

Big Connections Newsletter



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Langley

Ushering in a New Year
January 2010

VOLUNTEERS - OUR LIFE BLOOD!

"The biggest challenge we face is in helping people understand that they hold the power to making a difference in a child's life in their own hands," says Mary Reeves, Executive Director. "Volunteers who get involved at Big Brothers Big Sisters are from all walks of life, all economic and educational backgrounds, all cultures, and all age-ranges. What brings them to our office is a desire to give some of their time and attention to a child who needs a friend and we take it from there."

"The most important thing I would love everyone to know is that they don't need to change their lives in order to make a difference in a child's life," says Rebecca Baker, Manager of Program Services. "It's all about inviting a child to participate in the things you are already doing - the hobbies you love, the activities you do on your evenings or weekends. It may not seem like that big of a deal to us - but for the child, it may be the difference between wandering the streets and getting into trouble, or spending time in safe company where they are accepted and valued for who they are."



**Big Brother Tyler with
Little Brother Kirk**

*We need more
volunteers like
Tyler, will you
help us?*

MAJOR FUNDERS FOR 2009

BC Gaming Branch ~ \$145,000
United Way of the Lower Mainland ~ \$45,000
Murrayville Town Pub ~ \$35,000
Canadian Western Bank Better than GIC ~ \$18,000
Telus Community Grant ~ \$15,000
Coast Capital ~ \$6000
Mutual Fire Services ~ \$5,000

Our many event sponsors for Golf for Kids Sake and Bowl for Kids Sake as well as donors to The Annual Charity Auction.

These funders are critical to providing service to the children of Langley. Our Little Brothers and Sisters happy faces are a reminder of why we do what we do and why the community supports us financially!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*GIC Cheque Presentation
December 2009
MP's, Mayors, Canadian
Western Bank staff, BBBS
Langley Board and Staff
joined Big Brother
Norm Fulton and his
"Little" Colton
to receive \$18K towards
our programs.*



Charlie Brown's Philosophy

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money...or the most awards.



They simply are the ones who care the most !

BOARD PRESIDENT ~ Susan Pratt
Board Vice President ~ Debra Kovacs
Board Secretary ~ Joel Hagyard
Board Treasurer ~ Dan Reader

Staff

Executive Director ~ Mary Reeves
Manager, Program Services ~ Rebecca Baker
Mentoring Coordinator ~ Twyla Vokins
Mentoring Coordinator ~ Monica Schwabe
Administrative Assistant ~ Leslie Froese

**HAVE FUN...
HELP A CHILD!**



It's that time of year again when people are dusting off their bowling shoes and getting creative about their costumes. March 20th is the kickoff for this year's "Canada EH" themed Bowl for Kids Sake event. What a great way to build team spirit, have fun and help a child! Get involved in this year's event. If March 20th does not work for you let us know and we can book another date at either Willowbrook or Alder Lanes. With the online fundraising option it is easy to collect donations and be involved in making a difference in a child's life. Call early so that we can accommodate your team in a lane time that suits your needs. Sign up today by calling our office. We would love to have you involved. We still have room for lane sponsors and are always in need of door prizes.

**CANADIAN TIRE FOUNDATION
JUMPSTART FUNDING
Thank You!**

Our agency has been very pleased to receive Jumpstart funding these past number of years. This funding affords our "Littles" the opportunity to participate in recreational activities that they might not otherwise be able to access. We know our children are grateful for this and look forward to a new cycle of funding for this coming year.

Mark Your Calendars!

Agency Annual General Meeting:
February 16th, 7:00 PM
Manhattan's @ Murrayville Town Pub
RSVP required

Volunteer Appreciation:
May 4th, 6:30 PM
Murrayville Community Hall
Information to follow.

Christmas Hampers

We are very fortunate to have a number of groups and businesses help us provide hampers to some of our more disadvantaged families at Christmas. This year due to the generosity of 12 donors we were able to provide 13 hampers to our families and special gifts for some of the children. To see their faces and hear the joy in their voices is beyond compare. Thank you to all of our donors! We hope you know how special you are and that you made a huge difference this Christmas!

December 7th

What a great night for the "Littles"

Thanks to Sonrise Church and Andrew Masters for the wonderful event that they hosted for the matches in our program. Thanks also to Santa for taking time out of your busy schedule to show up and treat the children to some special gifts! The games, pizza dinner and venue were an awesome kick-off to the Christmas Season!



**RECORD BREAKING 2009
ANNUAL CHARITY AUCTION**
hosted by: Murrayville Town Pub
\$41,500 Raised

Jim Marsh, Canam Auctioneer, set a hectic pace as the highest bid for the evening reached \$3,700 for a 3-day Twin Anchors house boat cruise. This item as well as two tickets to Molson House for the Canada/USA Olympic Hockey Game and Manhattan's dinner for 8 all surpassed the \$3,000 mark for bids on a single item that evening.

The popular signature item of the evening occurred when the 5 lb. chocolate bar donated by GDH Electric was auctioned off 12 times totalling a record breaking \$5,400.

This proved to be one very well-liked chocolate bar!



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