



EVERY CONNECTION COUNTS



Dear Big Sisters community,

On behalf of all our Little Sisters, I want to thank you so much for your incredible contributions over the last year. You came together and gave generously in support of vulnerable girls in our community.

This year, to date, we have supported a record 887 Big and Little Sister matches!

Our caring mentors partnered with Big Sisters' caseworkers and the Little's families to build resilience in the face of adversity and helped our Littles realize their inherent potential.

All this would not have been possible without our generous donors. As you will read more about in this newsletter, your commitment was evident at this year's Luminary Award Soirée, which raised an unprecedented \$912,000!

The end of the year is a good time to celebrate recent successes, but also to take a moment and reflect on our rich history.

2020 marks Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland's 60th anniversary. Our program began operating out of the YWCA, where a single part-time caseworker supported 50 Big and Little Sister matches in our first year.

Our original mission was to start a social movement to promote the welfare of girls. Though the mission has changed in words, the spirit of the goal remains the same: providing mentorship to youth so all young people realize their full potential.

In the coming year, I look forward to sharing the stories that have forged our identity and invite our entire community to come together to celebrate our future.

Happy holidays,

Hanne Madsen



WINTERFEST 2019



On Saturday, November 30th, more than 30 pairs of Big & Little Sisters gathered at the Burnaby Village Museum Carousel to celebrate another successful year of being a part of the Big Sisters' family.

The day was filled with crafts, yummy treats and of course, unlimited rides on the vintage 1912 carousel – enjoyed by both the Bigs and Littles alike!

The room was filled with excitement as Bigs and Littles created holiday ornaments, bracelets, and necklaces. As well they played games and used the interactive directory to figure out the names of the horses they had been riding on the carousel. A highlight of the event was when the entire group came together to recognize four match anniversaries, ranging from 3 to 10 years!

In its 15th year, Winterfest is an annual event organized by our volunteer Activities Committee, where Bigs and Littles can gather as a group and meet other matches, as well as celebrate their own personal match!

Thank you to all those who attended!



"She is literally my best friend and has helped me grow up in really tough times. She has been like a mother figure to me and honestly believe I wouldn't be the person am today without her! Best 10 years of my life!"

- Love you, Renée





THE LUMINARY AWARD SOIRÉE



Luminaries Christina Anthony (left) and Tracey McVicar (right) during the fireside chat that followed the reception of their awards.

Our 2019 Luminary Award Soirée saw 650 new and old friends come together at the Vancouver Convention Center West to champion the potential of girls in our community and celebrate two incredible women. **With your help, we held a record-breaking event, raising over \$912,000!**

It was an honour to recognize Christina Anthony and Tracey McVicar as the Luminary Award recipients this year. We were moved by their engaging conversation with their mentee Fereshteh Zeineddin which gave us insight into their friendship and lifelong commitment to mentorship and empowering women. Tracey and Christina invited us into their family, showed us that mentoring matters and inspired us all to dream big!



Thank you to our Board for helping us achieve our dreams this year. We are especially grateful to Carol Robinson and Julia Hibbard for co-chairing the Soirée committee!

We are grateful to Big Sister Rosemary and Little Sister Theresa for sharing their story of overcoming obstacles and stepping out of comfort zones throughout their match. They each now have a lifelong system of support and a bond that would otherwise not have occurred. Their story shows the power mentorship has to change lives.



ARITZIA WAREHOUSE SALE

On August 27th, six lucky matches won the opportunity to be first in line to the Aritzia Warehouse Sale! This early entrance was generously donated by Joanne Brown. It was a day filled with smiles and great finds!



WE WERE HERE!

Gather YVR, a community group offering workshops for women in Tech, hosted an informative financial workshop in October with all proceeds going to Big Sisters BCLM! The presenter shared some great tips on taxes and investing and Marley Stevens from Big Sisters shared the impact of the organization with the group. The event raised over \$400 to support our youth – Thank you Gather YVR for your support!

Are you hosting an event? We could be your partner! Contact Chelsea for more details!

✉ ccarey@bigsisters.bc.ca
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"Being a Big Sister is such a rewarding experience for me [...]. It allows me the opportunity to help facilitate new experiences, share a different perspective on life and inspire the future generation (as much as a humble person such as myself is capable). As a single, childless woman, it gives me an opportunity and excuse to bring out that goofy kid in me and create new bonds with special human beings. I'm so grateful for these relationships and happy to share my precious time for this cause.

- PARTICIPATING BIG SISTER

UPCOMING AT BIG SISTERS!

BMO MARATHON

We are participating in BMO's 2020 RUN4HOPE Marathon and looking for runners! This is a fun opportunity to get active while supporting our Little Sisters still waiting for their Big.

Interested in running for a good cause? Email Chelsea ccarey@bigsisters.bc.ca

APRIL 2020

GrapeJuice is coming back with a fun twist!

Expect another evening of hors d'oeuvres, silent auction items, unique & delicious wines and more!



Did you know?

By donating publicly traded securities, you eliminate the capital gains tax that you'd have to pay if you sold the securities and then donated the proceeds.

It's a great alternative to consider in your end-of-year tax planning and your gift of stock will help Big Sisters ignite the potential of vulnerable girls in our community.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT ANTONIA

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SURREY AND TRI-CITIES ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS!

Refer a friend or apply today at bigsisters.bc.ca/volunteer!