



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Central California

*Little Moments. Big Magic.™*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 17, 2010

**Contact:** Shauna Goodman  
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### **Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Year to be Recognized** *Over 200 "Bigs," "Littles" and family members to gather at Wild Water Adventure Park, with four mentors being honored as "Bigs of the Year"*

**Date:** Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

**Time:** 4:00-7:00 p.m., Program 6:30-7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Wild Water Adventure Park

11413 E Shaw Avenue, Clovis (between McCall & Academy)



*"Matt has been a strong and positive male role model for me from the start. He has shown me the importance of kindness and dedication through his actions. Since the beginning, he has always been there for me. Even when things were rough on him, he continued to keep me in his mind. This year has been especially hard for him with family tragedies and illnesses, but still he managed to make time for me. He could've done the normal thing and just cast me aside (after all he isn't obligated to do this), but he didn't. He kept on and continued to impact my life for the better. He persevered through hard time and maintained the status of being an amazing Big Brother."*

- Excerpt from Little Brother Sage's nomination of Matt for Big Brother of the Year

The mentors, mentees, waiting list children, staff and board members will come together for an evening of water slides, wave pools, and hot dogs at Wild Water Adventure Park. The program will include acknowledgement of over 56 volunteers who have been with the program as little as 1 year and as long as 9 years. Additionally, special awards will be given at approximately 6:30 p.m. to Big Brothers and Sisters of the Year who were nominated by their Little Brother or Sister and agency staff.

[www.Bigs.org](http://www.Bigs.org)

**Fresno County:**  
905 N. Fulton St.  
Fresno, CA 93728  
(559) 268-2447 Phone  
(559) 268-1006 Fax

**Kern County:**  
1212 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661) 900-1222 Phone  
(mail to Fresno)

**Kings County:**  
520 W. Lacey Blvd. Ste 3  
Hanford, CA 93230  
(559) 582-4583 Phone  
(559) 582-1534 Fax

**Madera County:**  
2300 W. Industrial Ave.  
Madera, CA 93637  
(559) 673-4863 Phone  
(559) 673-2718 Fax

**Tulare County:**  
948 N. "H" Street, Ste 2  
Tulare, CA 93274  
(559) 687-1108 Phone  
(559) 687-8392 Fax

Applicants were chosen by agency supporters based on the length of their match, involvement with the agency, types of outing activities, consistency and quality of the relationship, and the nomination from the Little. The award winners listed below will be surprised at the event with the honor and will hear their Little's nominations at that time.

**Big Brother of the Year – Matt Mattos, Tulare County**  
**Big Sister of the Year – ConnieMarie McCaskill, Madera County**  
**High School Big Brother of the Year – Arturo Arenas, Madera High**  
**High School Big Sister of the Year – Reyna De La Mora, Madera High**

This event is the result of the generous donation of the staff at Wild Water Adventure Park and Pelco.

For more information, visit [www.bigs.org](http://www.bigs.org) or call Shauna Goodman at (559) 268-2447 or (559) 259-8767.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California exists to increase education levels, strengthen families, and increase positive youth development through one to one caring relationships. Since 1969, the agency has successfully served over 9,500 children in the Central Valley. Local statistics show that of the children matched with a mentor through our agency, 95% improve in academic performance, 91% are more prepared for school and 100% experience a boost in self confidence.

The organization depends on donations to help recruit volunteers and reach more children. Funding is used to conduct background checks on volunteers to ensure child safety; and provide ongoing support for children, families and volunteers to build and sustain long-lasting relationships. Big Brothers Big Sisters is proven to improve children's odds for succeeding in school, behaving nonviolently, avoiding drugs and alcohol, and breaking negative cycles. For more information, go to [www.bigs.org](http://www.bigs.org).

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