



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central California
www.bigs.org



Fall 2010

BIGS BULLETIN

REAL LIFE STORY

"She is like a different person" >

Tears fall from Little Sister Alexy's mom's eyes when she starts talking about how much Big Sister Jennifer has meant to their family. As a single mom living in a rough part of town, raising two autistic children hasn't been easy.

After being matched with Jennifer for the past year, not only have 12-year-old Alexy's grades improved, she is no longer the girl who is afraid to stand up for herself when getting picked on at school. Weekly outings of watching movies, going to the park or grabbing a bite to eat have done wonders for her self-esteem.

In a meeting with her teacher, Alexy's mom was told, "We don't know what has changed with her, but it's working. She is like a different person."

Without a doubt, Alexy's mom knows what's made the difference. Jennifer.

Alexy is one of 278 children we have served so far this year with your help.



Big Sister Jennifer & Little Sister Alexy

YOU CAN HELP US START SOMETHING



You start something.

What if every child fulfills their potential? What if every child is put on the right path today? What if every child in America graduates high school, goes to college, and gives back to their community?

What will that start? It will be the start of something big.

Every time you donate money or time to Big Brothers Big Sisters, you help a child reach their potential.

Cost of helping children like Alexy

- Fingerprinting of potential volunteer - \$20
- Monthly support for Match - \$100
- Group Activity for Matches - \$200
- Enrollment of a Child - \$360



> This newsletter was generously funded by the Fresno Cultural Arts Rotary

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ payable to **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**

Please designate my gift to:	<input type="checkbox"/> WHEREVER NEEDED MOST	<input type="checkbox"/> Fresno County	<input type="checkbox"/> Kings County
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\$5 \$10 \$25 \$100 \$ _____
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Please contact me about volunteering.



Waiting for the paint to dry to show off their projects to their Bigs took all the patience Little Brother Isaiah and Little Sister Mariah had.

WISH FULFILLED ★ ★ ★

With the tightening of school budgets, arts activities are becoming few and far between. Thanks to the generosity of the Fresno Regional Foundation and donors like you, our Little Brothers and Sisters have been able to experience theatrical productions, creative writing classes and cultural performances. These activities help to solidify the bond and level of trust between Bigs and Littles. The result? Longer and stronger matches that help our Littles to break the cycle of risky behavior and poverty.



Big and Little Wish List

- 5 new computers
- Silent Auction items for our 300 Club Men's Event Fundraiser
- Tickets to activities around town for our matches
- New air conditioning units for our building
- Volunteers to serve on Tulare, Kings, Madera and Kern County Leadership Councils

THE NEED

The Save Mart Event Center could be filled **10 times** with the number of children who could benefit from a mentor. Sadly, less than 2% of them have a caring adult role model through any formal program.

Our children and our community deserve better.

The total cost to support a match from recruitment of volunteers to match support is about \$1,828 annually. A national study shows that Big Brothers Big Sisters youth are

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol

- 30% of the Valley's youth live in poverty
- A range of 19-24% of the children in our 5-county region never graduate from high school
- 5,521 of California's youth are involved in the Division of Juvenile Justice costing an average of \$94,665 per youth.

Our local statistics show that after just a year, our youth improve in academics, self-confidence and relationships with family and peers.

Your donation makes this happen.

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