

# Program Report-2010

**Paulyne Robinson - Program Manager**

Community Based programs – Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Cross Gender & Big Couples- **37 children served**

The community program seems to stay consistent through out the year. A few matches will close then we rematch them or new volunteers seem to come into the office. The amount of children served each year has consistently been 35-40 for the last few years. The waitlist stays small, there still are not very many parents calling into the office because they still think there is a large waitlist. That keeps the list manageable but of course a few kids still wait for a mentor.

In-School Mentoring program (ISM) – **54 children served**

The ISM program ran very smoothly again this year; again there was no turn over in school staff. At the start of the 2010/2011 school year we found out we were losing one of our program staff. We decided not to do any recruitment for volunteers, just maintain the matches we have. We still had many people emailing and calling the agency to be volunteers. The schools were sad to see Dean leave; he has very good relationships with everyone he works with. But they all recognized the need to keep the program running and have been very great to work with again.

Teen In-School Mentoring program (T-ISM) - **37 children served**

Our teen mentors continue to commit themselves on a weekly basis to enhance the children's lives by being dedicated to the program. They continue to be fun to work with because of their energy and enthusiasm. Of course working with teens brings its own challenges but overall the children love to be matched with a teenager. The number of teen mentors is down because we didn't do any recruiting in the high schools this year.

Go Girls program- **10 girls served**

We had another Go Girls program at Fairview school in the spring of 2010. The principal sent our 12 permission form on a Monday because she thought if she sent out more then we should get the 8 that are required for the group. The very next day she received all 12 permission form back form the girls. As parents we all know this is unheard of, most forms don't even make it home let alone come back the next day. This was proof to us this is a good program. We decided to have all 12 girls participate and have 3 volunteers. The group was challenging for the volunteers because there were so many more personalities, more issues to deal with. Two of

girls dropped out which meant we had a more manageable group of 10. The volunteers really enjoyed the program and will be back again next year.

The goal of Go Girls is to provide girls and young women with information and support to make informed choices about healthy, active living while maintaining sensitivity toward the emotional, social and cultural issues they may face. Specifically, the project addresses the issues of physical activity, balanced eating and positive self-image for youth between the ages of 12 and 14 through mentoring relationships.

We are hoping to have Go Girls in more the schools in 2011.

#### New Horizons – Service Canada Retired Seniors Volunteers Projects-RSVP

The project is to encourage volunteerism in the senior community. The agency will recruit leadership groups to implement indoor and outdoor activities with the children involved with BBBSCVI. The project is to promote volunteer opportunities for seniors.

The seniors planned, cooked and served at the Christmas Open House. The group decorated, cooked all the food and served to everyone who dropped in for the Open House. They also put on a Christmas Swim at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre. We swam, had pizza and presents.

The Young Professional of Nanaimo (YPN) group arranged a very fun day with the matches, staff, board members and children on the waitlist. We attended a Clippers Hockey game together. The group had so much fun together; we look forward to doing more events with the YPN group.

The seniors planned the Halloween outing this year. We again went to the Yawning Acres Farm in Cedar. We had a hayride, hotdog and hot chocolate and picked a pumpkin each.

BBBSCVI would like to thank the Independent Order of Foresters (I.O.F) for their partnership and continued support for our Community Based and Senior Programs.

We also received books from Scholastics Books for the matches, Clippers Hockey tickets, OldTimer Hockey tickets from Xentel DM Inc. and theatre tickets from Port Theatre and Theatre One, many thanks to the companies who donate to our agency.

The agency went through many changes this year. It was very hard to lose the staff members we did. The next year looks to more positive and hopeful.

Paulyne Robinson-Program Manager