

# EVERY CONNECTION COUNTS



Dear Big Sisters Community,

September is Big Brothers Big Sisters month when we celebrate the impact of mentoring in our community.

This month, I'm happy to share two stories that exemplify how acts of mentorship can give comfort today and inspire the future. You will read about how Matida's mentor, Sophie helped her through the uncertainty of the last year and how youth at our Future You Camp had the opportunity to explore different career possibilities and imagine big futures.

Most importantly, this month is a time to reaffirm our commitment to the young people and their families who we serve, our volunteers and supporters.

Thank you all for being a part of this incredible community.

Sincerely,

Hanne Madson  
Executive Director of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland



# WELCOME TO A VIRTUAL WORLD



## 2020 was a tough year for all of us, especially for Little Sister Matida

Matida was reaching the end of her grade 12 year, full of joy and excitement for the next chapter in her life. Her Big Sister, Sophie, had helped her throughout the planning process of post-secondary education and everything was finally making sense. With the guidance and support from Sophie, Matida was accepted into her dream program in health sciences at SFU. Unfortunately, the world came to a halt as Covid began to spread and Matida felt the consequences firsthand.

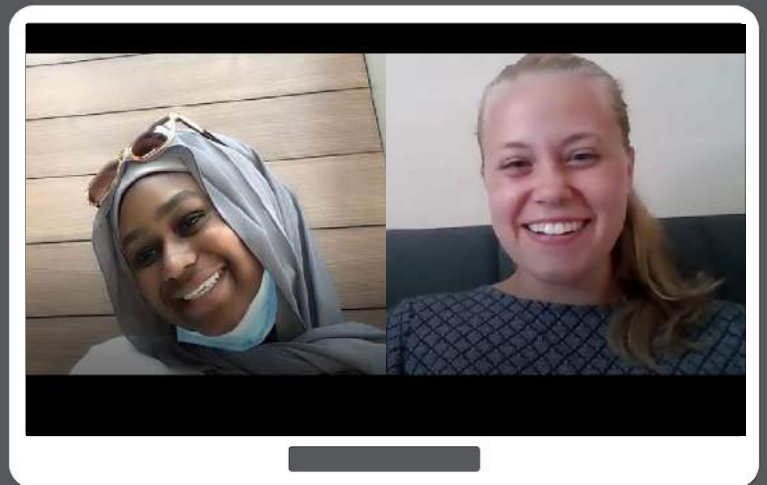
**“HAVING THAT CONNECTION WHERE I COULD JUST CALL OR TEXT [MY BIG SISTER DURING THIS PANDEMIC] WAS REALLY NICE.”**

- Little Sister, Matida

Her high school's joint program with BCIT had to be cut short, she was unable to see her friends regularly, and graduation would no longer be the same. "When Covid hit, I felt like I was more alone,"

Matida shares, "it really took a toll on me." Everything seemed like it was falling off track once again. However, Matida still had Sophie. When she felt lost, Sophie was only a text away, ready to find her happiness and offer her comfort through tough times. Sophie and Matida moved their mentorship relationship online and met once a week via Zoom. If their schedules didn't align, Matida could simply send Sophie a text with her question and she would receive a reply in 15 minutes. "Having that connection where I could just call her or text her was really nice."

Although Matida and Sophie met only 1 year ago as Study Buddies, their relationship has blossomed into a friendship that survived a pandemic.



# FUTURE YOU CAMP

In August, Big Sisters hosted Future You Camp at the Civic Plaza Hotel in Surrey. Future You Camp is a 4-day career camp that showcases various career paths for the youth to learn and explore. This year, our 12 campers had the opportunity to experience a large array of careers from geology to directing film to entrepreneurship. Throughout the event, plenty of air fives were passed around and numerous social distancing smiles were shared. Each day was jam-packed with different workshops that reflected the theme for the day.

On the first day, the theme was "Who Do I Want To Be?" Questions like "what do you want to see changed in the world?" were asked and the answers were phenomenal. For example, one youth replied with "I want to change stereotypes and end world hunger," and another said "I would like to change the violence against women and children and their families." This was a seriously driven and ambitious group!

The second day was centered around the "Left Brain." The campers travelled to the Surrey Health and Tech District to learn about new scientific innovations that are helping build a better tomorrow. After the eye-opening tour, the youth participated in an interactive workshop with Minerals Ed who taught them the beauty behind Earth Science. The amazing group of female geologists inspired the youth and some of the campers even considered becoming a hydrogeologist in the future.

Day three's theme was "How Will I Get There?" In the morning, all of the campers packed up their backpacks and went on another field trip to the SFU Surrey campus where they had the opportunity to tour the campus and learn about all the exciting courses that were available. They then explored their creative and quick-thinking sides during a fun improv workshop. After coming back to the Civic Plaza Hotel, the youth were greeted by an RBC representative who taught them the importance of budgeting for their futures which was incredibly useful.

Finally, on the last day, the youth explored careers that reflected the "Right Brain." All the campers had an exciting day learning from a beauty entrepreneur, a professional artist, and a carpenter. They even got the opportunity to hear from Kate Wright, an RBC Olympian. Towards the end of the day, the campers received their own goodie-filled Herschel backpack and said their goodbyes.

The campers left Future You Camp with new memories, friendships, and career goals. Thank you to our Sponsors, RBC, Eldorado Gold, and Fluor, for helping us making this event possible for our youth!



# BIG SISTERS' LUMINARY SOIRÉE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2021 | IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL EVENT

This annual event is a time for our community to gather and celebrate the power of mentorship. Every dollar raised truly makes a huge difference in communities across the Lower Mainland where Big Sisters' small but mighty team of caseworkers support over 700 volunteers and an average of over 800 youth each year.

You can see your impact every day. It's the young girl who walks into a classroom with confidence, a nurse's aide whose career was inspired by her Big Sister or a youth who has experienced trauma and chooses a different path than her peers.

In these uncertain times you can give the girls we support something to count on.

Join us on October 15th, 2021 online or in-person at the Rocky Mountaineer Station for the 7th annual Big Sisters' Luminary Soirée! Buy tickets through scanning the QR code here or click here: [www.trellis.org/luminarysoiree](http://www.trellis.org/luminarysoiree)



SCAN ME

## STUDY BUDDY

No cost mentoring that ignites academic success

click here to learn more



REFER A CHILD TODAY

# NEWS AND UPDATES



## Upcoming 2021 Events

**TUESDAY** AGM/Volunteer  
**NOV 16<sup>TH</sup>** Recognition  
Event

Big Sisters is delighted to be amongst the charities supported by the First West Foundation that is celebrating 25 years of helping communities thrive.

First West Foundation has been a generous donor since 2015, championing the Go Girls group mentoring program to uplift youth in the lower mainland.

**THANK YOU** FIRST WEST FOUNDATION



"The backpack is so pretty. I will definitely use this backpack in September when school starts!"

- Mentee Maddie



**THANK YOU**  
HERSCHEL SUPPLY CO.

## 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)

## 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!](#)