



Gulf Coast
Big Brothers Big Sisters
 January 2015 97th edition
 Quarterly Newsletter



**THE
 LITTLE
 BIG-HORN**

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January is National Mentoring Month

The New Year's Resolution You Will Want to Keep: Mentor a Child

Each one of us remembers someone special — a neighbor, teacher, relative, or friend — who broadened our horizons and brought a little magic into our lives. Maybe it was the person who taught you to throw straight, gave you an “attaboy” or “attagirl” or just listened. It may have been someone who helped you make a good decision, instead of a bad one.

So what better way to start a new year than to return the favor by mentoring a young person? January is National Mentoring Month, as well as the month to make New Year's resolutions. This year, if you become a mentor, it may be the one resolution you will want to keep. Just a few hours a couple of times a month can make a big difference in a child's life, and be a rewarding experience.

Big Brother Greg Samford, with UTMB Information Systems, was matched with Little Brother Nathan in the fall of 2004. Their friendship started as a school-based match while he was in the second grade attending San Jacinto Elementary. The following year at midterm Nathan transferred to another school. It was then Big Brother Greg first realized the direction the relationship was headed. During their first meeting at the new school Nathan's comment was, “I knew you would find me.” Over the next few years, Greg tried to prepare Nathan for the importance of a good education. In April 2010, Greg and Nathan made the transition to go community-based so that they can spend more time together outside of the school setting. When Greg met Nathan's mother they discussed three goals for Nathan: he would eventually get himself into better condition; he would also learn the history of the civil rights movement, and finally he too would become involved in community service by volunteering for the Meals on Wheels program with his Big Brother. Greg said this experience has been fantastic for Nathan. He likes helping others and being thanked for his efforts. He is also learning that being successful takes a lot of hard work and that there will be setbacks along the journey. Nathan has also learned that Greg has “got his back” and will always be there for him. When Nathan learned at the agency's annual Christmas party that another Little was now 17 years old, he looked at Greg and said, “That means I get to be in this program until I am 17 too! Greg said Nathan is a daily reminder to him that we enjoy life and have our most productive days when we are helping other see their dreams become reality. Nathan will graduate from Ball High School in May 2015 and Greg will be there cheering him on.

Mentoring makes a BIG difference. Research shows that one-to-one, professionally supported mentoring has a direct, measurable, and lasting impact. Children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to be involved in delinquent behaviors.

Gulf Coast Big Brothers & Big Sisters is actively recruiting mentors. The need for male and female volunteers is urgent.

Too few young people have a caring adult mentor to provide encouragement and support. Mentoring programs can provide the link to this support, but programs like ours need volunteers to close the gap.

Resolve to mentor a child today, and have a great and rewarding New Year. For more information, call the Big Brothers Big Sisters office at 409-763-4638 or visit our website at www.mentorsgc.org.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
 CELEBRATES
NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH
 JANUARY 2015



BB Greg & LB Nathan delivering food boxes for Meal on Wheels.



BB Greg honored for his 12 years of service with GCBBS.



United Way Galveston
 United Way Galveston County Mainland

CONGRATULATIONS!

To our new community based & school based matches!



BB Benjamin Villarreal
and LB Brandy - SB



BB Greg Cavin and
LB Chandler - SB



BB Hank Thierry and
LB Dante - SB



BB Matthew Doyle
and LB Daniel - SB



BB Michael Guillot
and LB Jonah - SB



BB RJ Harris and
LB Jon - CB



BB Rodrigo Santoyo
and LS Giovanni - CB



BS Alexis Kuecker and
LS Jennifer - SB



BS Anjali Charvoz and
LS Roniyah - CB



BS Ashley Conley and
LS Laressa - SB



BS Catherine Ryan
and LS Marissa - SB



BS Cecilia Drennen
and LS Aniya - SB



BS Christina Ebert and
LS Miranda - CB



BS Claudia Martinez
and LS Tiffany - SB



BS Eleanor Cockerell
and LS Isis - SB



BS Fabiola Casas and
LS Eternity - SB



BS Inta Eilands and LS
Destinee - CB



BS Jessica Jaeger and
LS Linsey - SB



BS Jessica Kalinowski
and LS Baily - SB



BS Kristi Patteson and
LS Marissa - SB



BS Marianna Lemire
and LS Amonte - SB



BS May Mitchell and
LS Clara - SB



BS Melnikia Smith
and LS Hay-Lei - SB



BS Paige Hoyer and
LS Trennifer - SB



BS Paige Hoyt and
LS Ashley - SB



BS Paige Hoyt and
LS Jacalynn - CB



BS Selah Tacconi
and LS Mya - SB



BS Stephanie Tutak
and LS Alessandra - SB



BS Valree Morgan and
LS Hannah - SB

CONGRATS

To our matches celebrating
anniversaries in October,
November & December 2014

COMMUNITY-BASED

One Year

BS Cassie McCully & LS Shyra

BS Sylvia Le & LS Megan

Two Years

BB Cody Tatum & LB Coby

BS Hillary Gramm & LS Emily

Three Years

BB Brent Richardson
& LB Ki'Sean

BB Aaron Maxwell & LB Keven

Four Years

BB Aaron Wyble & LB Jacc

Five Years

BB Paul Garcia & LB Jacob

Six Years

BB Kurt Henry & LB Demonta

Seven Years

BB Paul Parker & LB Ray

Nine Years

BB Travis Young & LB Melvin

SCHOOL/SITE-BASED

One Year

BS Shelly Moran
& LS Cathalina

BS Tyra Brunz & LS Keiona

BB Jose Martinez & LB Jason

BS Rosie Zile & LS Alezae

BS Keely Sikes & LS JoKayla

BS Samantha Seal & LS Taylor

BS Elizabeth Abbott & LS Dezi

Two Years

BS Samantha Brennan
& LS Shyann

BS Christen Watt
& LS Dorothy

GCBBS 2014 Christmas Party

Over 160 Bigs, Littles, & GCBBS board members & guests gathered to enjoy the agency's 2014 Community-Based Christmas Party hosted by the San Luis Hotel. Each Little Brother & Little Sister received two gifts from the agency and had an opportunity to visit and take a photo with Santa. Rocking Holiday tunes were provided by "DJ. Hugg" and The DLS Dance Studio wowed our guests with their outstanding dance performance and set the mood for the start of the Holiday Season. Holiday refreshments were provided by the GCBBS Board of Directors.

We would like to thank our Bigs & Board of Directors, the San Luis Hotel and Staff and the many individuals and community partners who made Christmas 2014 a huge success.

Because of all of you, Christmas was very special again this year!

Thanks!

For Your Support

GCBBS would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and foundations who contributed \$500 or more in grants and donations in 2014. Your support is crucial to our program's growth and we want you to know how much we appreciate you!

Valero

Frost Bank – Houston

The Moody Foundation

The Moody Mansion

Mrs. Patricia McCloy

Moody National Bank

Carnival Cruise Lines

The Trull Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Tilman Fertitta

Yaga's Children's Fund

United Way of Galveston

Ashland Employee Giving

Gary Davis – Merrill Lynch

DSW Homes – Steve Mataro

Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund

Sasser Family Foundation

Kiwanis Club of Galveston

Jamail Galveston Foundation

Rotary Club of Galveston Island

Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association

Galveston Restaurant Association

Meadows Foundation/ Amachi Texas

Bank of America – United Way Campaign

United Way Galveston County Mainland

Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust

Southwest Airlines Charitable Giving

Plane/Henley Complex and TDCJ

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church
– Permanent Endowment Fund

Exxon Mobil Foundation – Doug & Marge Tabony

Gulf Coast Big Brothers & Big Sisters also recognized our "super star" mentors at the Christmas Party. Celebrating milestone anniversaries were:

Five Years

Emily Boughal

Jay Charvoz

Nikisha Clementin

Paul Garcia

Six Years

Ellen Goldhirsh

David Lantz

Jeremy Mohon

Joe Morgan

Ken Wederski

Travis Young

Seven Years

Paul Parker

Eight Years

Harrette Howard

Ten Years

Susan Broll

Joyce Fant

Sandra Kim

Paige Spinn

Kera Tovar

Eleven Years

Kurt Henry

Twelve Years

Greg Samford

Thirteen Years

David Bowers

Thirty-Two Years

Gerson Bloom

Carlos Caldera



BB Carlos Caldera & LB Billy



BB Gerson Bloom & LB Devion



BB Greg Samford & LB Nathan



BB Kurt Henry & LB Demonta



BS Paige Spinn & LS Lydia



BS Sandra Kim & LS Anjel



BS Susan Broll & LS Ebony



BS Joyce Fant & LS Michaela

Gulf Coast Big Brothers & Big Sister wishes to extend a BIG Thank You to ...

The AT&T Telephone Pioneers; Jamaica Janes, represented by Melody Matthews; the Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association & the Galveston Restaurant Group represented by Buzz Elton, Paul Schultz, Kelly Deshaun, Theresa Elliott, Steve Cunningham, Garvin O'Neal, & Mike Pistone; and the 2014 Valero Benefit for Children Golf Classic represented by the Valero Texas City Refinery Senior Executives along with Cindy Schulz, GCBBS Executive Director and Bob Senter, Board President, for their very generous donations to Big Brothers Big Sisters.



AT&T Pioneers Christmas Donation



Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association & Galveston Restaurant



Jamaica Janes Christmas Donation



Valero Benefit for Children Golf Classic Check Presentation

The following memorial and honorary donations were made to Gulf Coast BBBS

In Memory of Evangelina Ruiz
By Charlene & Heidi Lutz

In Memory of Betty M. Schocke
By the following:

Mitzi Nevelow Levy
Douglas G. Rogers
HC and Cindy Schulz

In Memory of Dr. Irving Weinstein
By Mitzi Nevelow Levy

**In Honor of the Children and Family
of Henry and Nancy Freudenburg**
By Henry and Nancy Freudenburg

Make a donation in memory of or
in honor of a friend or loved one.

YES! I would like to support the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters!

_____ In memory of _____ In honor of

Name to be recognized: _____

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of: \$ _____

Please charge my credit card in the amount of: \$ _____

Please circle: MC Visa Discover American Express

Card # _____ Exp: ____ / ____ VCN # _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

MAIL TO: GCBBS, 1413 Tremont, Galveston, TX 77550