



ONE to ONE

Supporters Newsletter for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch



December 2012

Big growth curve for 2012

Welcome to the first Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch newsletter. 2012 has been a seminal year for us that has seen the organisation grow exponentially both in terms of the numbers of matches we are serving and our profile within the Christchurch community. This is largely due to the outstanding work that our volunteers are doing. In addition to changing the lives of well over a hundred children in the City, what their work has done is give us some great stories to tell to both our funders and the media, which in turn generates more mentors, more matches and more happy and secure kids.

It's standard for a chairman of any organisation to say that we couldn't do this without the volunteers help and support but in this case it's absolutely true. I would also pay tribute to our staff team, which I consider to be the strongest we have ever had since our inception ten years ago. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mike Cron, All Blacks coach, who has become our patron.

And what of the future? Well, I've been with BBBS for eight years now and I don't think we have ever been in a stronger or more exciting position. I hope that some of the articles that follow will energise you as much as they have done me. Have a great holiday season!

Tim Webster
Board Chair

In a league of their own

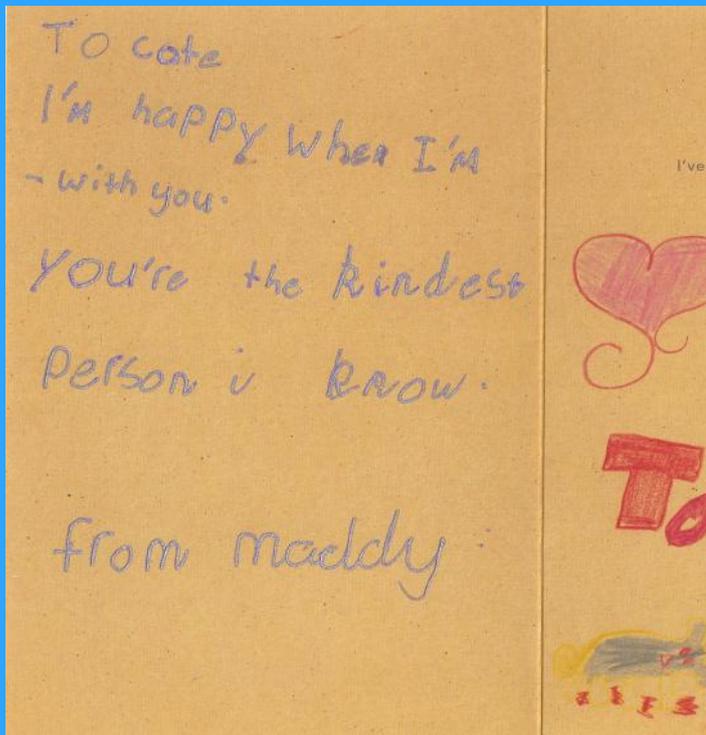
Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words, sometimes it's worth a precious gold trophy. Peter, a Christchurch policeman, saw a story about Big Brothers Big Sisters in a community paper last year. The accompanying photograph was of a child sitting in a light aircraft with his mentor. "There was something about the look on the little boy's face," Peter says. "It made me think there might be someone out there that I could offer something to."

An internet search led him to Big Brothers Big Sisters and last December he met his new "little brother" Jayden, 11. Since then they've been fishing, go-karting and kayaking but from a year of adventures, Jayden says his favourite time with Peter was simply going for a walk around Travis Wetlands because he'd "never been there before and it was kinda cool. He's someone that I can do different things with 'cos I don't have a big brother."

Their biggest achievement was yet to come. Jayden mentioned he liked playing league so Peter signed him up for a club team. At the end-of-season prize giving, Jayden won the trophy for Most Improved Player. "I was just sitting there and they said my name. I was like, 'wow'". Jayden reckons he's the first one in his family to get a trophy and it takes pride of place in his room.

Peter says the best thing about being a mentor is seeing Jayden do things he might never have the chance to do. "It was quite a commitment but when you see something like this, it's worth it."

Photo of Jayden and Peter above



Numbers

9½ The average starting age of a child

200% The increase in new mentors who joined us this year (90 new mentors)

58/42 Ratio of Girls to Boys in our Programme (we need more male mentors!)

\$645 The daily cost to run Big Brothers Big Sisters

160 The number of children mentored this year

2 years The average match lasts about 2 years

Where giving keeps giving

Whether you're ready for a change in your wardrobe, or moving house and need to get rid of some useful possessions, consider giving them to Sara's charity shop on Stourbridge St in Barrington.



Sara's shop has become part of the Barrington community but the impact of the shop has wider scope. When someone donates clothes and household goods to Sara, she sells them at a reasonable price and then gives all her profit to Big Brothers Big Sisters. From there, we are able to find more volunteers who are prepared to give their time to one young person. It's giving that just keeps on giving.

"Thanks for taking me out and making it feel like an adventure every time"

Thanks to our supporters

Alpine Ice

Barrington Charity Shop

Blogg Charitable Trust

BNI Emmisaries

Canterbury Community Trust

Canterbury Social Support Fund

Christchurch City Council

Clip'N Climb

CoGS

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Pegasus Health

Pub Charity

St Andrews College

The Southern Trust

The Vodafone Foundation

Toby Hill Farm Tours

United Way

Waimak Alpine Jet

Wayne Francis Charitable Trust

Givers through our Regular Giving Programme

Events

We have had the opportunity to participate in some awesome events this year and not just for the kids either! We run one event per term for mentors and kids to attend and this year they have had the opportunity to go ice-skating, rock climbing, bowling and jet boating. At the end of November, 70 of our mentors and kids also appeared on What Now children's programme. We love giving the young people fantastic memories.



Dawn and Kate on the ice

We were also fortunate to have Nathan Mikaere-Wallis from the Brainwave Trust come and speak to mentors on the Adolescent Brain. All the events were extremely well attended, and we are grateful for all the funding we have received to enable these events to take place.

She's always just been there

"Having a mentor is great for kids who aren't sure of their place in the world, and don't fit in so well". Wise words from Erica, 17, who 5 years ago was a shy, socially awkward (her own words) 12 year old who had just moved to Christchurch with her mum. Starting the final year of intermediate with no friends was tough.

Her mentor, Rachelle, 33, had left school at 15 armed with a reference from a teacher urging employers *not* to give her a job because "she has too much



potential to leave school". Employers ignored the plea and to cut a long story short, by 21, she was a struggling solo mum with 3 children under five. "Thankfully, I had a few friends who believed in me, and encouraged me to go back to school. They were my mentors, really". Now a practicing solicitor, Rachelle didn't want other kids to struggle like her, so she volunteered to mentor.

Returning to her old school, and despite a warning from a teacher not to expect the match to last long, Rachelle and Erica have celebrated 5 years of mentoring. Erica soon graduates from high school and embarks on a career in carpentry. "Rachelle has always encouraged me. She taught me how to communicate ...and how to understand the world I live in. When I had arguments with mum, she tried to explain mum's perspective but understood mine too. She's always just been there"



Paul and Ben at Clip'n'Climb



Ten Pin Bowling



Jet Boating the Waimakariri River

"Thank you for being a great Mentor. I like that we have so much fun together. You are the greatest and bestest mentor ever"



"If I have anything worrying me and it's big then I tell my mentor, but if it's small then I'm usually having so much fun that I forget"

I want to help



- \$150 pays for our office rental for a month
- \$127 recruits a new volunteer
- \$90 pays for 6 children to attend one of our group events
- \$56 pays for resources in a school for a mentor
- \$26 pays for training a new mentor

Please fill in this form and return it in the enclosed Reply Paid Envelope
Cheques should be made payable to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch

Or Debit my Credit Card with \$

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- Please send information on how I can help Big Brothers Big Sisters through volunteering.
- Please send information on how I can help the Big Brothers Big Sisters through my will.

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