



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Central California

*Little Moments. Big Magic.™*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Big Brothers Big Sisters to Receive Fresno Regional Foundation Arts & Culture Grant** *\$9,814 awarded to support arts activities for youth and their mentors*

**Fresno, CA** – In California, 29% of schools do not provide any standards-based course of study in the four arts disciplines – music, visual arts, theatre and dance. Students attending high poverty schools (which are those served by Big Brothers Big Sisters) have less access to arts instruction than their peers in more affluent communities.

Now, thanks to the Fresno Regional Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters will be able to provide the opportunity for the children served in the program to attend local arts and culture events with their mentors.

Active engagement in arts activities provide exposure to and participation in arts that are lacking in their schools, as well opportunities to learn together and strengthen their relationships. The goal is to provide avenues of expression and exposure to art forms for the youth. All contribute toward improved academics, increased self-confidence, and development of a sense of the future.

The Downtown Community Arts Collective will be the primary source of arts participatory activities, with supplementation as available with local cultural groups such as learning Hmong art forms or African drumming. The theatre groups will include local Children Theater Works, Second Space, Teatro de la Tierra, Visalia Ice House, and others.

For more information, contact Shauna Goodman at (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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[www.Bigs.org](http://www.Bigs.org)

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