have established. They have shared great times and those not so great—just like any family does.

"I started feeling like part of (Franky's) family when I was greeted with hugs from her younger siblings and 'I love you' became part of conversations, and when people asked if we were sisters," shared Caren.

And yes, there have been some sad days; like the day Franky's stepfather suddenly passed away.

"When my husband and I showed up for the small memorial and ran into Franky in the parking lot, her hug and smile said what her words could not. And when I saw her cry inside, my heart broke for her and the family I had grown to love," said Caren. "In that moment, I knew my life was forever changed. I cannot imagine a time when Franky or her family will not be part of mine."

When Caren first decided to be a Big Sister in late 2008, she could not have anticipated just how this would be the start of something great.

Meet the fund development team!

Leslie Tuomi joined Big Brothers Big Sisters in February as Chief Development Officer. Leslie comes to us from the Oregon Symphony, where she was Vice President for Development. She brings 30 years' experience working in the arts and has a strong background in fundraising. Leslie, a former foster parent, has been matched with her Little Sister, Sophie, since May.

Judi Charman joined Big Brothers Big Sisters in November 2008 working in both Annual Giving and Events. Now as Events Manager, Judi is responsible for Bowl for Kids Sake, the annual breakfast, and all other events, big and small. Judi has extensive experience working in development, events and children's and school issues.

In her two years with the agency, Grants Manager **Kaarin Smith** has raised over a million dollars in government and foundation grants. She enjoys writing and reporting on grants because it keeps her closely connected with the agency's program work in the community. Kaarin has worked in development for numerous organizations both in Portland and Chicago. She recently earned her Certification as a Fundraising Executive (CFRE).

Jerry Ollison, Development Associate, is our database guru and keeps our department on track. Jerry ensures that gifts are entered and acknowledged promptly, prepares all of our mailings, and pulls reports to answer our many questions about fund development activity. Jerry has many years of nonprofit fundraising and other support experience in broadcast media, including a role as Membership Manager for All Classical FM.

Spencer May, Annual Giving Director, joined the staff in March. Spencer left his banking career (he was a branch manager of Key Bank and formerly worked with Wells Fargo) because he feels that Big Brothers Big Sisters' work is so meaningful. Spencer is a Big Brother and is also actively involved with numerous community organizations.



Jerry, Kaarin, Judi, Leslie and Spencer make up the fund development team

I want to Start Something!

I wish to pledge \$_____ per year for _____ years.

I will pay my pledge

- in a single payment annually quarterly monthly
- Please automatically charge my credit card for each installment.
- My check is enclosed, payable to BBBS Columbia Northwest.
- I wish to donate securities. Please contact me.
- Please bill me.
- This gift is in addition to an existing pledge. -OR-
- I am increasing my earlier pledge.
- This is a personal gift. This is a corporate gift.

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Donor Information

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This pledge is in honor of _____

My employer _____ will match my gift.

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