



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Fraser Valley

NEWS RELEASE 15022011

For Immediate Release
2011Feb15

Big Brothers Big Sisters Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows

Big Brothers Big Sisters Upper Fraser Valley

Big Brothers Big Sisters in the Fraser Valley Restructures

Big Brothers Big Sisters ('BBBS') in the Fraser Valley is making changes to the services provided in the local region. The economic challenges of the past two years, coupled with deep cuts, future uncertainty and granting shifts program have affected both BBBS Upper Fraser Valley and BBBS Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows. Effective immediately, services and operations will be reorganized.

Beginning in late spring 2010 the two agencies began working closely together to bring stronger and more sustainable service to children and families across the Fraser Valley. Responding to increased economic uncertainty the two agencies began creatively sharing resources and collaborating across boundaries and have continued building positive relationships through shared goals and vision. The two Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies have chosen to align efforts to better position the agencies and mentoring service delivery for the future. Working within a Memorandum of Understanding, the two Boards have undertaken joint strategic planning for a new future.

BBBS Upper Fraser Valley Board President Kate Blokmanis said the local organization is maintaining its role in serving local children and volunteers and working with donors. BBBS Upper Fraser Valley "will remain a pillar of support within its communities." She also notes that cash flow delays in Community Gaming Grants affects service.

Recognizing the economic challenges and impacts in 2010, coupled with the deep cuts to government gaming grants, the Board of BBBS Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows, decided to suspend services and operations in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge.

"It is with regret that we cannot continue to provide mentoring services to the Ridge Meadows area" said President Edwin Palsma. "What we have learned over the past year is that many agencies across the country are experiencing similar challenges and that really tough decisions have to be made."

David Sheach, Executive Director notes that "We are saddened by these difficult decisions and the effect it is bound to have on the children, families, volunteers and supporters who are involved. We are disappointed that the Province, in a time of economic crunch, decided to further curtail financial support for community based services." Sheach goes on to say that the financial uncertainty means we are unable to plan adequately.

In Chilliwack, Executive Director Shirley Wilson agrees and states "In difficult times we see the need for family supports increase while the reality is that we become less able to provide important services that create stability for families and in turn our communities." Wilson will re-join the AMRM team during the reorganization of services and operations.

Both agencies agree that after several months of working together that a tight alignment between with the neighbouring Big Brothers Big Sisters is prudent for donors, clients and staff.

Our Vision: To provide a mentor to every child and youth who needs one.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Fraser Valley

To enquire about information contained in this media release, or with any questions regarding our services and opportunities, please call David Sheach at 604-858-0828 or Shirley Wilson at 604-852-3331.

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www.mentoringworks.ca

www.bigbrothersandbigsisisters.ca

FACT SHEET

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Big Brothers Big Sisters Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows
Big Brothers Big Sisters Upper Fraser Valley

General

Nationally accredited

Annually over 450 children served across the valley.

Locations

Abbotsford 2445 West Railway Street V2S 2E3 t. 604-852-3331

Chilliwack 45195 Wells Road V2R 1H6 t. 604-858-0828

Mission c/o32444 7th Avenue V2V 2B5 t. 604-820-3337

Mentoring Programs

Community Based (Traditional one-to-one) and School Based (In School Mentoring)

Unique and group programs by need and location

Giving Programs

Personal Giving, Corporate Sponsorship, Event Sponsorship, Third Party Fundraising

Company Matching Grants, United Way Donor Choice Program, Gifts-in-Kind

Bowl for Kids Sake – Celebrating 22 years in 2011

Charity Golf Classic – Celebrating 22 years in 2011

Major Gifts and Endowment Campaign

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Big Brothers Big Sisters

Fraser Valley

More opportunities for gifting and charitable contributions available

History

1969 Big Brothers Chartered separately in Abbotsford and in Chilliwack

1981 Big Brothers Central Fraser Valley incorporated

1988 Big Sisters of Central Fraser Valley incorporated

1997 Big Brothers of Central Fraser Valley region expanded to Ridge Meadows

1997 In School Mentoring Program launched in Abbotsford and Mission

2000 Big Sisters program begins in Chilliwack

2001 In School Mentoring Program launched in Chilliwack

2001/02 In School Mentoring Program launched in Ridge Meadows

2001 Big Brothers & Sisters Central Fraser Valley amalgamation

2001 Big Brothers & Sisters Upper Fraser Valley amalgamation

**2002 Big Brothers & Big Sisters Central Fraser Valley became Big Brothers Big Sisters
Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows**

**2009 Lead Builder Dan Ratzlaff and the BBBS AMRM Board of Directors celebrate the
successful completion of their Capital Campaign and new home.**

2009 BBBS AMRM & UFV celebrated 40 years of mentoring!

**2011 BBBS AMRM reluctantly suspends service and operations in Maple Ridge and Pitt
Meadows**

2011 BBBS UFV aligns services with AMRM

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