

between friends

big sisters of bc lower mainland newsletter



Meet Study Buddies Erika & Melika

Length of match to-date: 1 year, 5 months

Photo by Brandon C. Elliot
belliot@brand1media.com

Giving back is precisely what Erika had in mind when she first became a Study Buddy tutor to Little Sister Melika. Mentored by her grandmother, Erika never forgot the impact it had on her schoolwork and her attitude.

"I realized as I got older how important it is to have someone to look up to," says Erika. "I wanted to be a person who takes time to be there for someone and help them navigate their schoolwork."

Thanks to Erika's tutoring, Melika's English mark jumped from a C to an A, and she achieved 99% in her Planning Awards class. She also made the honour roll last year for the first time, reflecting the overall improvement to her schoolwork. Melika states that her confidence has grown, and acknowledges that a lot of the positive results are due to Erika's encouragement.

"Erika has taught me not to rush through something just to get it finished," says Melika. "I've learned that I have to be patient and think about what I'm doing so I really understand it."

Erika also puts a lot of emphasis on making Melika's homework fun.

"Melika is really smart and she knows the answer, but if she's having fun and knows I'm there to help, she has more confidence in giving the answer."

The pair meet once a week at the Lonsdale library and work on Melika's homework or prepare for an upcoming exam. But Erika's encouragement isn't confined to simply completing assignments - despite Melika's strong typing abilities, Erika encourages her to write longhand.

"The computer will automatically correct her spelling, so I try to get her to write the words out and learn the spelling on her own," says Erika.

Sessions aren't always confined to the library, either. Both share a favourite memory of going outside to take photographs for Melika's photography class. The outing resulted in a breathtaking collection of Melika's colourful images, which Erika put together in a book and gave to Melika as a birthday present.

Both agree that, over the past 17 months, their relationship has evolved and they are now far more outgoing with each other.

Melika cheerfully admits that catching up on each other's news often means going past the allotted study time, saying "I absolutely see her as my sister and don't want the relationship to end."

Adds Erica, "I love her lots, and when we're old she can come over and read books to me!"

Written by Kristen Olsen

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A Message from the Chair



Since our last newsletter, there have been some “Big” changes at Big Sisters. Shannon Newman-Bennett, our much-loved and capable Executive Director for the last eight years, announced that she is expecting her third child and plans to stay at home with her busy young family. The board struck an Executive Director Search Committee and many qualified applications were received. I am pleased to report that, after weeks of reviewing, screening and interviewing, Justine Greene was selected as our new Executive Director.

Justine stepped into her new role on June 20th and hit the ground running. After just a few days in the office, Justine joined board directors Morna Creedon and Martina Lee at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada convention in Toronto where she met staff and board members from our national office and agencies across the country, and attended several workshops and discussion groups. It was reported at the convention that the mentoring movement continues to grow – there are now 128 Big Brothers/Big Sisters agencies serving 33,450 children in communities

across Canada.

One of Justine’s first tasks is the implementation of our new three-year strategic plan. Given that our ability to increase staff is constrained by a lack of office space at the Big Sisters house, we anticipate moderate growth in the number of girls we serve while we evaluate our facilities and service delivery model and explore options to serve more kids on a sustainable budget.

Speaking of budget, I must shout out a big THANK YOU! to our supporters. In addition to the continuing support from caring individuals, foundations and businesses, there have been several third-party events that have helped us enormously (refer to pages 6-7 for a summary). Three of our supporters and volunteers are being recognized with Big Heart Awards this year – Cali Mancia, Brandon Elliot, and Deloitte (see page 8).

Babies will be everywhere this fall...in addition to Shannon’s new baby boy, Jordana Mullard, Manager of Programs & Services, will begin a one-year maternity leave with her first child due in October. Jennifer Rentz joined us in mid-September as interim Manager of Programs & Services until Jordana returns.

In closing, there aren’t enough words to convey our gratitude to Shannon for all of her support and dedication to Big Sisters. While working with the board over the years, Shannon maintained a clear vision and achieved many goals, including transforming Big Sisters into a model organization that is looked up to by many others. Please join me in thanking Shannon for all she has done.

Kay Gray, Board Chair
Kay.Gray@ca.gt.com
604.443.2109



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Study Buddy Program Coordinator: Ivy Chiang
Director of Development: Treena Innes
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Office Assistant: Linda Edamura
Accountant: Pat Newton

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If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please call Big Sisters at 604.873.4525 ext. 302.



Welcome to Justine!

Justine Greene (pictured at left) joined Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland as our new Executive Director this summer.

Justine comes to Big Sisters with a strong background in operational effectiveness and she has assisted many non-profit organizations with operational and financial improvements, human resources issues, and development planning.

We are thrilled to have Justine lead our team and we look forward to introducing her to you! Justine can be reached at jgreene@bigsisters.bc.ca or 604.873.4525 ext. 307.



New Branding for Big Sisters

You may have noticed a new version of the Big Sisters logo popping up lately... Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada has launched exciting new branding for all Big Brothers/Big Sisters agencies across Canada that includes a more modern version of our logo (see below) and new purple and taupe brand colours.

But we are more than just a logo! Our new brand is all about possibilities – the possibilities that mentors create for children as they unlock their true potential. The idea that every time we pair a child with a mentor, something incredible is set in motion has led to our new national tagline of "Start Something" (check out the video on our home page to see what "Start Something" is all about! www.bigsisters.bc.ca).

We will be continuing to transition our logo and brand over the next few months so stay tuned for an exciting new website, newsletter, and more!



Scientific encounters

Big Sister Leslie and her Little Sister Alicia learned how to make their own DNA bracelets at a special Big Sisters "Science in Action Day" at SFU this past April.

Captured on Film

Big Sisters spent the winter and spring working on an exciting new agency video project with local filmmaker David Frank Gomes (www.handmadefilms.ca). The result is an inspiring video on the "Power of Mentoring", which will be shown to potential donors and volunteers to showcase the work we do and how people can support our Little Sisters with a donation of time or money. Very special thanks to Jill Diamond and the Diamond Foundation for sponsoring the making of this video, and to everyone who participated in this important project.

Watch our new videos at youtube.com/BigSistersBCLM

Join us on Twitter!

twitter.com/BigSistersBCLM
[@BigSistersBCLM](https://twitter.com/BigSistersBCLM)



Letter from a Mom

Amber* has benefited tremendously from her friendship with Big Sister Yulin over the past 10 months in so many ways that it is difficult for me to articulate here, but I will try.

Amber is at that awkward stage where she is no longer a "tween" and not yet an adult and is following the natural course of evolution of pulling away from us as her parents. She is a very young 15 and is trying to make sense of the complex world around her with many questions about being a young woman in today's society. We could not have asked for a better Big Sister and role model for our daughter in Yulin. Yulin is hard working, driven, reliable, and responsible and she really cares about Amber.

Amber and Yulin have a lot of fun during their outings (dinner, skating, cooking, movies, etc.) and Amber really looks forward to her weekly visits with Yulin. More importantly, Amber has benefited from the wisdom and guidance from Yulin in so many ways and, in the process, they have developed a friendship, bond and understanding as they are both only children.

Yulin has offered companionship and emotional support through these difficult teenage times but, more importantly, she is there for Amber to answer the questions Amber may be perhaps afraid or embarrassed to ask us as her parents. Amber experienced multiple losses in the year leading up to us contacting Big Sisters

and now we see her being able to trust again through her relationship with Yulin.

Amber has always been a good student and involved with team sports and this has not changed, however, we have seen Amber's confidence and behaviour improve. She is certainly less angry and irritated at home and more agreeable. She struggles less with being accepted and fitting in and has talked through some of this with Yulin who remembers what it was like to be in high school.

Yours very truly,
 Erica, mom of Little Sister Amber

** Name has been changed to protect confidentiality*



Match Helps Raise Dough

Big Sister Cori and 10 year old Little Sister Tianna (pictured at left) were selected by COBS Bread to be featured in their 2011 fundraising and awareness campaign for Big Brothers Big Sisters - so exciting!

The 2011 COBS campaign was held this past May and saw all COBS bakeries across Canada raising awareness of the 'big' need for more volunteer mentors, and raising funds for mentoring with their scone fundraiser (\$0.50 donated from each scone sold) and donation collection.



A total of \$31,639 was raised during this campaign, with \$7,744 donated to our agency! COBS also supported agencies with event sponsorships, bringing their 2011 donation total to \$43,344 for Big Brothers Big Sisters across Canada.

Big thanks to COBS Bread – and to Cori & Tianna – for helping us provide more girls with a positive mentor!

Welcome to our NEW Matches

March – August 2011

New Big & Little Sisters: Stephanie Baufeld & Tarren * Natalie Burgwin & Joanna * Heather Cadenhead & Lora * Rita Chauhan & Shirly Evelyn Chen & Little Sister * Rhiann Conyers & Jacqueline * Rosemary Cooke & Theresa Andrea Flanderkova & Roop * Dawn Francis & Natalie * Kari Gair & Emily * Cory Goddard & Norma * Danielle Guglielmucci & Little Sister Big Sister & Kiran * Big Sister & Christine Michelle Kirvan & Kalei * Allison Konsmo & Little Sister * Mandie Lau & Nicole * Marissa Lawrence & Little Sister * Alison Lee & Megan Anna Macdougall & Destiny * Tamara MacInnis & Little Sister * Aseniya Maletchkov & Camila * Seta Monfred & Alyssa * Felicia O'Neil & Little Sister Big Sister & Duyen * Ashley Ryborg & Chloe Claudelle Santos & Little Sister * Samantha Scigliano & Cassandra * Rebecca Shorten & Anastasia * Lindsay Siljander & Natasha Shalon Sims & Lily * Renuka Singh & Letesha Samantha Siu & Cheyanne * Megan Southerby & Samantha * Tara Sweder & Little Sister Jeanne Tse & Annabelle * Denise van Straaten & Paulina * Angela Walkley & Amber * Jessica Weaver & Jordanna * Carmen Weld & Little Sister Angel Wong & Natasha * Big Sister & Shyan

New Study Buddies: Caitlin Beyon & Cherry Vanessa Calabrigo & Brooklyn * Danielle Burgess & Mahsa * Susie Chang & Carey * Cindy Chow & Leslie * Allison Clavelle & Maia * Robyn Cleaver & Cindy * Ashley Degraaf & Vivian * Jennifer Duncan & Little Sister * Catherine Hilcove & Sharon * Priscilla Hong & Maconde * Lisa Kong & Little Sister * Courtney Lai & Tina * Connie Lau & Desiree * Shang Shang Liu & Katherine Study Buddy & Cindy * Crystal Ma & Jennifer Zoe Mullard & Wendy * Study Buddy & Mahsa Patsy Peters & Jamie * Julie Pon & Cristhel Anna Razzell & Stevie * Joelle Regnier & Britney * Suzanne Schulz & Alina * Olena Shevchuk & Pauline * Rosa Shih & Janette Anna Sinova & Julia * Study Buddy & Suvd Bowie Tse & Mabel * Cherry Tsui & Little Sister

Some volunteers and Little Sisters have requested that their names not be published

Gardening for Good

Since 2009, a hard working group of green thumbs from McCarthy Tétrault have offered their volunteer services to beautify the gardens at the Big Sisters house. Twice a year, Big Sister Susan Dick brings a group of co-workers from her law firm for an afternoon of landscaping, weeding, shoveling, and planting. Huge thanks to the McCarthy Tétrault team for making us look so good!



ISN'T IT TIME?

www.bigsisters.bc.ca

IT'S TIME TO FIND THE MENTORING OPPORTUNITY THAT FITS YOUR LIFE.

STUDY BUDDY TUTOR

1 HR / WK

GROUP MENTOR

4 WKS

BIG SISTER

2 HRS / WK

Celebrating Match Anniversaries April - September

1 Year

Big & Little Sisters: Rose Isla & Alexandria * Cindy Noble & Mackenzie * Sabrina Modder & Kristine * Sandy Dennis & Jenesis * Michele Reid & Ceili * Shannon Russell & Rozalyn * Julia Triemstra & Tina * Jan Grue & Tiana * Melissa Kaerne & Isabella * Anita Buckoll & Ashley * Cara Harper-Buckshaw & Veronica Maureen Kelly & Angelica * Katrina Milne & Tiffany * Kathryn Montgomery & Tiauna * Colleen Foster & Mariah * Sophie Martineau & Jasmine * Julie Villeneuve & Bella * Shelby Gilraine & Amelia * Kelly Schoultz & Julia * Big Sister & Sophia * Tara Murracas & Arianna * Jenna McBride & Chloe * Big Sister & Jade * Jessica Cheng & Little Sister * April Kite & Dharama * Courtney Bottiglio & Little Sister * Tiana Kaczor & Little Sister * Jennifer Trost & Abbey * Meghan Sime & Jenna * Joelle Cummings & Chrisandra

Study Buddies: Minyoung Cho & Little Sister * Fiona Rough & Little Sister * Erika Widdows & Melika * Alison Butler & Sophia * Chelsea Gardner & Bonnie Jessica Luu & Cindy * Kathryn Fletcher & Grace * Donna Elwood & Weronika * Sofie Cumbers & Victoria * Study Buddy & Carrie * Valerie Chin & Rose * Michelle Brewer & Little Sister * Hena Mahboob & Little Sister * Lisi Gardiner & Brooklyn * Faezeh Azhari & Malika * Jennifer Chow & Sharon * Kuljinder Gill & Shira Trisha Patidar & Hailey * Risha Patidar & Brittany * Study Buddy & Jennifer * Study Buddy & Delina * Jennifer Baetz & Nida * Ande Axelrod & Holly Rebecca Irani & Danielle * Study Buddy & Carrera * Thea Gilks & Dominique * Vera Sun & Little Sister * Dana Kovanda & Sadie * Diana Davidson & Iyonna

2 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Stephanie Ryan & Zena * Valerie Stevens & Adrian * Dena vanDalfsen & Deanna * Innesha Nelson & Madilyn * Christina & Shupri * Jael Emberley & Bronwyn * Kimberley Brandes & Paige * Adrienne Paulson & Jillian * Brandi Huryn & Angela * Brianna Clark & Trinity * Diane Jang & Victoria Judit Torres & Bonita * Natalie Chan & Shirley * Renee Nixdorf & Maria * Terri Dutkywich & Julia * Sharon Parry & Beza * Emily Thompson & Dominique

Study Buddies: Theresa Chermiak & Brigitte * Jill Tsolinas & Vicky * Study Buddy & Patricia Castro * Candace Asconi & Jaslyne * Magdalena Maslowski & Avery Kirsten Warneboldt & Dionna * Alice Hawkins & Annie * Malka Aujla & Amrita * Stephanie Janzen & Maggie * Candice Peskett & Marcella * Allison McKnight & Emily

3 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Catherine Douglas & Gabriela * Kristin Hopkins & Fialka * Tracey Sandgathe & Loretta * Rachele Gordon & Pardis * Linda Giusti & Riley Judi Cunningham & Marinah * Jennifer Strelive & Tianna * Britney Chipiuk & Soleil * Erin Macdonald & Lula * Stephanie Bennett & Chiara * Hilary Stoddart & Kirstin * Kathryn Bass & Dayja * Michele Feist & Little Sister

Study Buddies: Kerry O'Donoghue & Gabrielle * Jessica Flanagan & Shania * Amarpreet Jhooti & Amanda * Anna Fronda & Cassandra * Meredith Wilson & Christina * Tina MacLeod & Oumou

4 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Erica Hardern & Eryn * Johanne Martel & Shaina * Shelley Nissila & Vanessa * Mary Chan & Little Sister * Nadina Dodd & Karla * Michelle Pruss & Jeneva * Daniela Pilossof & Sandra * Susan Dick & Samira * Eden Blumenauer & Aiza * Brenda Meikle & Ashley * Big Sister & Richelle

5 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Heidi Gordon & Katharine * Karen Lloyd & Donna * Gisalene Carl & Cierra * Dessie Legaspi & Tessa * Christine Bittel & Madison * Zaneta Benakova & Jacqueline * Sandra Willans & Cassie * Barinder Brar & Chelsea * Amber Tarling & Little Sister * Elaine Tindall & Kristin * Shea Hocaloski & Normalee * Michelle Gault & Darci * Meggan Stevenson & Julia

Study Buddies: Linda Lakatos & Nya

6 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Becky Burns & Brittney * Shannen McNicol & Milagro * Carien Kanis & Sarah * Alicia Rooney & Mercedes * Carol Young & Melissa * Lucy Twohig & Wendy * Karyn Audet & Emely * Stephanie Hayes & Nya * Corrina Hellens & Grace

7 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Mary Wierzejski & Judy * Muryn Jordan & Naomi * Katherine van der Gracht & Elizabeth

8 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Sara Stevens & Theresa

9 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Alison Hardenberg & Jessica

10 Years

Big & Little Sisters: Eva Glickman & Tia * Elizabeth Hoath & Morgan

Note: some volunteers and Little Sisters have requested that their names not be published



Little Sister Jessica and Big Sister Alison celebrated 9 great years together in September.



Record Amount Raised at Big Sisters Spring Lunch

The **Big Sisters Spring Lunch**, presented by Scotiabank, was held on May 18, 2011 at the Sutton Place Hotel and raised \$55,200 – a new record for this event! This marked the 15th anniversary of this celebration of friendship and mentoring and the event was a sold out success with 270 guests in attendance.

Little Sister Aziza and her mom Susana (pictured with Mayor Watts) spoke about how important our programs have been to their family since they immigrated from Uzbekistan in 2005 (you can read their speeches at bigsisters.bc.ca on our Spring Lunch page), and Mayor of Surrey Dianne Watts gave an inspiring keynote speech on how important mentoring is both in our personal lives and in building strong communities.

Guests pledged an outstanding \$16,300 during the “Sponsor-a-Match” portion of the event, and the lunch concluded with a fabulous Birks Raffle Draw. The funds raised at this event will provide 27 girls on our waitlist with a caring mentor. Thank you for your support!

“The Big Sisters program definitely gave me a confidence boost, raised my self-esteem, helped me at school socially and academically, and let me find my hidden talents. Isn’t that what life should look like?”

– Little Sister Aziza, age 13

Special thanks to our Spring Lunch sponsors: Scotiabank, Davis LLP, Deloitte, GrowthWorks, Meritus Financial, Plum, Windsor Plywood Foundation, BC Human Resources Management Association, COBS Bread, Trost Consulting, ARC, BC Business, Birks, CTV, News1130, Purdy’s Chocolates, Sutton Place Hotel, Vancouver Courier.

Thanks “Tuesday Ladies”!

A wonderful group known as the “Marine Drive Golf Club Tuesday Ladies” held a charity golf tournament for Big Sisters on June 3rd and raised an outstanding \$15,055 for our mentoring programs. A special thank you to Michele Holwill (pictured at right with Kay Gray and Shannon Newman-Bennett) and the tournament organizing committee for all of their hard work and for selecting Big Sisters as this year’s beneficiary!



A BIG ‘Thank You’...

Chris Spencer Foundation

\$5,000 to support our Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds program.

City of Vancouver

\$47,800 grant to support our mentoring programs.

Coast Capital Savings Credit Union

\$5,000 sponsorship of the 2011 Big Sisters Gala.

COBS Bread

\$12,744 to support our mentoring programs.

Diamond Foundation

\$10,000 grant for our Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds program

Green Shield Canada

\$5,000 to support the Big & Little Sister Program.

Ironwood Dental Centre

\$5,000 sponsorship of the 2011 Grape Juice wine auction.

London Drugs Foundation

\$5,000 to support our Big & Little Sister Program.

Marine Drive Golf Club Tuesday Ladies

\$15,055 donated from a charity golf tournament.

McNeill Nakamoto Recruitment Group & CameronMcNeill.com

\$65,300 donated from the Grape Juice wine auction.

Northern Feather DreamMakers

\$10,000 Champagne Sponsorship of the 2011 Big Sisters Gala.

Peter & Joanne Brown Foundation

\$15,000 presenting sponsorship of the 2011 Big Sisters Gala.

Rogers Group Financial

\$5,000 sponsorship of the 2011 Big Sisters Gala.

Standard Life

\$14,000 to support our volunteer recruitment efforts.

TD Bank

\$5,000 sponsorship of the 2011 Big Sisters Gala.

Team TELUS Charitable Giving Program

\$17,178 to support our mentoring programs.

United Way of the Lower Mainland

\$60,000 “School’s Out” grant to support our Study Buddy Program

Vancity

\$10,000 to support five Burnaby/North Shore Study Buddy matches.

Welcome to our new Patrons’ Circle members

Sharon Builder • Chris Spencer Foundation
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 Rogers Group Financial • Silver Wheaton • Standard Life
 TD Bank • Team TELUS Charitable Giving Program
 Tiffany & Co. • Vancity Savings Credit Union
 Lis Welch • Wolrige Foundation

Golf for Good Raises \$150,000 for 5 Charities

Tracey McVicar's **Golf for Good** charity tournament raised an impressive \$150,000 for five local charities – including Big Sisters – this year! Held on June 21st at University Golf Club, 144 golfers enjoyed a day of golfing, contests and prizes, and a silent auction while raising money for organizations that “do a lot with a little”. The funds raised at Golf for Good were kindly donated to Big Sisters, Atira Women’s Resource Society, Vancouver Japanese Language School, Dr. Riley Senft’s Step Into Action Run, and VGH Division of Gastroenterology.



Huge thanks to Tracey McVicar (Big Sisters Honourary Advisory Board Member) and the entire Golf for Good planning committee for all of your hard work and for selecting Big Sisters as one of the beneficiaries of this great tournament!



7,000 Cheers for TEAM BIG SISTERS!

On June 26th, the 31 members of TEAM BIG SISTERS ran or walked the Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon & 5k in support of our Little Sisters and raised over \$7,000 in pledges! Huge thanks to all of our teammates and a special thank you to our top three fundraisers: Sandra Kovacs - \$3,084, Citytv's Dawn Chubai (pictured here with a Little Sister and Big Sister Deb) - \$1,150, and Vanessa Woznow - \$1,020. (Remember – it's never too early to start training for next year's run!)



tle Sisters with a caring mentor. Our heartfelt thanks to Sarah and Cameron McNeill, Cheryl Nakamoto, Jessica Rozitis, the McNak and CameronMcNeill.com teams, and all of the Grape Juice sponsors and donors!

Photo (left to right): Jessica Rozitis, Cameron McNeill, Sarah McNeill, Cheryl Nakamoto, Shannon Newman-Bennett

Wine Lovers Show Love for Big Sisters

McNeill Nakamoto Recruitment Group and CameronMcNeill.com put on another fantastic Grape Juice Wine Auction for the city's benevolent oenophiles this past May, and raised a record \$65,300 for Big Sisters!

Held at Yaletown's Society, the fourth annual Grape Juice event hosted over 300 people who came to bid on unique and exclusive wines from around the world while enjoying hors d'oeuvres for a worthy cause. The Van-

cover Courier's Fred Lee got the crowd in the mood for making Big & Little Sister matches during a "Sponsor-a-Match" live auction, which raised \$24,500 in a matter of minutes!

Since 2007, Grape Juice has raised over \$160,000 for Big Sisters, which has allowed us to match 80 Lit-



Make "Big" Travel Plans this Fall

Journeys with Heart (www.journeyswithheart.com) is planning a trip of a lifetime this fall, with partial proceeds being donated to Big Sisters. Join celebrity host John Bishop for a first-class trip to Argentina and Chile from November 6-19, 2011 and \$500 from each traveler's fee will be donated to Big Sisters. Contact Jenny Karmali at Carlson Wagonlit Travel Kerrisdale at 604.264.0552.

Congratulations to our 2011 Big Heart Award Recipients!



Volunteer (Mentor)
Cali Mancia

Cali Mancia has been a supportive Big Sister to her Little Sister Michelle since 2004 and has taken an active role in encouraging Michelle to become a strong, independent young woman. Cali has also been an active volunteer in other areas of our organization including the Big Sisters Development Committee (former Chair), Board Nominating Committee, and Board of Directors (current Board Secretary). She is a compelling ambassador for Big Sisters and, as a member of our Speakers Bureau, she's encouraged many women to volunteer as mentors. Cali has been an invaluable leadership volunteer, both as a mentor and through her engagement in the strategic and administrative sides of Big Sisters.

Photo - Cali Mancia (left) with her Little Sister Michelle.



Volunteer (Non-Mentor)
Brandon Elliot

Brandon Elliot, owner of BrandOneMedia, has been volunteering his professional skills as a photographer and web designer to Big Sisters since 2005. He shoots our match cover stories for this newsletter – providing the featured match with a treasured opportunity to have their own professional photo shoot – and he photographs all of our fundraising events. In addition, Brandon spent countless hours redesigning our weekly e-newsletter in 2009, and when he opened his own photo studio he was quick to offer the use of his studio and services to Big Sisters. Despite a busy travel and work schedule, Brandon is extremely generous with his time and talents and he continues to be a true friend to Big Sisters.



Business
Deloitte.

Deloitte and its employees have been loyal supporters of Big Sisters since 1999 and have donated over \$40,000 to us in that time. The firm has sponsored numerous Big Sisters fundraising events and has also demonstrated amazing employee engagement. Staff hold an annual fundraising drive to sponsor one new Big & Little Sister match and they host information sessions for employees to learn about our volunteer opportunities. From the unwavering support of the Partners at Deloitte – including Lisa Ethans, Big Sisters Honourary Advisory Board member – to the involvement of their employees, this is a company that has truly embraced Big Sisters.

Photo - Deloitte's Paul Fletcher (left) and Lisa Ethans (right) accept the Big Heart Award from Big Sisters' Lisa Cloutier.

Yes! I want to support Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland.

- I would like to donate now or set up a monthly donation
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