



**the**  
Fall  
2011

# **BIG Connection**

A Newsletter from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff

# Our Programs

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff there are several programs to volunteer with, allowing you to make a big difference in the life of a child on any schedule. Find the one that works for you!

- **Community Based Mentoring:** In this 44-year-old mentoring program, Bigs serve as mentors and friends to Littles within the Flagstaff community. Once matched, Bigs and Littles bond by going on outings and doing fun activities together. Bigs and Littles meet for a couple hours a few times a month.
- **School Based Mentoring:** Bigs meet with Littles in first through fifth grade in seven different elementary schools in Flagstaff and Williams. During their one-on-one time together, matches participate in recreational, health, and academic activities. Bigs and Littles meet weekly, either after school from 3:30-5:30 p.m. or during the Littles' lunch time in Lunch Buddies Mentoring. Lunch Buddies allows the match to bond while eating lunch together, playing a game, or just talking. School Based Mentoring takes place during the scheduled school year, with an option to continue your match into the summer.
- **STARS:** In Coconino County there are more than 1,300 children with an incarcerated parent. In the STARS program, Bigs are matched with Littles who have an incarcerated parent or close family member. Bigs and Littles meet for a couple hours a few times a month.
- **STEP UP:** In a partnership with Coconino County Juvenile Court Services, this program matches teens involved in the court system with adult role models who introduce them to positive activities in the community. Bigs provide friendship and support to these teens, which inspires them to make positive life decisions.
- **GEAR UP:** This unique mentoring program pairs adult mentors with high school students. Mentors share their educational and personal backgrounds with youth who are working toward high school graduation with the goal of becoming first generation college students. Mentors and students can meet during the students' lunch time or in a Community Based style match.

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## Upcoming Events

### Holiday Dinner

Date: Tuesday, December 6th, 2011

Location: DuBois Center at NAU

Bigs and Littles are invited to this special event.

### Bowl for Kids Sake

Date: February 25th, 2011

Location: Starlite Lanes

### Joe Rolle Memorial Golf Tournament

Date: Spring 2011

Location: TBA

### Spring Picnic

Date: Saturday, May 6th, 2011

Location: Kinsey Elementary

Bigs and Littles are invited to this special event.

For more information on participating or sponsoring an event, please call 928-774-0649.



## A Note from the Executive Director

*Dear Friends,*

Wow, what a year it has been, for me personally, as well as for our fantastic organization! It is hard to believe that I have been at BBBSF for a year. It feels like I was always meant to be here.

I am very excited about our new address, and that we now have a permanent home for BBBSF! A huge thanks must go out to our Board of Directors for all the hours they've donated to remodel our new space. Not only will the new building be much more accessible to most of our clients, but it will lead to substantial annual savings as well.

I can assure you that I will continue to do my best to serve this agency, our community, and the kids to the best of my ability.

Thank you all for your generosity and continuing support of BBBSF!

*With Gratitude,*

*Randi Rolle*



## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff Staff

### **CEO/Executive Director**

Randi Rolle

### **Program Director**

Kelly Walsh

### **Operations Manager**

Rob McLean

### **Customer Relations Specialist**

Pat Washburn

### **Community Based Mentoring Program Coordinator**

Carolyn Hazen

### **School Based Mentoring Program Coordinator**

Christina Boyd

### **STARS Mentoring Program Coordinator**

Alycia Noriega

### **GEAR UP Mentoring Program Coordinators**

Laurel Clohessy  
Kathryn Lowery

### **STEP UP Mentoring Program Coordinators**

Rommy Sekhon  
Contessa Folkers

### **Office Assistant/Clothes For Kids' Sake Program Assistant**

Contessa Folkers

### **Clothes for Kids' Sake Route Manager**

Neil Wilson

### **Community Based Mentoring Match Support Specialist**

Sam Palliser

### **STEP UP Match Support Specialist**

Anthony Starace

### **Program Interns**

Caitlin Morgan  
Anissa Cardenas

### **Public Relations Coordinator**

T.J. Shull



“Every week I try to take Andrew somewhere new, they are usually places I find, then I like to experience them with him. We both really enjoy the outdoors and I think that is what makes our match so great!”

Big Brother, Andres

Start more success stories!  
Start changing lives.





“Andres is really cool, I like and look forward to hanging out with him”

Little Brother, Andrew

Start Creating Opportunity  
and make an Impact!



# Ways to Give

## Participate in an Event

Become a donor or volunteer for one of our fundraising events. By becoming a donor or a volunteer you get the satisfaction of supporting your community while giving back to the children in need.

## Plan for Tomorrow

Planned Gifts and Bequests ensure the continuation of our landmark mentoring programs and create your own legacy of support. Planned giving also offers significant advantages, including tax breaks and a potential income increase. If you're considering making Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff part of your trust, bequest, or endowment please contact Randi Rolle at (928) 774-0649 or randi@bbbsf.com.

## Tribute and Memorial Gifts

Giving a gift in memory of a loved one or in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion is a fantastic way to pay tribute to that special someone while supporting our mission.

## Donate a Vehicle to the Car4Kids' Sake Program

Your used vehicle may be turned into cash to support our programs! Request your donation to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff. Contact 1-800-710-9145.

## Employer Matching Gifts

Many employers match donations to charitable organizations for their employees, retirees and even family members, which can double or even triple your donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff.

## AZ State Tax Credit

Donations to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff qualify for the AZ State Tax Credit for the working poor. Individuals and couples filing jointly can qualify for credits up to \$200 and \$400, respectively, per qualifying organization. For more information please visit <http://bbbsf.com/bbbsftaxinfo.pdf>

We are happy to assist donors and advisors in structuring their gifts. Please contact us at (928) 774-0649 or email [randi@bbbsf.com](mailto:randi@bbbsf.com)

Thank you for supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff



## Clothes for Kids' Sake Bin Locations

Donating your used clothing and household items to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff generates funds to support our mentoring programs.

Hastings Parking Lot  
Safeway Parking Lot (Plaza Way)  
HomCo Ace Home Center  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff Office  
Albertson's Parking Lot  
4th Street Shell Station  
Coconino Federal Credit Union  
(Westside location)  
Shell Station (Top of Humprey's)  
Late for the Train (Ft. Valley Location)  
Northern Arizona University (Wilson lot)  
Williams, AZ Safeway Parking Lot  
Flagstaff Athletic Club – East  
Flagstaff Athletic Club – West  
Subway on Highway 89  
Marshall Elementary School  
Knolles Elementary School  
Mountaineer County Store  
Kachina Village Fire Station  
Savers Retail Store

# Mission

To help children succeed by matching them with appropriate adult mentors.

# Vision

To bring a Big Brother or Big Sister relationship to every child who needs or wants one.

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## Program Updates

**By: Kelly Walsh, Program Director**

I have the privilege of coming to a job that I love everyday. Not many people can say that. I think the reason I love it so much is pretty simple. Our programs make positive impacts and a difference in the lives of the youth we mentor, their families, our volunteer Bigs, and the community. I get to be a part of something BIG while working with the most inspiring families, volunteers, and staff you could ever imagine. I am able to see kids experiencing new activities because their Bigs created an opportunity for them to do so.

I am happy to report that our programs had another amazing year. Overall, we served a total of 800 Bigs and Littles in mentoring relationships. Our Step Up Mentoring Program grew substantially this year, with 2,481 combined mentoring hours provided to local teens. We celebrated the graduation of 8 GEAR UP Seniors from Coconino High School. Five of these students received substantial college scholarships from GEAR UP! School Based Mentoring's new partnership with Safeway on Cedar has created several new matches at Killip Elementary, and STARS Mentoring is still supporting families affected by incarceration despite federal funding cuts.

Our agency has been able to smoothly transition to the AIM System, which allows staff to improve service delivery and provide better match support, in turn creating longer, stronger matches. Our team has been hard at work developing community partnerships in order to recruit mentors and raise awareness of our programs while deepening our impact in the community.

Our programs will continue to create and support vital mentoring relationships for at-risk youth in Flagstaff and Williams. I want to thank our Big Brothers and Big Sisters who make these impacts possible. We appreciate the time and commitment you give to the youth in this community. You are doing something remarkable, something rewarding, and something BIG!





## What Kids Need Developmental Assets

### What are the 40 Developmental Assets?

**T**he Developmental Assets are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that both influence choices young people make, and help them become caring, responsible adults. Studies of more than 2.2 million young people in the United States consistently show that the more assets young people have the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviors and the more likely they are to thrive. Assets have a powerful effect on all young people regardless of their gender, economic status, family or race/ethnicity. That's why BBBSF encourages Bigs and Littles to do activities that promote Confidence, Competence, and Caring Skills in youth. Check out these Asset building activities and get to exploring new things in Flagstaff!

### Confidence-Building Activities

- Swimming, canoeing, water skiing, teaching water safety
  - o Aquaplex
  - o Lake Mary
- Outdoor sports and activities and safety information
  - o Dogtown Lake
  - o Walnut Canyon
  - o Arizona Hiking Trails – Flagstaff
  - o Bearizona
- Ping pong, pool, cards, board games
- Tennis, racquetball, volleyball
  - o Codgill Recreation Center
  - o Flagstaff Recreation Center
- Skating, skiing, hockey
  - o Jay Lively Activity Center
  - o Nordic Center
  - o Snowbowl
- Flying a kite, throwing a Frisbee
  - o Flagstaff City Parks
- Twirling a baton, learning a cheerleading routine
  - o Flagstaff Gymnastics Center



## Caring-Building Activities

- Go to the library, check out books, read a story together
  - o Flagstaff Public Library
  - o NAU Cline Library
  - o Coconino Community College Library
  - o Bookman's Entertainment Exchange
- Teach your Little any special skill you may have
- Encourage, help and support your Little with his/her hobbies
- Have your Little teach you how to do something

## Competence-Building Activities

- Talk about friends you each have, what your best friend is like and what it means to be a friend
- Help your Little work through problems he/she may be having at home, school, friends, etc.
- Teach your Little good telephone etiquette, how to leave messages, how to use emergency phone numbers
- Role model and reinforce good personal hygiene
- Discuss the importance of good manners (a smile, please, thank you, etc.)
- Go on a field trip to a fire department, police station, your place of employment, etc.
  - o Flagstaff Police Department
  - o NAU Police Department
  - o Flagstaff Fire Department
- Introduce your Little to new foods by making a special ethnic meal, favorite family recipe, eat at a nice restaurant, etc.
- Teach your Little how to wash clothes, iron, mend clothing, clean the house, etc.
- Plant a vegetable or flower garden
  - o Southside Community Garden
  - o Bonito Street Community Garden
- Teach basic car maintenance such as washing/waxing, changing the oil, etc.
- Teach yard maintenance such as cutting the grass, weeding, raking, seeding, fertilizing, etc.
  - o The Arboretum at Flagstaff
- Teach your Little how to fill out a job application, role play the interview situation and discuss what is expected when presenting yourself for a job interview
- Help your Little look for jobs in the neighborhood, newspaper, etc.
- Take your Little to the bank and help him/her open a savings account and start a budget
- Help your Little decide what subjects to take in high school, talk about future goals for college or employment

- Teach your Little about responsible uses of energy
- Teach your Little how to recycle aluminum, paper, plastic, etc.
  - o Willow Bend Environmental Center
- Encourage your Little to teach you about his/her family's customs and traditions
- Offer to help your Little make something special for his/her room such as a wall hanging, framed picture, book shelves, arts and crafts or model
  - o Michael's Arts and Crafts (classes)
- Plan a neighborhood clean-up activity
- Volunteer together at the soup kitchen, animal shelter, etc.
  - o Flagstaff Youth Volunteer Corps
  - o Flagstaff Family Food Center
  - o St. Mary's Food Bank
  - o Humane Society
- Introduce your Little to animals and pets, teach caring and respect for nature
- Make holiday cards, crafts, etc. and take them to visit residents at a local nursing home
  - o Emeritus at Flagstaff
- Keep a journal/diary of your friendship and occasionally share entries with one another
- Put together a scrapbook or photo album to include mementos from each of your outings
- Write your Little a note when you have to be away for awhile and encourage your Little to do the same
- Introduce your Little to new cultures by discussing various cultural holidays, differing religions, ethnic food, importance of equality and visiting museums, community festival and historic places
  - o Museum of Northern Arizona
  - o Riordan Mansion
  - o Lowell Observatory
- Make a bird feeder/bird house, string cheerios and hang on a tree, attach a pinecone covered with peanut butter, etc.



# To Our Board

I want to personally thank each of our board members for their hard work and dedication to BBBSF. I have never worked with such an incredible board before and I cannot begin to tell you how much each member contributes. From helping with registration at various events to obtaining items for silent auction, it is all fabulous! It is a true honor to work for a group whose leadership skills are a motivation to me. The governing board's oversight of our financials has enabled us to obtain a permanent home at 102 West Hunt Avenue. It was their good decision making and foresight of future needs so that we will be able to carry on our mentoring programs hopefully for the next 44 years!

With great sincerity,

*Randi Rolle*

## Governing Board

President – Nancy Davis  
Vice President – Keith Killeen  
Secretary – Fanny Steinlage  
Treasurer – Chip Ogden  
Past President – Josh Steinlage

Mickey Glasby  
Dan Groth  
BJ Henkenius  
Kirk Robertson  
Ralph Whistler  
Cristy Zeller  
Dave Brown  
Jami Brown  
Stacey Cislo  
Shelagh O'Connor

## Big Sisters Activity Board

President – Mickey Glasby  
Vice President – Cristy Zeller  
Secretary – Jami Brown  
Treasurer – Cindy Anderson  
Past President – Fanny Steinlage

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Natalie Cawood  
Stacey Cislo  
Jennifer Curtis  
Nancy Davis  
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Bren Hershey  
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Nicole Lynn  
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## Big Brothers Activity Board

President – BJ Henkenius  
Vice President – Dave Brown  
Secretary – Eric Peterson  
Treasurer – Ralph Whistler  
Past President – Tommy Tennyson

Brian Beamer  
Jim Driscoll  
Rex Gilliland  
Dan Groth  
Brent Harris  
Keith Killeen  
Dave Klensin  
Greg Kuzma  
Chip Ogden  
Andrew Prosper  
Kirk Robertson  
Josh Steinlage  
Tom Turnbull  
Doug Umlah  
Bill Unkovich  
Neil Weintraub

# Successful Fundraising Events



## 34th Annual Run for the Magic

By: Neil Weintraub

Thanks to all who lent a hand in our 34th Annual Run for the Magic. We had 50 more finishers (439) than last year. We were close to 550 paid and raised nearly \$28,000. Of course the loudest cheers came for Randi our Executive Director when she crossed the finish line of the 5K. What an achievement! Many of you probably did not hear the story that winner Michael Smith grew up with a Big. When he crossed the finish line first, he told me he won this race to honor his Little - for it was his Little's first day at college! He then raved about the professionalism of our race and its high quality. Those are big words from one of the elite trail racers in the country. There are of course some details to iron out for next year, but all in all we pulled it off for the 34th straight time.



## Joe Rolle Memorial Golf Tournament

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff hosted their Annual *Joe Rolle Memorial Golf Tournament* May 6th 2011. This event was held at Aspen Valley Golf Club. Participants enjoyed lunch, an 18-hole scramble, prizes for top finishers and a raffle. Unfortunately no one won the hole-in-one giveaway car, maybe next year. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff couldn't have hoped for a better turn out raising nearly \$30,000. We are so excited for our 2012 *Joe Rolle Memorial Golf Tournament*. We hope to see all of our supporters there, enjoying a day of golf.

## Make an Arizona Tax Credit Donation to



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Flagstaff

**Donate up to \$400**  
to Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Flagstaff and  
**GET IT ALL BACK!**

**Keep your tax dollars local,  
where you can  
see them at work!**



## Match Anniversaries

The following matches celebrate an anniversary in 2011. Congratulations and thank you to all of our Bigs and Littles for your participation in BBBSF!

### Matched One Year

#### Bigs Littles

Jimmy Beebe	Keegan
Malynda Carter	Annmarie
Jennifer Schirmer	Elisa
Olivia Colegrove	Callie
Denise Crum	Jeryn
Lucy Garcia	Joshua
Stephen Aranda	Jesus
Lindsey Veit	Nichole
Sarah Bonnay	Amethyst
Jamie Ballard	Daniel
Miranda Minasian	Cody
Avianna Acid	Shaylee
Kelsey Gibbs	Avelina
Christopher Keeler	Ryan
Shayanna Kelly	Anna
Cailie Buckingham	Mariah
Nicole Vlahogeorge	Selesta
Danielle Connella	Sean
Rose Mary Cummins	Samantha
Benjamin Bastidos	Jaime
Jessica Garard	Chelsea
Taylor Smith	Abigail
Jennifer Beltz	Elizabeth
Cabrina Weems	Katie
David Bull	Chris
Jason Ryan	Ralph
Russell Weidaw	Tristin
Melissa Ann Birkett	Elijah
Jim Gratton	Chad
Trevor Lawrence	Gabriel
Erin Woodard	Joseph
Neil Weintraub	Elijah
Jason Larosa	Lawrence

### Matched Two Years

#### Bigs Littles

Jeffrey Benzimmer	Michael
Sydney Tolchinsky	Francesca
Megan Schreck	Nizhonie
Philip Kolb	Joseph
James Connell	Sean

Robert Fain	Brandon
Ian and Courtney Burrell	Ethan
Alana Kuhlman	Lani
Katie Lunde	Summer
Jill Rust	Brita
Sara Olson	Darian
Jeremy Kingsbury	William

### Matched Three Years

#### Bigs Littles

Anthony and Michael Starace	Jesus
Kimberly Yip	Alejandra
Greta Matje	Kayla
Sarah Reynolds	Sawyer
Cassie Luke	Izabel

### Matched Four Years

#### Bigs Littles

Nicholas Velde	Andrew
Callie Davis	Mackenzie
Seth Calkins	Kole
Steve and Ann Spravzoff	Nick
Ryan Korte	Kyle

### Matched Five Years

#### Bigs Littles

Daveane Simpson	Catherine
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### Matched Six Years

#### Bigs Littles

Samantha Palliser	Sage
Peter Bungart	Jimmie

### Matched Eight Years

#### Bigs Littles

Megan Patton	Kirsten
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### Matched Nine Years

#### Bigs Littles

Tony Mangine	Tyler
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### Matched Eleven Years

#### Bigs Littles

Rebecca Cox	Crystal
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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff  
102 West Hunt  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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# the BIG Connection



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Created by:  
Thomas Shull