

# EVERY CONNECTION COUNTS



Dear Big Sisters Community,

September is Big Brothers Big Sisters month when the over 100 agencies across Canada celebrate the power of mentorship and the potential of young people. During this month we thank our volunteers who give over 45,000 hours a year helping to make a difference in the lives of at-risk youth and their families. Of course, all this work would not be possible without our dedicated supporters.

The return to school has offered some much-needed stability to children who have been struggling with heightened anxiety, isolation and tough living conditions due to COVID-19. But the world remains uncertain and Big Sisters is needed now more than ever.

We are committed to responding to the growing needs of our most vulnerable children and have been adapting our programs to meet those needs including increased check-ins with matches and supporting virtual meetings.

We look forward to keeping you informed of how we continue to adapt our work to make sure all young people – regardless of upheaval in the world – have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

Our most important work has just begun.

With Gratitude,

Hanne Madsen



# WHY MENTORING MATTERS

## MORE THAN JUST FREE TUTORING

Blair and Emma began their match when Emma was struggling with schoolwork. But the pair quickly developed a personal, emotional, and life-long connection.

Among other personal hardships, Emma was struggling with her homework at the start of high school. At 14, Emma decided to take matters into her own hands and request some form of support from her counsellor, who then referred her to the Study Buddy program. Soon, she was matched with her Big Sister, Blair.

Emma was at first nervous to meet with Blair, and both were unsure of how the match would go. Blair worried about whether she would be able to relate to a child that experienced adversities that she hadn't, and Emma hadn't expected to get along with Blair as well as she did.

Blair decided to become a Study Buddy because its focus – namely, schoolwork – was specified from the outset and gave the match a particular direction. But Blair and Emma's chemistry turned Blair into so much more than a tutor. Very quickly, the match went from academic goalsetting to personal support. "She saw me struggle and was patient enough to keep up with me," Emma said. "I can confidently say that I would not be here today if it wasn't for her; she added the stability I needed to look forward. I benefitted in a very deep way from adding her to my life."

Like Emma, Blair also feels that she has gained



a great deal from the pair's Study Buddy Match and has even been inspired to become a counsellor since matching with Emma: "I learned a lot from Emma; her perspective on life was not something I could've relied on anywhere else," she claimed. "I think mentoring her has benefitted me in a multitude of little ways, but the biggest takeaway from this experience is that the more you make an effort to learn from people, the more you can understand them."

Blair and Emma enjoy reminiscing about Emma's high school graduation, with Blair being tremendously proud to see her Little Study Buddy walk on stage. The pair celebrates where their four years had taken them. Both recall being filled with emotion and joy, and are committed to staying in each other's lives today.

Today, Emma is confident and thriving in part thanks to Blair. "[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, [Blair] showed me the confidence I had to be who I am."



# FUTURE YOU CAMP

## Big Sisters Future You Camp Inspires 13 Little Sisters

On August 6th and 7th, Big Sisters was excited to host our fourth Future You Camp for 13 of our Little Sisters, aged 13-17, for two fun-filled days of career-related programming. The camp, while being carefully executed with increased Covid-19 safety protocols, was a chance for Littles to connect socially together after many months of isolation. Campers spent two days learning about different career options and post-secondary planning from community organizations such as Options Consulting, Women's Enterprise Centre, Science Alive, Raven Institute and Peerspectives as well as a variety of other inspiring speakers. This camp is an opportunity for our community to engage with the youth we serve while showing Littles that we are there for them today and will continue to be there for them as they explore their futures. Thank you to all our volunteers who made this camp possible and to RBC, BC Hydro and Eldorado Gold for their commitment to igniting the potential of youth in our community.



# THE GO-GIRLS! PROGRAM IS NOW OFFERED ONLINE!

This is a fun, safe, virtual program for youth in grades 6 - 8 focused on connecting with peers and trained volunteer mentors in a group setting.

This after school program offers games, activities, and discussions around relevant topics such as: friendships, problem solving, active living, social media, and balanced eating.

Go Girls is 8 sessions long, running 1.5 hours/ session.



FREE



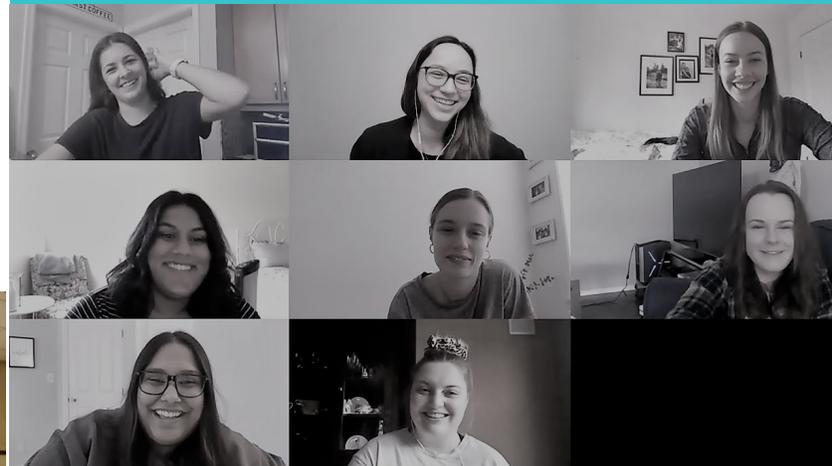
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## WANT MORE INFO ?

CONTACT VANESSA GALE AT  
[VGALE@BIGSISTERS.BC.CA](mailto:VGALE@BIGSISTERS.BC.CA) OR 604-836-2122



# NEWS & UPDATES

## LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Celebrate 60 years of Big Sisters with us at our Luminary Award Soirée on September 30, 2020!

Join us to celebrate six incredible women who have left indelible marks on our organization: The Honourable Janet Austin, Joanne Brown, Kay Gray, Linda Parsons, Patricia Shields and Susan Mendelson.

Learn more about our 6th annual event [here!](#)

## TELUS INVESTS IN YOUTH EDUCATION

**The future just became a whole lot friendlier and smarter!**

The Telus Friendly Future Foundation contributes \$20,000 to support Big Sisters BCLM's Study Buddy program ensuring free one-to-one tutoring for girls to reach their full potential. Big Sisters is exceptionally grateful for the financial support and is excited to have Telus employees assist with our fundraising events, including the delivery of online auction items.

Thank you to the whole Telus family for your incredible commitment to igniting potential of youth in our community.



## CALLING ALL ALUMNAE!

For our 60th Anniversary, we want to connect with as many former Big and Little Sisters as we can and we have lots of ways for you to continue to make a difference in the community!

Tell us your story, connect with us on Facebook and Instagram or email [akjennings@bigsisters.bc.ca](mailto:akjennings@bigsisters.bc.ca) to find out more about our exclusive Alumnae program.

## YOUR LEGACY IS HER FUTURE

Is our organization in your will? Please let us know so we can thank you!

Email: [akjennings@bigsisters.bc.ca](mailto:akjennings@bigsisters.bc.ca)

## SAVE THE DATE!!

October 27th at 12:00pm - Mentoring Matters Webinar

November 25th at 6:00pm - Virtual Volunteer Recognition Event

## HELP US MAINTAIN MENTORING IN THE LOWER MAINLAND.

We do not know what the future holds, but what we know is that the Littles we support will need our help and their Big Sisters as the world recovers. [Click here to make a donation!](#)