



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central California

PRESS RELEASE

June 30, 2010

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Little Sister Gets Opportunity to Fly For the First Time

Date: Friday, July 2

Time: 8:00 am

Location: Chandler Airport, 510 W Kearney Blvd, Main Entrance

Fresno, CA – Little did 14-year-old Armona resident Alex know that when she and her Big Sister met John Boogaert at a Big Brothers Big Sisters event at Wild Water, they would get a personal ride in his plane.

"We've gone hiking, rock climbing and have taken a trip to the beach, but this is really going to top the charts. I'm actually more nervous about it than her!" said Big Sister Alexis Bautochka. "At the same time I'm excited about how this experience will help to expand her interests."

"I'm excited to be able to offer Alexis and Alex this experience together. Alex was so inquisitive about flying when I told her I was a pilot, I just had to extend the invitation," said Big Brothers Big Sisters supporter John Boogaert. "I remember what it was like to want to fly when I was her age. I would have done anything for this kind of opportunity."

Long-term experiences like this and other everyday activities like going on a walk, grabbing a bite to eat or catching a movie, result in life-changing impact for Little Brothers and Sisters, who often come from low-income, non-traditional families who usually have a history of incarceration. Independent studies show that that "Littles" perform better in school, avoid violence and illegal activities and have stronger relationships with their parents and others.

For more information, visit www.bigs.org or call Shauna Goodman at (559) 268-2447.

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.

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www.Bigs.org

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