



Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

34 East 12th Avenue Vancouver, BC V5T 2G5
P: 604.873.4525 F: 604.873.2122 www.bigsisters.bc.ca

CHAMPION

Ally

ROLE MODEL

Mentor

Supporter

Role Model

Friend



Advisor

TEACHER

HERO

Mentor

Supporter

ADVOCATE



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**Big Sisters
of BC Lower Mainland**

2008 Board of Directors*

Deborah Nicols, Chair * Linda Martin, Vice Chair * Kay Gray, Treasurer * Tamara Slobogean, Secretary * Taran Atwal, Director * Kristen Catton, Director * Heather Conradi, Director * Julie Isaac, Director * Caroline Murphy, Director * Michele Reid, Director * Margaret Voth, Director

**as of the April 2008 Annual General Meeting*

Honourary Advisory Board

Janet Austin * Joanne Brown * Charmaine Crooks * Ed Des Roches * Lisa Ethans * Marguerite Ford * Rina Honderich * Marion McAdam * Sarah McNeill * Susan Mendelson * Renate M. Mueller * Katie O'Brien * Linda Parsons * Marina Pratchett * The Honourable Patricia Proudfoot * Patricia Shields * Denise Turner * Roz Wishinski

Our Mission

Big Sisters is committed to enhancing the confidence, self-esteem and well-being of girls through supportive friendships with caring women.

Programming generously supported by:





What is a Mentor?

A Letter from our Board Chair and Interim Executive Director

What is a mentor? At Big Sisters, a mentor is a volunteer who provides friendship and support to a girl who may have low self-esteem, suffer from social isolation, struggle with difficult family issues, or be at-risk for poor life outcomes. But the definition of mentor is much broader than that. As we reflect upon the many ways mentoring impacts and benefits this organization, we extend our appreciation to our committed and wonderful Big Sisters, Study Buddies, and Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds mentors, as well as the other mentors we are fortunate to include in the Big Sisters family:

- Our Board of Directors, Honourary Advisory Board, committee members, and staff, all of whom share ideas and expertise while working collaboratively to reach our strategic goals;
- Our national organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, which mentors Big Sisters as well as 140 other member agencies in such areas as volunteer recruitment, program excellence, and fundraising;
- Our supporters and community partners who inform and engage us as we strive to be an even more responsive and effective organization.

The feedback each of you provides, the questions you ask, and the constructive advice you give enables us to adapt and excel as we strive to meet the needs of our communities' vulnerable children. To all of our mentors— our volunteers, donors, supporters, funders, staff members, and community partners—thank you for your guidance and support.

What does the word 'mentor' mean to you? Perhaps it conjures up a picture of a specific person in your life; or maybe it makes you think of how you mentor others – your children, your employees, your soccer team; it could also make you think of a positive public figure. Whatever 'mentor' means to you, it is our hope that you are fortunate enough to have mentors in your life and be a mentor to others. As our experience at Big Sisters has shown us, the roles of mentor and mentee are both so rewarding, inspirational, and important.

Deborah Nicols
Board Chair

Susan Climie
Interim Executive Director

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Goals

In 2005, the Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland Board and staff embraced four “Pillars of Success” that formed the basis of a five-year strategic plan for our agency:

1. **Serving more girls throughout the Lower Mainland;**
2. **Delivering the highest quality programming to Little Sisters and volunteer mentors in our programs;**
3. **Maximizing sustainable resource development;**
4. **Building influence in the community.**

These four pillars guide us, enabling us to make sound decision at Big Sisters about our programs, services, fundraising, and communications; decisions that align together to help us achieve success.



WHAT IS A MENTOR?

“A mentor is someone who likes a girl exactly as she is, which in turn gives her the safety and freedom to grow into whomever she wants to be.”

- Big Sister Katherine



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2008 Program Highlights

- We continued to grow our two core mentoring programs: the **Big & Little Sister program** and the **Study Buddy program**.
- **Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds**, an in-school, group mentoring program, was piloted in two Coquitlam schools.
- We **streamlined the application process** for Big Sister volunteers to reduce the time it takes for them to be matched with a Little Sister.
- The Study Buddy team introduced **seminars to assist volunteer tutors** in dealing with learning challenges being experienced by some Little Sisters Study Buddies.
- A **pen pal exchange** was introduced to Study Buddy matches so they can correspond with matches in New Zealand, while improving their reading and writing skills.
- Confidential **surveys** provided excellent feedback from our volunteers, Little Sisters, and parents/guardians.
- We hired a **Community Outreach Coordinator** to promote our programs and boost our volunteer recruitment efforts, particularly in the Surrey/Delta and Tri-Cities communities.



2008 Program Numbers

432 girls served

186 matches made

245 volunteer applications received

227 Little Sister referrals received

18 match activities held

6 workshops held to support volunteers in their mentoring roles

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

"To me a mentor is someone you can look up to. Someone who gives you advice, wisdom and knowledge. Someone that makes you want to learn and achieve and be the best you can be in life."

- Little Sister Study Buddy Marley



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2008 Fundraising Highlights

- Big Sisters is in a **healthy financial position**, with a diverse funding base:

Grants (Government, United Way):	\$201,204
Gaming:	\$130,000
Donations (Corporations, Foundations, Individuals):	\$429,844
Endowment & Interest Income:	\$ 19,589
Events (Golf, Spring Lunch, Gala):	<u>\$213,881</u>
Total 2008 Revenues:	\$994,518

- We had a strong year financially due to the incredible commitment of our generous supporters. The success of our fundraising programs enabled us to serve more girls in our Big & Little Sister program and Study Buddy program and allowed us to introduce a pilot program—Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds. Our strong revenue base coming out of 2008 enabled us to plan to keep our match growth and service delivery targets for 2009 with a possible revenue shortfall being funded by our 2008 carry-forward.
- Big Sisters saw great success with it's **three annual fundraisers**. Sincere thanks to the support of our donors, sponsors, and guests!
 - Big Sisters Spring Lunch, Presented by Scotiabank
 - Golf for Big Sisters, Presented by The Dominion
 - Big Sisters Divas Gala
- We were very fortunate to benefit from several **third-party fundraisers** put on by companies and individuals including:
 - Keg Spirit Foundation
 - McNeill Nakamoto Recruitment Group
 - Plum
 - Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon & 5K

Together, these four groups raised almost \$45,000 in support of our Little Sisters

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

"The role of the mentor is to act as a sounding board to make sure the quality of the individual's thinking is robust and all options are considered. A mentor has had these experiences during the course of a career and can share real life examples."

- TELUS, Founding Member the Platinum Level of Big Sisters' Patrons Circle



BIG Words from our 'Bigs & Littles'

"When I first met my Study Buddy Dana, I was afraid she was going to be like some of the teachers in my elementary school, bossy and old. But she was neither. Over the years Dana has really pushed me in school to do the best I could and believed in me more than I did."

- Little Sister Study Buddy Marley



"The times I meet with my Little Sister are one of my week's highlights. When she understands a new kind of math problem for the first time, we both light up!"

- Study Buddy tutor

"Being a Big Sister has reminded me that just being a consistent presence in another's life is a powerful thing. Showing a young girl that she is worth spending time with....I think that alone has the power to make a difference in her life."

- Big Sister Sheila

"Growing up in foster care, and living in a single parent household, I often felt that I had little or no guidance growing up. Janet not only was my Big Sister – she became my best friend. She was someone that I could share my concerns with, someone that I could confide in when nobody else would listen. Janet gave my everything that I had wished for, for so long."

- Little Sister Carly



"Go Girls! helped me to stay active and be smart about my choices."

- Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds participant

Robert T. Herd, C.A.*
*Personal Corporation

HERD & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Telephone (604) 736-3731
Fax (604) 736-4841

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Big Sisters of B.C. Lower Mainland

We have audited the statement of financial position of the Big Sisters of B.C. Lower Mainland as at December 31, 2008 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the organization derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contributions, excess of revenues over expenses, current assets and net assets.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Chartered Accountants

Vancouver, B.C.
April 9, 2009

BIG SISTERS OF B.C. LOWER MAINLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2008

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 455,646	\$ 365,393
Endowment Fund	208,427	180,390
Accounts receivable	9,309	22,085
Prepaid expenses	7,247	15,393
G.S.T. receivable	5,619	5,530
Payroll advances	735	-
	686,983	588,791
Capital Assets (Notes 2 & 3)	205,937	201,730
	\$ 892,920	\$ 790,521

BIG SISTERS OF B.C. LOWER MAINLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2008

	2008	2007
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 11,233	\$ 15,047
Wages payable	38,376	27,413
Accrued holiday pay	22,514	21,590
Unearned revenue (Note 5)	89,283	111,599
	161,406	175,649
NET ASSETS		
Peter & Joanne Brown Endowment Fund (Note 8 and Schedule 2)	208,427	180,390
Invested in Capital Assets	205,937	201,730
Internally restricted assets (Note 7 and Schedule 1)	248,010	38,057
Unrestricted Net Assets	69,140	194,695
	731,514	614,872
	\$ 892,920	\$ 790,521

BIG SISTERS OF B.C. LOWER MAINLAND

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	2008	2007
Receipts		
Grants	\$ 201,204	\$ 170,855
Gaming	130,000	120,000
Donations	429,844	318,829
Endowment	8,394	7,185
Fundraising - net (Note 6)	213,881	219,766
	983,323	829,450
Expenditures		
Amortization	12,655	14,093
Bad debts	5,000	-
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada	23,994	17,604
Contract fees	29,944	23,989
Insurance	7,543	6,360
Other Little Sisters activities	15,900	10,247
Membership education	4,842	5,506
Go Girls program	14,305	1,324
Newsletter	6,973	6,961
Office (Schedule 3)	69,623	56,837
Public relations	4,245	5,052
Professional development	3,886	1,131
Salaries	676,903	657,233
Summer camp	11,040	12,875
Special program support	10,669	10,675
Volunteer recognition	6,344	7,036
	903,866	836,923
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures before Other Items	79,457	(7,473)
Other Items		
Interest income	11,195	10,600
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures	\$ 90,652	\$ 3,127