



***Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Central Vancouver Island***

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2007**



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Central Vancouver Island**

***Vision:*** Every child who needs a Mentor, has a Mentor

***Annual General Meeting:*** March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.  
Activity Room #1, Bowen Complex  
500 Bowen Rd., Nanaimo, BC

***Agenda:***

**Introduction/Call to Order**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Approval of AGM Minutes form March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Reports**

President  
Executive Director  
Program Manager  
Case Worker

**Treasurer's Report**

2008 Budget Approval  
Approval of Financial Statements  
Appointment of Accountants 2008

**Guest Speakers**

Rachel Robinson- Leadership BC  
Nikita and Anthony- Teen Mentors

**Election of Directors**

**New Business**

Service Area (discussion)

**Adjournment**

***Mission Statement:*** “We commit to the children and youth of Central Vancouver Island that we will be leaders in providing them with the highest quality, volunteer-based mentoring programs.”



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### *President's Report*

**Every child who needs a mentor shall have a mentor.....**

This is the Vision of our organization. Matching suitable volunteer mentors, with children who need mentors is what Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island does. It is all we do! All other activities are peripheral to making this happen. Sadly, we come short of our vision, in that, we have many children on the waiting lists but our Vision remains clear and we continue to work towards it.

I would like to thank you all for attending our 2008 Annual General Meeting. This is our 35<sup>th</sup> year of serving children in Nanaimo. Each year presents new challenges and happily many successes.

Last year was certainly no exception, especially in the challenges department but we look upon these challenges as opportunities to learn and to move forward.

Last year, Doug Blott resigned as president so that he could devote more of his time to Mentoring Excellence BC and the Big Brothers/ Big Sisters National Organization. Doug was President when I came on board about five years ago and steered the organization through some very tough times. I would like to publicly thank him for his years of dedication to our organization. I am pleased to advise that Doug accepted a position as honorary board member so that he can "stay in the loop."

#### **Staff Changes:**

During the year, we had several staff changes.

- Denise, our Executive Director, left for Mentoring Excellence BC.
- Our Marketing/Fundraising staff member, Teresa left for a position as ED with another charity

We took this as an opportunity to reorganize and as a result,

- Paulyne moved to the newly created program manager position
- A new caseworker, Dean was hired and I am happy to say, he is doing very well.
- Tiffany, our girl Friday, has decided to go back to school. She is taking courses towards Social Work Degree and we fully support her initiative but as a result, she is only able to work two days per week.
- The Marketing/ Fundraising work has been contracted out....
  - Joanne Rosen is doing our marketing and fundraising including our Bowl for Kids and golfing events.
  - Marjorie Driscoll is writing our funding applications and is providing valuable advice in that area.

#### **Fundraising:**

In the past year, our fundraising has provided the funds we require to operate and as always, it was a challenge. Towards the beginning of last year there were a few significant shortfalls and we were worried that we may run a deficit. Toward the end of the year, some cost savings resulting from our reorganization, some better than expected results in other areas and a couple of nice windfalls have resulted in us ending the year with a small surplus.

An important outcome of the earlier shortfalls is that we have reviewed our budgeting procedures to ensure that line items more accurately reflect our true expectations.

#### **Casework:**

Our Program Manager, Paulyne will be providing a report on casework. Our numbers are down a bit over the previous year but with the upheavals over the past year, this is not surprising. I am confident that Paulyne and our new caseworker, Dean, will be able to recapture our losses and show some growth in the coming year. They are a great team!



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### **The Board:**

Regrettably, our board has shrunk with several board members resigning for unavoidable personal or job related reasons. Many thanks to past board members: David Sauve, Karen Orr, and Parisa Firoozfam.

I wish to acknowledge our current board of Directors. They are a dedicated and dynamic bunch of individuals who put in much more time than just the couple of hours required for a board meeting. Board meetings are “relevant” with valuable input from all present.

### **The Coming Year:**

Denise’s position with MEBC has changed allowing her to return to us on a part time basis. Denise has returned as Executive Director but with much revised job description. We are very happy to have her back.

As of last meeting, we were happy to appoint Linda Murray to our board. She is a lady with great energy and will be a valuable addition to our board. We look forward to working with her.

As always, the coming year will provide many challenges. And with this in mind, the board and staff held a strategic planning session in the fall of last year. I believe that one of the key issues identified, was the need to increase our marketing efforts so we have a great recognition in the community and that there is a better understanding of the services that we provide.

We need to get our “needs” out there.

#### Volunteers:

- Mentors
- Directors
- Committee Members
- Event Volunteers

#### Sponsors:

- Event sponsors
- Strategic alliances to provide numbers of event volunteers

Money is what enables us to do what we do. I am proud to tell you that we “do what we do”, very efficiently and we have one of the lowest cost per match in BC, but the bottom line is, that, with more money, we could serve more kids. The waiting list is huge and many kids within our service area would benefit greatly from an adult friend/mentor.

It is always a delicate balance between serving as many kids as possible and staying within our budget.

Our Bowl for Kids Sake event is March 30<sup>th</sup>, I hope that many of you will participate. If possible get a team of bowlers together and join us. It will be lots of fun and will help us to carry on our worthwhile programs.

One of the great difficulties that we face is that we have little stability in our year to year fundraising and it is difficult to plan for the growth that is required to serve more children. One initiative that we started last year was a monthly giving program. In this program, a monthly donation is automatically taken out of your Bank account. I am signed up for this program and don’t even notice it. I encourage you to sign up too... Tiffany has some forms for anyone who wishes help.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our volunteers, our Bigs, our event volunteers and our board as well as the other people who make it all possible, our generous sponsors and the people who participate in our fundraising events. Thank you all!

Howard French,  
Board President



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### *Program Manager's Report*

#### **Snapshot of 2007:**

We had an eventful year that included staff turn-over and a new addition. We served 142 children in our programs in 2007. We are 10 children lower than last year, as we were counting on matching a Family Studies class again this year, but the schools we had lined up did not work out. We had 24 teens all ready to be matched that did not get to volunteer and that would have surpassed our numbers from last year. We are down in adult In-School Mentors this year, and not sure why. I think the new marketing we are planning on doing will help recruit more volunteers. Of course, we are still looking for more Big Brothers, our waitlist is always around 80-85 boys.

In 2007, we served 16 children in the Big Brothers Program and 9 children in the Big Sisters Program.

In January, we received four Tim Horton's applications. We gave to applications to Little Brother Tali, Little Brother Kalven, Little Sister Megan, and Little Sister Pam. In April, we found out that all four of our kids were accepted to the Tim Horton's camp in Ontario. They went to camp in August and had SO MUCH FUN!

In February we began a relationship with WildPlay. WildPlay is an obstacle course in the trees. It is located at the Bungy Zone. They approached us to begin a partnership with our agency. They gave us free passes to give to our matches and Mentors. Tiffany and I got to try the course out first, and it was a blast! We made another presentation to Rotary North and they decided to sign on for another three year partnership, in support of the In-School Mentoring Program at Brechin Elementary School. This wonderful partnership began in 2001.

In May we attended a Volunteer Fair in Ladysmith. We received 80 inquiries and 25 of those attended an Orientation we had at the school. We had a meeting with Rock City Elementary School and opened our Teen ISM program there in the fall. Everyone was very excited to be able to offer our program to their students. October was busy for Dean as he gave the Child Safety Training to all of our Teen Mentors.

#### **Staff Changes:**

Denise decided to take a year leave of absence to work for MEBC. She started in July and was planning to return to us in September of 2008, after taking the summer off. I took over as Program Manager, and we planned to hire a new Case Worker in August.

In July, Teresa, our Fundraising/Marketing Manager decided to take another job.

We hired Dean on August 21<sup>st</sup> as our In-School Mentoring Coordinator. We also hired a Fundraiser/Marketer by contract, Joanne Rosen.

Tiffany went down to only working 16 hours a week for the school year. She is taking five University courses so she can get her education and then we can finally hire her as a Case Worker. We miss her around the office so much. She works so hard and now we have to wait to have our computer questions answered. She is an invaluable asset to our agency.

#### **Activities:**

In April we had our Easter party with the IOF. We went to Shady Mile Farm and had an egg hunt, hay ride, and hot chocolate.

In June we had our annual agency picnic at Big Brother Bob's house out in Cedar. We all had fun once again.

In October we had our Halloween part with the IOF at Shady Mile Farm. We had a hay wagon ride, pumpkin picking, hot chocolate and hot dogs. Everyone had lots of fun.



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

In November we planned on having our agency Christmas Party with the Nanaimo Clippers and the Nanaimo Junior Curlers. I called the Clippers to see if they wanted to do something with us during Christmas and we came up with the idea of a curling party. We had a practice evening during the week so everyone could get the feel for how it is to curl. We had about a dozen people attend the curling practice, and they all really seemed to have fun. Well, the day of the party, we had a snow storm and the party had to be cancelled. We tried to reschedule by the Christmas season is always busy and the Clippers could not commit to a weekend and the curling club was getting booked up. We will definitely plan this event for next year.

In December we were very busy with Christmas Hampers and end of the year projects. Since we could not reschedule our curling we decided to have an Open House at the office. Dean, Tiffany and I made food and a very yummy cake for all the matches.

### **Events:**

In March we had our Annual Bowl for Kids Sake event. It was a successful and we are moving forward with recommendations for next year and a more successful event.

In September we had a very successful Golf event; Joanne did a very good job on taking over the event at the last moment.

I attended Regional Conference in Canmore. The conference was a great success and I really hope more people in our agency can attend this year since it is in Kelowna. When we attend these conferences it reinforces the good work we do.

We had a very busy and eventful year. We went through many changes but we survived the transition like we always do. We are looking forward to an even busier and successful year with more matches and more schools to work with.

Paulyne Robinson  
Program Manager



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### *Case Worker's Report*

My name is Dean H. Laviolette and I was hired as the In-School Mentoring Coordinator for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007. In 2007, we had 89 teens and 29 adults in the In-School Mentoring Program. Mentoring is based in 7 Elementary Schools and 1 Intermediate School. Our teen mentors come from 5 Secondary Schools which include 3 high schools in Nanaimo, 1 in Ladysmith and 1 in Parksville.

The In-School Mentoring Program is a mentoring program that matches Elementary School aged children with reliable teens or adults. The teens or adults spend one hour a week with a child on the school property for the duration of a school year. The focus of the program is to enhance the self-esteem and confidence of a child, as well as have fun. Each Elementary school offers a variety of activities, such as arts and crafts, baking, outdoor play and sports.

Since I started with Big Brothers Big Sisters, I have learned that children really benefit by having a role model. The children that are matched up with a mentor are called mentees. Just recently, I received an email from a Vice-Principal stating that she has seen a difference the program has made with some of her mentees. She also sent some quotes from some mentee.

"I can't go swimming! My mentor is coming!"

"I have to get my work done before my mentor gets here!"

Having the opportunity to work with such a caring staff has enlightened my confidence knowing that such a program exist and is changing the way children think about themselves. I also had the opportunity to participate in many other fun activities.

On Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, I participated in the Golf for Kids Tournament. This was an exciting and fun experience for me. I met many new board members, as well as helped out with the prize giveaways. I enjoyed seeing all the golf teams support our organization. Having helped out on the fairway with the 'hole in one' prize giveaway, I acknowledged a lot of happy golfers. I felt the golf tournament and the silent auction were very successful.

On Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, I picked up tickets at Wild Play which is a rope course which is located at the Bungy Zone, just outside Nanaimo. I had given out these tickets to our mentors who were really keen on going. Having asked some of our mentors if they had used the tickets, there response was that they had an "awesome time."

One of our adult mentors at Coal Tyee had arranged a Christmas Party on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> for the mentors and mentees. I was invited and had a great time. There were many snacks and plenty of arts and crafts for the mentees.

Our Christmas Party was supposed to be on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, but was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. The staff decided to have our open-house Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007. There was a great turnout and I enjoyed meeting all the matches from the Traditional Program.

So far I have met some amazing youth and adults who truly want to make a difference in a child's life. I am looking forward to another successful year and hope to continue matching up more mentors with mentees. The benefits are endless.

Dean H. Laviolette  
Case Worker



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### *Treasurer's Report*

On the financial front 2007 ended a lot better than anticipated. At our 6 month review in June things did not look the same. Our request for funding from various agencies came in lower than expected and our first event the Bowl for Kids Sake went well but our net receipts were also lower than expected, so staff was asked to keep a close eye on expenses.

2007 brought a few unanticipated staffing changes; with the request for a temporary leave of absence from our Executive Director Denise Robinson; Paulyne Robinson was promoted to Program Manager. We welcomed Dean Laviolette to our staff as Case Worker. Our Fundraising/Marketing Manager, Teresa Pring resigned to move on to another position and we wish her the best of luck. These changes resulted in approximately \$40,000 lower in payroll costs.

With our Annual Golf Event fast approaching the board decided it was better to contract someone to look after the event and then look at filling Teresa's positions afterwards. The agency welcomed Joanne Rosen of Write Choice Communications to look after the event. Joanne did a great job with the event and the net receipts were higher than expected.

After the golf event the Board looked at the duties of the Fundraising/Marketing Manager and felt the agency would be better to split the duties and contract them out. We contracted with Write Choice Communications to look after the agency's events and marketing needs and Marjorie Driscoll of EDG Communication to look after the grant and proposal writing. The feeling was separating the two areas, each would benefit by a more direct focus.

Our hydro expense for the year was 50% higher than budgeted and this is due to a bit of catch up. When we moved in the premises last year BC Hydro set our billings up on the equalized payment plan based on the usage of the previous tenant. Our usage is a fair bit higher than theirs so after our first year, BC Hydro did a reconciliation billing for the additional amount.

The biggest success this year on the financial front was the used clothing program which netted \$16,000 more than budgeted. This is a great fund raising activity for the agency, and we encourage the public to think of us when they clean out their clothes closets. The unfortunate side of this venture is it can not be counted on as sustainable funding as it is tied to Victoria's contract with Value Village.

2008 from a financial view will include the Board and Staff focusing on providing excellent service to children while keeping our costs down. Our aim is to look at ways to obtain more sustainable funding to ensure the continuation of our programs, and to move our bookkeeping system to a more project based reporting to help us determine the actual costs of our various programs.

In closing, I would like to thank our staff, all of our supporters, volunteers and various funding agencies for their hard work and support through 2007 and ask for your continued support in 2008.

Janice McAllan  
Treasurer





## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### ***2007 Sponsors, Supporters, & Partners***

A Channel News	Hyundai	Purdy's Chocolates
Alberni Outpost	Ilios Restaurant	Quality Foods
Andersen Construction	Independent Order of Foresters	Ramsay Lampman Rhodes
Arbutus Ridge Golf & Country Club	Inland Kenworth	RE/MAX Ocean Pointe Ladysmith
Arbutus RV & Marine Sales Ltd.	Intersport	Robert Bateman
Arrowsmith Golf & Country Club	Island Radio	Romper Room Indoor Climbing Centre
Bank of Montreal	Java Expressions Ltd.	Rosedale on Robson
Bay, The	Jim Pattison Hyundai	Rotary Club of Nanaimo North
BC Gaming Commission	Joe Cunningham Ford	Royal Lepage
BC Hydro Employees' Community Services (HYDRECS)	Kal Tire	Score Golf Magazine
BCAA	Ladysmith Health Care Auxiliary/Thrift Store	Scotiabank
Berk's Intertruck Ltd	La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries	Sharecost Rentals and Sales Ltd.
Bernard Callebaut Chocolaterie	Liquidation World	Sherwood Drywall
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria	London Drugs	Splitsville Entertainment
Black & Blue Tattoos & Piercing	Longwood Brew Pub	Sprott Shaw Community College
Blake Erickson Roofing & Waterproofing Services	Loyal Protestant Association	Spunky Motor Sports
Bobbi Kurtz	McDonalds Restaurants	Sunnydale Golf Club
Bold Knight Restaurant	Mentoring Excellence BC	Sutter Fund
Bramley Sales & Service	Mid Island Co-Op	Swiss Chalet
Brechin Lanes	Miller, Sue - Avon Rep	Thrifty Foods
Butchart Gardens Ltd, The	Montana's Cookhouse	Thwaites Norris InsuranCentre
Canadian Tire	Mount Brenton Golf Club	Tigh-Na-Mara Resort
Central Drugs	Mulligan Golf Centre	Tim Hortons
Cheri Mactier	Nanaimo Airport	Tom Harris
Coast Bastion Inn	Nanaimo Auxiliary to NRGH Thrift Store	Tranceformations Tattoo & Body Piercing
Coast Capital Insurance Ltd.	Nanaimo Clippers Jr. A Hockey Club	Turley's Florist
Coast Capital Savings	Nanaimo Community Foundation	United Way Central Island
Coastal Community Credit Union	Nanaimo Daily News	Uplands Dental Clinic
Coca Cola Bottling Co.	Nanaimo Honda	Vancouver Island Golf Centre
Comox Golf Club	Nanaimo News Bulletin	Vision Arts Eyecare
Copcan Contracting Ltd.	Nanaimo North Town Centre	Volunteer Nanaimo
Counter Measures	Nanaimo Port Authority	Wal-Mart
Country Club Centre	Nanaimo Recycling Exchange	WestJet
Crimson Coast Dance Society	Nanaimo Sausage House	Wheat Sheaf Pub
Dr. Stanley Eng	Nanaimo Theatre Group	Wheaton Pontiac Buick GMC (Nanaimo) Ltd
Gaming Commission	Nanaimo Toyota	White Spot
GEN-FIND Research Associates	Olde Nanaimo Brewery	WildPlay Element Parks
Great Canadian Casinos Inc	Pacific Rim Bicycle	Winston's Tea Co Ltd
Greg Kahan - Edward Jones	Painted Turtle Guest House	WJ Cargill Furniture & Design
Harbour City Bingo Society	Pheasant Glen Golf Resort	Woodgrove Centre
Hawaiian Touch Massage	Piper's Pub	Write Choice Communication Group
Home Depot, The	Port Place Shopping Centre	Yellow Bird Arts Gallery
Houle Electric	Port Theatre, The	Zougla Restaurant
Hub City InsuranCentre	Primal Communications Ltd	

***We are extremely lucky to have so many supporters in the community!  
Thank you for making a difference in a "BIG" way!***



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island**

### *2007 Board of Directors*

<b>Howard French</b>	President	<b>Keri Cargill</b>	Director
<b>Roger Lytton</b>	Vice-President	<b>Parisa Firoozfam</b>	Director
<b>Janice McAllan</b>	Treasurer	<b>Jason Fleming</b>	Director
<b>Barry Sparkes</b>	Secretary	<b>Kathy King</b>	Director
<b>Doug Blott</b>	Past President	<b>Karen Orr</b>	Director
		<b>David Sauve</b>	Director

### *Our Programs*

**Big Brother Big Sister:** This is our traditional program where caring adults are matched with children in the community and spend one-to-one mentoring time with them each week all year long.

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Big Brothers</b>	20	16
<b>Big Sisters</b>	13	9
<b>Total Matches</b>	33	25

**In-School Mentoring:** This program matches volunteers to elementary school children. They meet one hour each week at the school during school hours. We have adult volunteers and teen volunteers (15+) in seven elementary schools in our service area.

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Adult Mentors</b>	37	29
<b>Teen Mentors</b>	82	88
<b>Total Matches</b>	119	117

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Children Served</b>	152	142



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Central Vancouver Island**

## *Quotes from our In-School Mentoring Program*

### *What the Mentors say:*

*“Mentoring has filled a hole in my heart; the gift of giving.”*

*“I believe the BBBS organization is making a difference in children’s lives, I can see my mentee benefiting from my encouragement and kind words.”*

*“I strongly believe that my mentee has benefited from this program, I was even told by the principal of the school that the student I work with has spent less and less time in her office.”*

### *What the youth say:*

*“Thank you, Mrs. \_\_\_ for getting a mentor for me. I really needed someone to talk to.”*

*“I have to get my work done before my mentor gets here!”*

- from a very reluctant writer who can usually spend many hours staring defiantly at a blank page of work

*“I can’t go swimming! My mentor is coming!”*

*“Mrs. \_\_\_! Mrs. \_\_\_! I scored a goal on my mentor! Watch! I did it like this!”*

- from a student who had severe self-esteem issues and was a selective mute for many years.

*“Do I have a mentor yet? You know, Mrs. \_\_\_, my birthday is in 3 days and that would be the most perfect birthday present!”*