

BIG SISTERS'
LUMINARY
AWARD
SOIRÉE

PRESENTED BY

IN SUPPORT OF

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FOUNDATION



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OF BC LOWER MAINLAND

PRESENTING SPONSOR

BIG SISTERS' LUMINARY AWARD SOIRÉE

PETER & JOANNE
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FOUNDATION

THANK YOU

for a lifetime of championing potential

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A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to our 6th annual Luminary Award Soiree! We're gathering to celebrate 60 years of Big Sisters and six of its' greatest champions.

At Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland, we enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power of young people so they can realize their full potential.

It all began 60 years ago when four professional women began spending time with girls at the St. Euphrasias School. The positive impacts they witnessed motivated them to lay the foundation of what our organization celebrates today – serving over 850 youth and recording more than 45,000 hours of volunteer time a year.

Tonight's program will unveil how this year's Luminaries have helped us get here: The Honourable Janet Austin, Joanne Brown, Kay Gray, Linda Parsons, Patricia Shields and Susan Mendelson.

This year has undoubtedly thrown us all a very difficult curveball. While it would be a disservice to not look back on our achievements, we must acknowledge how particularly challenging this year has been. Our Little Sisters are among the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic. For many, their connection to their Big Sister is all they have.



AMIR MOGHADASI
Big Sisters' Board Chair

We are, it turns out, doing some of our most crucial work now.

This work is made possible by our wonderful team and the incredible work they do. My deepest gratitude to each of you for showing up every day for Little Sisters.

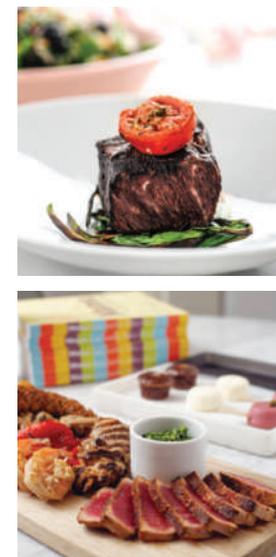
This work is also made possible by you at home. We are humbled by your participation this evening. You are all part of our legacy. Thank you for doing what is within your means and to give what you can to those who need us the most.



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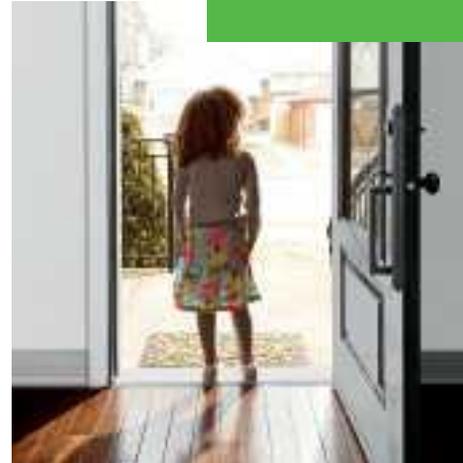
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FROM OUR COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Thank you so much for joining us tonight to recognize the accomplishments of our 2020 Luminary Award recipients



Thank you for joining us to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland. Tonight we recognize the accomplishments of this year's Luminaries: The Honourable Janet Austin, Joanne Brown, Kay Gray, Linda Parsons, Patricia Shields and Susan Mendelson.

During the planning and re-planning of tonight, we have had the privilege of experiencing the exceptional character of these women. Throughout they have been kind, generous, and committed to "whatever Big Sisters needs" to make this night a success. For that, we offer our deepest thanks.

Carol and I have been co-chairing this event for four years now. After last year's wild success, we were ready for more, although who could have contemplated our now normal? COVID had plans to derail the formal gala model and force our team to new heights of creativity and, at times, chaos. We thank you, our guests, for your enthusiasm and willingness to join us from home tonight.

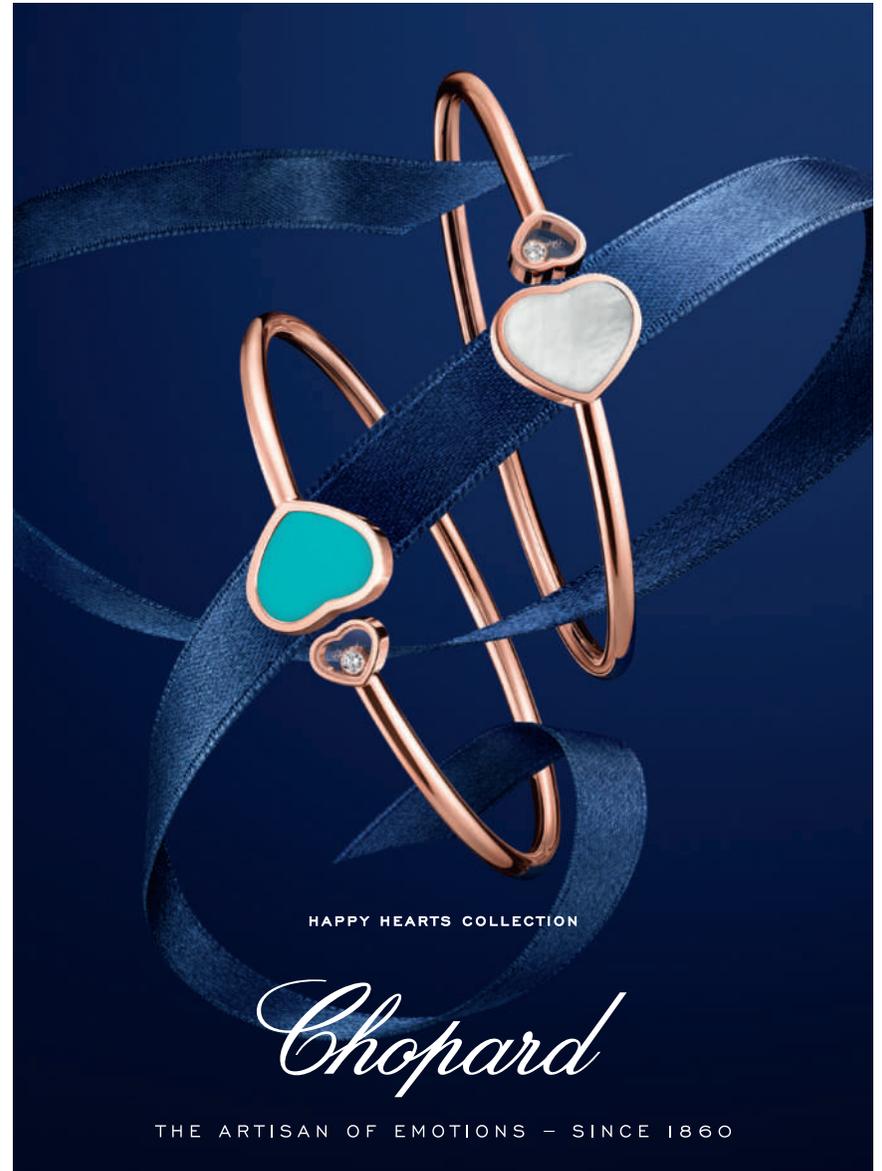
Despite the uncertain times, we are deeply grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, the Peter and Joanne Brown Foundation for their support. To all of our other sponsors and in-kind donors, it is gratifying to have your unwavering support, whether you are here for the first time or the tenth.

The Big Sisters fundraising team and the Soirée committee hit the ground absolutely sprinting to shift this event from a 600 person gala to a memorable hour at home. We absolutely could not have accomplished tonight without our tireless committee. We look forward to sharing tonight's program with you. We hope you are prepared to be inspired, ignited and moved to make a difference.

We raise a toast to you from a safe, calm, and kind distance.

JULIA HIBBARD
Family Lawyer & Mediator
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CAROL ROBINSON
Founder & Principal
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HONOURING MENTORSHIP

OUR 2020 LUMINARY AWARD RECIPIENTS



HER HONOUR, JANET AUSTIN

"The opportunities that I've had to contribute as a volunteer have really helped shape my values, my views about what's important in life, and in society, and that's particularly true for the Big Sisters organization."

The Honourable Janet Austin is the 30th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Originally from Calgary, Her Honour has spent her professional life building a career rich in meaningful work and volunteer service.

Her Honour has worked on issues ranging from social housing and transportation to regional planning and environmental causes. She has been a long-time volunteer with the United Way of the Lower Mainland and has served on the boards of the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Council for Early Child Development, MOSAIC, Translink, the Women's Health Research Institute and the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation. She was the first from the non-profit sector to chair the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade.

Her Honour became aware of the great satisfaction that came from her volunteer roles and began to look for opportunities to incorporate them into her work, and she became our Executive Director for several years before joining the YWCA Metro Vancouver as CEO.

Big Sisters continues to reap the benefits of Her Honour's leadership. Our mentoring programs grew and strengthened under her guidance, as did our relationships with key supporters. She maintains a deep respect for our volunteers, their impact and our ability to do much with limited resources. She has served on our Honourary Advisory Board, is now our Honourary Patron and remains one of our greatest champions.

Congratulations, Your Honour!



JOANNE BROWN

"I don't know anybody that has led a happy, successful, rich life that hasn't had a mentor."

Joanne Brown knows firsthand the challenges faced by young girls. Growing up, she struggled with a lack of self-confidence and learned quickly how valuable it is to find your cheerleader. For Joanne, she found that person in her future husband, Peter Brown.

Together, the Browns have built a reputation of excellence and high achievement, and a life centred around giving. Since raising two children, Joanne has dedicated her time and resources to the welfare of others. Through the Peter & Joanne Brown Foundation, the Browns have supported hundreds of local and provincial initiatives that improve the health and vitality of our community and its residents.

Joanne believes that mentorship is the most important thing in the course of a young person's life. For over 30 years, she has provided key financial support to Big Sisters – taking title sponsorship of our annual fundraising galas and playing a crucial role in the purchase of our Big Sisters House. Most recently, Joanne put our Pen Pal Project into action to support the Little Sisters most affected by the pandemic. Joanne has also served as a volunteer on our Honourary Advisory Board since 2006.

Joanne is valued for setting a tone for doing the right thing and doing it well. She is being honoured for her dedication to Big Sisters, for her years of service and for being a simple phone call away in our greatest times of need.

Congratulations, Joanne!



KAY GRAY

"I made some bad choices and it was pure luck that no lasting harm came to me from them. I don't think we want luck - be it good luck or bad luck - to be the determining factor in the future of a young girl's life."

Kay Gray recently retired from Grant Thornton where she was a senior tax partner. She began her career as a single mother raising two babies. She never imagined building the remarkable career that she enjoyed.

Kay is well-known for the leadership roles she held, and the meaningful contributions she made through her work. Most notably, she was one of the founding partners of the Grant Thornton Foundation – a national organization dedicated to serving communities across the country. The foundation was built as a response to young employees and their desire to give back.

Being a voice for young people would become a common theme in Kay's life.

Kay has experienced firsthand how difficult life can be for young girls having raised four of her own, and developed a strong desire to support women and girls. So when Big Sisters was looking for an accountant to join their board, she jumped at the opportunity. After sitting on the board for seven years, Kay joined the Honourary Advisory Board on which she continues to serve today.

We are grateful to be the beneficiary of Kay's giving and lifelong commitment to our cause. She's a guiding light and unwaveringly dedicated to the vulnerable youth we serve.

Congratulations, Kay!



LINDA PARSONS

"I loved this idea of Big Sisters: that it's all right to just help one person at a time, and really be there for them. There is no substitute for that. There's no program or afterschool class that can do that."

Linda Parsons is a retired former partner with DLA Piper LLP, and now an executive coach who works primarily with women lawyers on career/ life choices and integration.

Originally from Toronto, Linda studied law at the University of Toronto and relocated to Vancouver to practice, where she became recognized as a 'leading lawyer' by Best Lawyers in Canada and was awarded the designation of Queen's Counsel in 2008. During her career, Linda stepped away from her successful practice to raise her children and picked up where she left off when she did return to work.

Linda's involvement with Big Sisters began when she became a Big Sister mentor. She also chaired the board and, during this time, spearheaded the purchase of the Big Sisters House. To Linda, the House would provide economic security to the organization and be a place of belonging for the Little Sisters who lack that in their lives. Turns out, she was right. Several years later, Linda was invited to put together the Honourary Advisory Board, on which she continues to serve nearly 40 years later.

Within our community, she has earned the reputation as the quintessential Big Sister and is being honoured for her years of service, her visionary gifts and for providing Little Sisters with a place they belong.

Congratulations, Linda!

HONOURING COMMITMENT

OUR 2020 LUMINARY AWARD RECIPIENTS



PATRICIA SHIELDS

"Positive role models can open doors and minds so youth see opportunities they may not have otherwise considered."

Patricia Shields became involved with Big Sisters over 20 years ago with the donation of a car. Before she knew it, she had been recruited to volunteer her expertise in education.

Patricia is a retired teacher and principal and district consultant, who is currently working with several BC school districts as an early learning education consultant. Originally from the interior, she moved to the Lower Mainland to study at UBC and enjoyed a 30-year career with the Vancouver School Board. Patricia is appreciated for pioneering province-wide educational programs to ensure that all children have access to opportunities. She has also collaborated on educational initiatives with various non-profit organizations, including the YMCA, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Opera Society and TELUS Vancouver Community Board.

For Big Sisters, Patricia co-developed our Study Buddy program and set up our Education Advisory Committee – a team of talented individuals who advise on our curriculum and use their networks within the school districts. Patricia continues to provide her expertise as a long-time member of our Honourary Advisory Committee. Her commitment to Big Sisters is a testament to her belief that the best way forward for youth to succeed is through one-to-one support.

Last year, the Province of British Columbia honoured Patricia with a Medal of Good Citizenship. We are honouring her for the deep impacts she's made in our programs and for bettering the lives of children through education.

Congratulations, Patricia!



SUSAN MENDELSON

"People have felt my passion and excitement for the organization and realized that this is an organization that does such great work that they want to put their hat on that post as well."

Susan Mendelson's career in food began with cheesecake. She moved out to the West Coast from Toronto to study at UBC and worked at The Vancouver East Cultural Centre to pay for school. She even sold baked goods to theatre patrons during intermission. Her cheesecake was a hit, and led to a regular feature on CBC Radio, television segments, The Lazy Gourmet catering company and many cookbooks. All before the age of 30.

Susan inherited a passion for cooking from her grandmother, but never intended to work in the kitchen. She had been studying theatre and social work, but Susan couldn't ignore the countless requests for her culinary skills. Unwilling to have regrets later in life, Susan and her then partner, Deborah Roitberg, opened the doors to The Lazy Gourmet.

Susan's desire to be of service to her community remained strong, and when Linda Parsons introduced her to Big Sisters over 20 years ago, she immediately fell in love with the organization and its down-to-earth community. She chaired the gala committee for several years and grew our annual fundraiser by \$300,000.

Susan continues to serve on our Honourary Advisory Board. She is a powerhouse behind the scenes who makes things happen with her energy, expertise and infectious enthusiasm. We thank her for her years of service, her spirit and her cheesecake.

Congratulations, Susan!

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the entire Big Sisters team, welcome to the 6th annual Luminary Award Soirée!

Thank you for joining us to recognize the achievements of our six incredible Luminaries: **The Honourable Janet Austin, Joanne Brown, Kay Gray, Linda Parsons, Patricia Shields and Susan Mendelson.** These women are our Big Sisters. They are the ones we turn to for guidance and support at our time of greatest need. This year has been one of them.



HANNE MADSEN

Big Sisters' Executive Director

Like the rest of you, we hit the ground running to protect the safety and well-being of our staff, volunteers, Little Sisters and broader community. We've moved all parts of the organization to a virtual platform and ignited our networks to ensure that our work with Little Sisters remains uninterrupted. COVID-19 has elevated the importance of our work with at-risk youth and emphasized the importance of maintaining social connections at a time of physical distancing. We've increased our communications to the youth and their families, provided our most isolated children with cell phones and plans, and launched many virtual activities and a Pen Pal project. The Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds group program went virtual, too. I've never felt prouder of our incredible team who've made this all happen.

This pandemic may have put us at a physical distance, but in many ways, we've never felt closer. Amid all of the upheaval, personal duress and financial struggle for many, you are here for Little Sisters. For that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Tonight is a testament to the value of connection, our collective strength, and our ability to be there for each other even when we're apart.

We're still in this together.

Lifelong friendship.

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THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP TONIGHT.

Since 1960, Big Sisters has been igniting the potential of young girls. Through our programs, we help youth gain the confidence they need to recognize their potential. With the support and help of our over 700 volunteers, we establish caring and supportive lifelong friendships, that result in Little Sisters who are three times more confident about themselves, driven to take on new challenges such as post-secondary education, and become the strong leaders of tomorrow.

Our Vision

All young people realise their full potential.

Our Mission

Enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people.

“[She] helped me realize and understand that people will accept me unapologetically, that I am strong and have valuable opinions. Where before I didn't have a voice, [my Big Sister] showed me the confidence I had to be who I am.”

- Little Sister, Emma



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WE CHAMPION YOUTH'S POTENTIAL.

Little Sisters in our programs come from diverse backgrounds, and many struggle with societal barriers or face adversities like family violence, poverty, risk factors for mental health, school issues, bullying and identity challenges.

Big Sisters Mentoring Program



The Big Sisters program is a one-to-one mentorship that has a profound impact on Little Sisters (ages 7-17). Through regular outings, a relationship develops between the mentor and the Little Sister that is built on trust and common interests, and is supported by our experienced caseworkers. The result is a life-changing experience for both the volunteer mentor and Little Sister.

Study Buddy Program

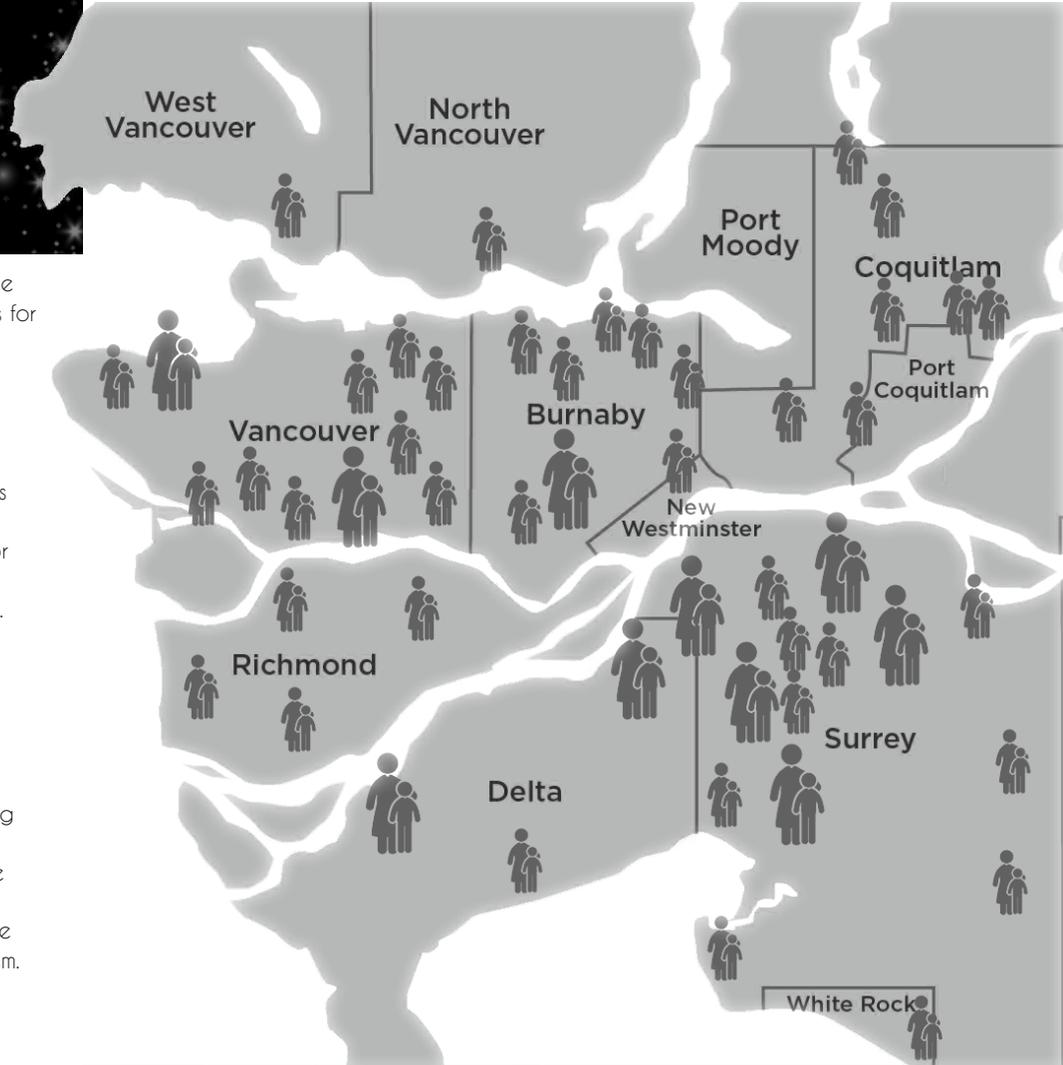


The Study Buddy program is a weekly one-to-one mentoring relationship that focuses on school work. For a minimum of six months, Study Buddies meet for one hour a week outside of school to work on school subjects and study skills. Little Study Buddies (ages 7-17) in this program not only improve their academics but also report a higher level of self-esteem.

Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Program



Go Girls! is a group mentoring program for girls (ages 10 to 14) that promotes the benefit of an active, healthy lifestyle. With social pressures to be perfect at an all-time high, girls in this program build the tools for confidence and self-awareness during these formative years



855

YOUTH SERVED
ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

45,000

VOLUNTEER HOURS
RECORDED IN 2019

MEET PEGGIE & PAULINE

SISTERS FOR LIFE

As we celebrate 60 years of Big Sisters, we are heartened by a match that's been thriving for much of our history. Here's the story of Peggy and Pauline - a sisterhood that's stronger than ever over 40 years later.

When Peggy was 8 years old, she had difficulties at home. She grew up in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside with a single mother who was abusive, and a brother who was rough. She experienced sexual abuse from her uncle, and when she turned to her mother for help, her mother didn't believe her. Peggy was learning fast that the easiest way to keep the peace was to be quiet and play small. Peggy was growing up with no one to turn to.

That changed when her Big Sister, Pauline, came into her life. Pauline started volunteering for Big Sisters in 1972 after emigrating from Australia. She didn't have any siblings but thought becoming a Big Sister would be a good fit - to be a friend to someone.

The two met in 1977 after a social worker became involved in Peggy's life at home. Pauline would take her

out for walks, camping, ice skating, the movies. But when she'd return her home, she'd witness just how bad things were for Peggy. "Her mother didn't treat her the way a little girl should be treated," says Pauline. She taught Peggy how to speak her mind and stand up for herself.

Pauline also came from a home with an uncaring mother and was no stranger to abuse. Peggy was able to open up to Pauline as the result of their shared experiences. But more than anything, it was simply having someone there for her that made the difference. "I know how I felt - of not being good enough, of nobody wanting you," Peggy remembers. "To have the feeling of someone actually wanting you and wanting to spend time with you is amazing."

Peggy grew up to become a nurse's aide - a profession inspired by Pauline who is a nurse. She got married and



raised three sons with the same affection that Pauline had modeled to her. But Peggy continued to face hardship. After 11 wonderful years of marriage, her husband turned to drugs and alcohol, and also became abusive. Peggy attempted suicide twice. It was Pauline who advocated for her to get the help she needed and, as a result, Peggy received counselling and left her husband. "I don't think I would actually be here if it wasn't for Pauline," says Peggy.

Pauline, on the other hand, feels that Peggy gives her too much credit. "She has a lot more strength than she realizes," says Pauline. "And she has a huge heart." In Peggy, Pauline has found a sister she can count on, too. Pauline left an abusive marriage as well and survived her own traumas. "We all need someone we can trust and do the right thing by us even when we can't do it by ourselves," she says.

From their life experiences, they know how important mentors are in the lives of young people. "Many girls I grew up with in the projects turned to drugs and alcohol," Peggy remembers. She is especially concerned for the children growing up today. "They know a lot more. There's a lot more stress and peer pressure. I'm just glad Big Sisters is there."

The two are in touch daily and even tried to adopt each other legally! Their sisterhood is a testament that with the right person by your side, there's nothing you can't get through.



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OUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES

We have the privilege to welcome Fred Lee as our auctioneer and host.

Fred Lee is Vancouver's 'Man About Town.' He shares all of the city's A-list happenings, red carpet parties, galas and fundraisers with readers in the Province Newspaper, Vancouver Living and Boulevard Magazine. Fred has contributed for the National Post, CBC, Vancouver Magazine and BC Business. A tireless volunteer, Fred is a mentor to many, and currently a board member of Chor Leoni and advisory member for UBC's CampOUT. Fred is the recipient of various awards, including the Association of Fundraising Professional's Charity Champion Award, an inductee in the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame and Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow Award.



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FIRST LIGHT
FOUNDATION

John and Dana Montalbano

OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR

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REMEMBER.

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our Planning Committee

Julia Hibbard (Co Chair)
Carol Robinson (Co Chair)
Ashley Baker
Alex Gens
Carly Johnston

Kevin Mazzone
Laura Smart
Gisa Straith
Danielle Veldhuis

Our Board of Directors, our Honourary Advisory Board, our event volunteers, our silent auction donors, and YOU for joining us tonight and recognizing that mentoring matters.

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DELIGHTED TO HAVE

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AS OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR

HOW TO BID

All bids will be placed using Click Bid's online auction platform using any web-enabled device. To place your bids please;

1. Visit <https://bigistersbclm.cbo.io> or scan the below QR code



2. If you already have a bidder number, enter your email and password to start bidding. If you don't have a bidder number click 'Register Now' to create an account and start bidding

3. Scroll through the auction items or select by category

4. Select the item you wish to bid, enter the amount you would like to bid and click 'place bid'

5. You will see a congratulations screen letting you know your bid has been placed successfully

6. You will receive a text message or email letting you know if you have been outbid. You may also select a max bid amount and Click Bid will bid for you up to that amount

7. When the auction closes you will receive a message letting you know if you have been the winning bidder

8. Visit your cart to pay for your items or contact ksunder@bigisters.bc.ca if you would like to pay via cheque

**Auction will close promptly at 7:35PM, please ensure your last bids are in to secure your items!*

THANK YOU TO
THE LUTSKY FAMILIES
FOR CHAMPIONING POTENTIAL



“Big Sisters promotes confidence, self-esteem and supports the well-being of children through supportive friendships. My daughter has flourished in this program and so have many of her friends.”

– Antoinette, Parent

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR
PLATINUM SPONSOR**

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AUCTION RULES

Delivery of your items

Gift cards will be mailed or emailed following the event. Larger items will be delivered to your home on October 8th and 9th by our Telus volunteer couriers – please ensure the address on file is your preferred delivery address for your items. If you will not be home on these dates to accept delivery please email ccarey@bigsisters.bc.ca to make alternate arrangements.

Disclaimers

Participation in the Luminary Award Soirée auctions constitutes acceptance by the bidder of the terms and conditions outlined below.

The purchaser holds Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland free and clear of liability for property or physical injury that may arise from any item or service acquired at the auction. Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland, in presenting these auctions, makes every effort to accurately describe all auction items. All items are sold "as is". Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland neither warrants nor represents and shall in no event be responsible for the correctness of the description, genuineness, authorship, provenance, value or condition of the property. No statement contained in the description of the auction item or made orally at the auction or elsewhere, shall be deemed to be warranty, representation, or assumption of liability. Items depicted in visual presentations are for illustrative purposes only and may not be exactly as shown. Some items or services may have other restrictions or conditions for use in addition to those stated in the program.

Payment

All sales are final. There will be no exchanges or refunds on auctioned items for either cash or other merchandise. All final winning bid amounts are inclusive of all applicable sales tax.

Title to the auction item remains with Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland until the full payment for purchases have cleared. We ask that you make your payments promptly in order for us to deliver the items in our delivery window following the event. Items that are not paid for by the time of delivery (October 8th and 9th) will need to be picked up.

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AT-RISK YOUTH

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CORE
COMMUNITY



MOE'S
home collection



SPONSOR A MATCH CHANGE A LIFE.

Last year, Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland was able to **support over 850 vulnerable and at-risk girls**. Giving them the opportunity to get a Big Sister of their very own – someone to guide them, be there for them and ignite their potential.

The magic of the Big Sisters program is that an effective match creates hundreds of volunteer hours to be activated from our community. Each Big Sister spends between 2-4 hours a week with their Little Sister. **It costs our agency \$2,000 a year to support the creation and continuation of one of these matches.**

Even though we are a volunteer based organization, our Big and Little Sister matches are supported by our professional caseworkers who are experts in the field of social work. It is their expertise that we rely on to make appropriate, deep-level matches based on shared values, personalities, interests and life experiences. It is at this level that real connections are possible, as is life-long change.

The average match supported by Big Sisters lasts almost 3.5 years with many turning into life-long friendships.

But there is so much more we can do. In addition to supporting existing matches, **Big Sisters receives over 400 referrals annually**. Each is a potential Little looking for a Big Sister of her very own.

Tonight, we ask you to support Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland by sponsoring a match and helping to change a life.

The costs associated with supporting a match include:

- Child safety training
- Little Sister assessments
- Big Sister volunteer training, screening and development
- Regular reviews and check-ins with Little Sisters, their families and volunteers throughout the duration of the match
- Provision of resources and referrals to families

Charitable tax receipts will be issued to all donors



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TO ALL OF YOU
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Charity Number: 11880 9409 RR 0001