



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Central California

**Start Something™**



ANNUAL REPORT FY **09-10**



## Vision: All children achieve success in life.

*This was a difficult year that ended on a positive note. While we maintain matches in all five counties served, the Kern County office closed in March, 2010 and 1.5 staff reductions were made. Three offices in Fresno, Madera, and Tulare now serve all counties. Thanks to Recovery Act money via E.O.C. and Fresno County, two positions out of the remaining 9 were saved. While the recession lowered our donations and number of willing volunteers to mentor youth, the need from our families to provide mentors remains high. Adversity only increases the need.*

*We implemented a new Youth Outcome Survey to better measure our impact on those mentored. While we do not yet have enough youth completing both baseline and anniversary surveys to provide statistically valid results, signs are promising.*

*In order to be well positioned as the economy recovers, the Fund Development infrastructure continued to be strengthened.*

*Our goal to increase the number of children who reach their potential and build our community can only occur with community support.*

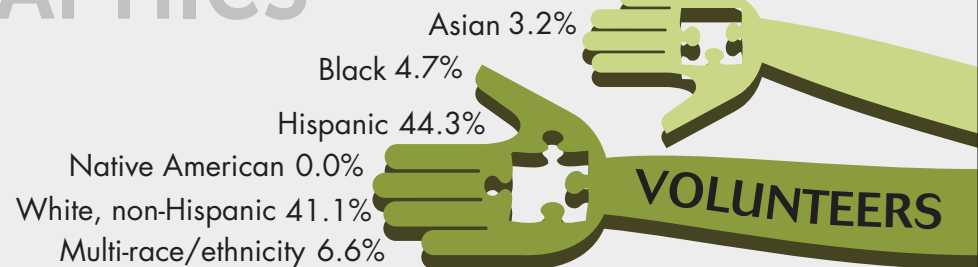
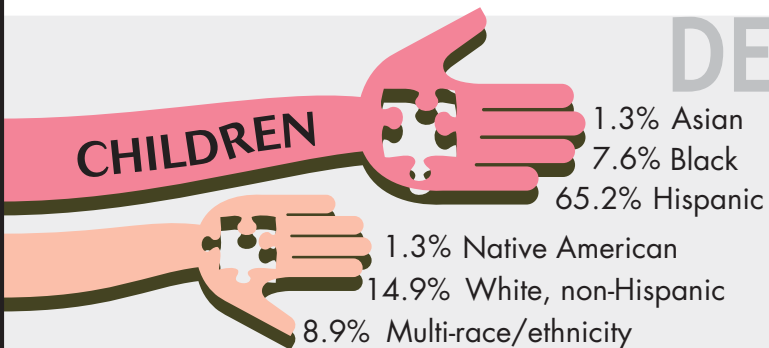
*At fiscal year end, a large grant was announced. After serving 291 children over the past three years through a federal grant to mentor youth with currently or formerly incarcerated parents, the federal government provided us with a second three-year cycle to mentor another 300 youth with currently incarcerated parents over three years – the largest such grant in California.*

*With your help, our vision - that all children succeed in life – can be closer to becoming a reality. Together, we will start something that is lasting and changes youth for the better, forever.*

*Bruce Frost*

**Executive Director**

## DEMOGRAPHICS



**97.2%** Low Income children (eligible for free or reduced school lunch)



**CHILDREN** ● 41.8%  
● 58.2%

Males ● Females ●

**VOLUNTEERS** ● 33.2%  
● 66.5%

**77.5%** Children with current or formerly Incarcerated Parent

# What We Achieved

Mentoring can occur in many forms in life – formal and informal. What sets Big Brothers Big Sisters apart as a formal program is the level of support provided to everyone involved. We hold ourselves accountable for each child in our program achieving:

- Higher aspirations, greater confidence and better relationships
- Avoidance of risky behaviors
- Educational Success.



A new baseline survey was implemented this past year to youth ages 9 and up at the beginning of each new match. Field tested for two years prior, it measures

- social acceptance
- school competency
- grades
- attitudes toward risky behavior
- parental trust
- school attendance and tardiness
- special adult relationships
- future expectations about finishing high school and college.

It is taken again at every 12 month anniversary to measure progress.

At year end, 17 community-based and 15 site/school-based Littles had completed both a baseline and anniversary Youth Outcome survey.

Most encouraging, a baseline average score of 2.6 out of 5 expected to finish high school (1 meaning not at all sure and 5 meaning very sure). At the end of their year with their mentor, the score jumped to 3.9. The score of those expecting to go to college started at 2.4 and jumped to 3.4 at year end. Those expecting to finish college started with a 2.3 average score and jumped to 3.3 on a scale of 5 at their anniversary.

## POSITIVE OUTCOMES

MAJOR CATEGORIES	CB (%)	SB (%)
1	94.1	100.0
2	94.1	84.6
3	88.2	69.2
4	82.4	53.9
5	41.2	38.5
6	29.4	23.1
7	5.9	15.4
8	0	7.7

(CB) Community-Based and (SB) School-based  
Based on initial results, not yet statistically valid

## Children Served 2010

Community-based: 70.6% (CB)-223

High School Bigs: 19.9% (HSB)-63

Adult Site Based: 9.5% (ASB)-30

Fresno County: 139 (44.0%)

Kern County: 22 (7.0%)

Kings County: 12 (3.8%)

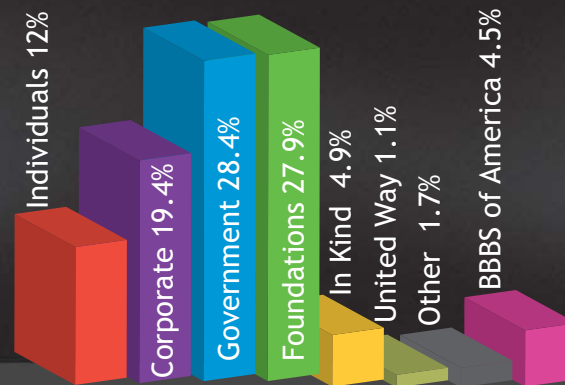
Madera County: 81 (26%)

Tulare County: 62 (19.6%)

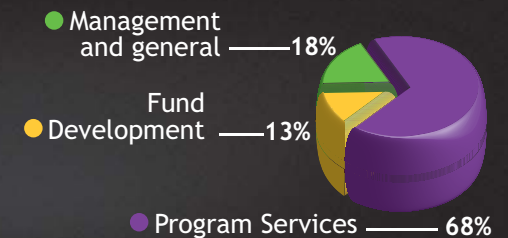
Total Served: 316



## Support Breakdown: \$697,364



## FY 09-10 Expenses: \$721,667



Based on I.R.S. 990



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Central California

# 2010 Bigs of the Year



**Big Brother of the Year** – Matt Mattos, Tulare County  
“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.” –*Little Brother Sage*



**High School Big Brother of the Year** – Art Arenas, Madera County  
“I love Art like a real brother. I am now doing good in school and I have friends because he taught me how to be a friend.”  
– *Little Brother Isaac*



**Big Sister of the Year** – Connie Marie McCaskill, Madera County  
“I probably would have been on the streets and getting into trouble if it wasn’t for this program and her.”  
–*Little Sister Sasha*



**High School Big Sister of the Year** – Reyna de la Mora, Madera County  
“I think if I had choice to play with a pro soccer player or be with her to play soccer, I would choose my Big Sister.” –*Little Brother Gerardo*

## The voice of a Little’s parent



My name is Kathy Petroff, and I am the proud parent of Sasha Petroff. It is with great privilege and honor that I write this letter about my daughter’s Big Sister Connie Marie McCaskill. Sasha has had a hard life and as a parent I have not made a lot of good decisions but I know that getting Sasha involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program was the best thing I could have done for my daughter. It is because of Connie Marie that today, my daughter has a future.

I would like to share a very personal story that I hold very deep in my heart that haunts me every day. When Sasha was seven years old she was sexually molested by my son’s father. This really affected Sasha growing up. There would be times that she would cut herself because she felt that it was her fault. During that time, I took Sasha to counseling. But after she had been going to counseling for a while, I knew she needed something more. That’s when I decided to put her in the Big Brothers Big

Sisters Program. It was then that Sasha was given this wonderful gift.

The gift I talk about is her Big Sister Connie Marie. Connie Marie has been matched with my daughter for the past ten years. She has been like a second mother and has been there for Sasha through thick and thin. Even when I failed my daughter as a parent, Connie Marie was there to take her underneath her wings.

Today, my daughter is attending the Madera Center Community College and working. Sasha’s following her dreams and only because it took one person to make a positive difference in her life. That person is Connie Marie McCaskill. I nominate ConnieMarie for the Big Sister of the Year Award because she is an example of what a Big Sister represents.



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*Thank you to our supporters this past year, who help make our work possible.*

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