



Big Brothers Big Sisters
Columbia Northwest

The Big Scoop

A publication of Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest

Summer/Fall 2009

Dear Friend,

Everyday at Big Brothers Big Sisters we hear incredible stories of changed lives: an isolated Little Brother quit acting out in class and joined the computer club and swim team; a teen Little Brother quit swearing at his mother and decided not to drop out of school, and we hear thousands of other accounts of heart-warming transformations.

In 1995 we were elated that we finally had independent research backing up these anecdotes. After only one year of meeting regularly with their Big Brother or Big Sister children are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, skip school or act violently. And now we are delighted to have research that proves these impacts are sustained for life! Amazingly enough, adults who were former Little Brothers or Sisters are 39% more likely than other adults from similar backgrounds to have current household incomes of \$75,000 or higher. Please see the "Big Impact on Adult Littles" story below for more details on this exciting research.



**Lynn Thompson with award winner
Gail Neuburg and Board Chair Jake Nichols**

This success does not happen in a vacuum. It takes supporters who fund matches, help us recruit Big Brothers and Sisters and who partner with us in so many other ways adding depth and quality to our services. We recently honored some of our stellar partners. On behalf of the entire organization, I would like to thank the following groups and individuals who are helping us change children's lives for life:

Express Employment Professionals, Corporate Partner of the Year; **Washington State Mentors**, Investor Partner of the Year; **Convergence Networks**, Community Partner of the Year; **Gail Neuburg**, Philanthropist of the Year; **Rolling Hills Community Church**, Faith-Based Partner of the Year; **Mark Ickert**, Ambassador Board Member of the Year; **SEED Experience Strategy**, Media/Marketing Partner of the Year.

Sincerely,

Lynn Thompson
CEO

Big Impact on Adult Littles

In June Big Brothers Big Sisters released the findings of a Harris Interactive® study regarding the long-term effects of having a Big Brother or Big Sister. Surveying 449 adults from similar backgrounds—200 of whom were Little Brothers and Little Sisters for at least one year during their childhood—Harris Interactive® found that the current levels of income, education and satisfaction were higher for adult Littles than for adults from similar backgrounds who did not have a Big Brother or Big Sister. Among other findings, the study reports:

- Adult Littles were 75% more likely to have received a four-year college degree.
- A majority of adult Littles are very or extremely satisfied in their relationships with friends, family and spouses. Fewer adults who did not have a Big Brother or Big Sister report the same level of satisfaction.
- Adult Littles are more likely to be engaged in their community, particularly when it comes to volunteering and holding a leadership role in an issue-driven organization.

The adult Littles reported that having a Big Brother or Big Sister in their lives positively influenced their self confidence, provided stability, changed their perspectives on life, taught them new things, and influenced aspects of their education, pushing them to set higher goals and make better decisions.

*Esto es un boletín de Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest.
Si usted quiere más información, por favor pongase en contacto con su Especialista de apoyo.*

Little's Start Summer on Right Foot

A creative group of Little's kicked off their summer by designing their own footwear in the 2009 Kicks for Kids design fundraiser in May and June! Encouraging self-expression and creativity, each entry required detailed drawings and short answers explaining why the design elements represented the Little as an individual. Describing her ice cream-inspired design, Little Sister Ashton said, "My shoe says a lot about my personality. I'm happy, spunky, fun, and I love summer. I just like colors period! Also ice cream is the best thing you can have when it's sunny outside just like my shoes."

With nearly 50 entries, a selection committee had the arduous task of narrowing the entries down to 20 semifinalists. Over the following weeks, the semifinalists competed for five spots to



Little Brother Zeldon and Big Brother Mark show off "Z Hype" on Nike Design Day

have their shoe

designs produced by NIKEiD. All 20 semifinalists received a prize from Nike for their creativity, marketing and fundraising.

With the help of their Bigs, the semifinalists marketed their designs to generate support through monetary donations to Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest. The top five designs were selected based on those which received the most donations. In all, the 20 shoe designers raised over \$7,500 to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest! At the end of the challenging contest, Little Brother Ulises commented, "This has been a great experience and has inspired me to maybe be a designer."



Little Sister Melanie & Big Sister Rachelle are pleased with the final design of "Emo Shoe."

On June 26, the five finalists toured Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton and worked with NIKEiD employees to turn their shoe

designs into reality. Congratulations to the winners, and a big thanks to all the participants who made 2009 Kicks for Kids a big success.

The five finalists (in no particular order):

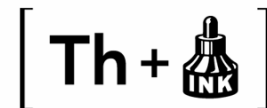
- "Z Hype" designed by Little Brother Zeldon
- "Wolff Track" designed by Little Brother Damon
- "Splat!" designed by Little Brother Ulises
- "Scream for Ice Cream" designed by Little Sister Ashton
- "Emo Shoe" designed by Little Sister Melanie

View photos and footage of the Little's during Nike Design Day at facebook.com/bbbsnorthwest.

Ninth Grade Counts

As part of its continued mission to help children reach their potential, Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest teamed up with the Portland Schools Foundation to offer the Ninth Grade Counts program to Little Brothers and Little Sisters entering high school. With less than 60% of Portland's high school students graduating on time, Ninth Grade Counts combats the city's poor graduation rate by easing the transition into high school with summer workshops emphasizing academic, career and life skills.

In its first summer, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest Ninth Grade Counts program offered seven Little Brothers and Little Sisters the chance to learn about academic preparedness, organization, money management, health and nutrition, career opportunities and more. Workshops, guest speakers and workplace visits encouraged healthy study and living habits to ensure success in high school and beyond. Guest speakers included Portland professionals and high school graduates, along with jobsite visits to Nike World Headquarters and Whole Foods Market. Good luck to all Little Brothers and Little Sisters starting school this year!



Portland Schools Foundation

Events & Happenings

Fundraising Events

Brother's Day 2009

For the second year, Widmer Brothers Brewing celebrated Brother's Day in style at the Gasthaus Pub's outdoor beer garden. Two hundred supporters enjoyed food, music and Widmer's finest brews all in the name of brotherhood. A prost to Widmer Brothers Brewing for raising \$10,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters!

Barnes & Noble Bookfair - SAVE THE DATE

Get your holiday shopping done early while supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest at Barnes & Noble Lloyd Center on **November 14**. Enjoy a fun-filled day of activities great for the whole family. A percentage of purchases made during the fair will go to Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest.

Little Moments Big Magic Breakfast - SAVE THE DATE

Save the date! The Little Moments Big Magic Breakfast is scheduled for **November 17** at the Hilton Portland. Join Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest volunteers and donors in supporting the future growth of the agency. Interested in attending or being a Table Captain? Contact Judi Charman at judi.charman@bbbs.org.

In The Community

Portland Pride

Generously sponsored by Nike's GLBT & Friends Network, Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest hosted a booth at the Portland Pride Festival to recruit volunteers and generate support for the Kicks for Kids entries. Big Brothers Big Sisters staff and several matches helped sign up 34 people to be a Big Brother, Big Sister or Big Couple while raising over \$200 towards the Kicks for Kids design fundraiser (Please see the article on page two for more about the Kicks for Kids contest).

Docupalooza

Flash bulbs were popping at the Hollywood Theatre on August 21 as Littles walked down the red carpet at the premiere of their Project Youth Doc films. 17 Littles participated in Project Youth Doc this summer learning how challenging, but rewarding, the filmmaking experience is. Congratulations to our future filmmakers, and thanks to Justen Harn and Film Action Oregon for helping Littles enjoy this amazing experience for the third straight year.



One of the ways Big Brothers Big Sisters finds new volunteers is by holding events called "Bigs for a Day." This photo is from one of two events with the Portland Trail Blazers Make it Better employee volunteers. The Multnomah Athletic Club also hosted one Bigs for a Day. Between the three events 25 new volunteers signed up to be a Big!

Match Activities

Coast Guard

What's cooler than sitting in the cockpit of a U.S. military helicopter? Watching U.S. Coast Guardsmen dive into the Columbia River for simulated rescue missions. Big Brother Jeremy Maginot arranged for over 80 Bigs and Littles to experience what it is like to protect our nation's waterways at Portland's U.S. Coast Guard base on May 30. Matches saw tactical demonstrations, toured several boats, and watched rescue divers leap into the cold Columbia River. If you would like more information on events like this, ask your Match Support Specialist for upcoming events and activities.

Family Fun Night

Oaks Park opened its doors to Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest on August 24 for an evening full of entertainment and excitement sponsored by SK2R Publishing. Armed with deluxe ride bracelets, Littles, Bigs and families enjoyed the thrill of unlimited rides, clowns, face painting and musical performances. Other organizations in attendance were Court Appointed Special Advocates, Police Activities League and the Portland Children's Museum.



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eScrip: Sign Up Today!

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest is pleased to announce a partnership with the national fundraising program, eScrip. Please support Big Brothers Big Sisters by signing up **for free** at escrip.com.

How it works:

When you spend money at a participating business, including Safeway, American Airlines, Zupans and more, eScrip will donate a percentage of your sales to Big Brothers Big Sisters at no cost to you. Since 1996, eScrip has connected community groups with corporate partners who, in turn, donate a percentage of sales to those participating groups.

How to sign up:

1. Visit www.escrip.com
2. Click "Sign up—it's free"
3. Enter Group ID 155501595 or search using other criteria
4. Register your information
5. Shop!

There are thousands of other great organizations on eScrip, too, so search for your favorite causes! Participants can support up to three groups. All you have to do is sign up—eScrip takes care of the rest with no out-of-pocket expense to you.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest Office Directory

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