

# Mentoring Works!

## Share a little Magic

### In-School Mentoring

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### In Memory of Little Buddy, Timothy Bird 1992-2002

We have set up a Game Lending Library in the Abbotsford office in memory of Timothy Bird. Timothy was matched with Big Buddy, Richard Kessler, at Godson Elementary from November 2001 until June 2002. Timothy enjoyed Knex, Lego, games and woodworking projects with Richard. In the library, we have a selection of great games, such as Master mind, Rummy O, Brain Teasers, KNEX and many more for you to enjoy.

This years Abbotsford In School Mentoring wrap up bowling party will be in memory of Timothy Bird.

### Abbotsford In School Mentoring Corporate Partners:

UCFV, RBC, Envision, Van City, Abbotsford School District #34



These Corporate Partners sponsor their employees to volunteer with the In School Mentoring program and/or help promote volunteering among their employees / students.

We are asking you to please help us give more children the opportunity to have a mentor. Explore the opportunity to help recruit mentors at your workplace by having the agency come in to do a presentation or distribute brochures.

**"A MENTORS PERSPECTIVE"****(Four, In-School Mentors share their mentoring experiences**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Abbotsford - Mission -  
Ridge Meadows**

**STAFF****Executive Director:****Fawzia Ahmad****Administrative  
Coordinator:****Tamara Sitter****Mentoring  
Coordinators:****Carrie Fortin****Carrie Yargeau****Cheryl Unger****Nicole Schubert****Pam Teigen****Marketing Director:****Angela Williamson****Marketing & Event  
Coordinator:****Krystine Plunet****Summer Student:****Kirsten Smith**

"She shoots, she scores!" At least that's my goal (pun intended). My little buddy just laughs because I have yet to get the crumpled paper into the garbage can by the door. You see, we are working on a picture book for the school's library and the mistakes get crumpled and tossed (sometimes out into the hallway). We both like to write and draw and have been working hard on it for three or four weeks now. Rebecca is looking forward to showing it to her reading buddy. The Mentoring Program seemed like the perfect way for me to contribute something to the community. No longer able to work, I still felt that I had something to offer. After an excellent interviewing process, I met my Little Buddy. We have a lot in common and I hope that I can be a positive influence in her life. The best part, however, is that I am also benefiting from this simple hour a week. One hour a week...what can you possibly get accomplished? It's enough time to do a craft, play a game or string some beads. One hour a week...how

can that be of any significance? Time enough for a project that brings out the best in both of you. One hour a week...is it worth the commitment? It's enough time to show a special young person that they are worth the commitment. One hour a week...what a difference could that make? Just enough time to make a positive difference in the life of your Little Buddy. Sandra Lammers

I love mentoring. My buddy, James is a real unique individual. He really loves doing stuff in the kitchen, especially when the project is sweet treats. I know he really likes our time together when he doesn't want it to end by saying things like, "well, we can finish up during recess", or when I arrive at the classroom door and he leaves whatever he is doing and follows me to wherever we are that day. He is also keen to be a part of other buddy alliances and willing to share our building implements. We often make something that he can share with his class (popcorn balls) or with his family. I think that mentoring is so important because it gives us as mentors a chance to pass along the values that are important to us and to find that often those same values that are important to our Little Buddy. I love what I do. It is such a

pleasure especially when I feel that the school is so supportive as well.

Beth Reynolds

Being a mentor is a wonderful experience for me and my little buddy Alyson. Aly and I were matched a little over a year ago, and we look forward to, and enjoy our Thursday afternoons together very much! Seeing Aly's smile when she looks up from her desk and sees me standing in the doorway fills my heart with joy. We build puzzles together, bake cookies, do crafts and we talk. Alyson loves to bead necklaces and is the best puzzle builder ever! Being a mentor has become one of the most important things in my life, and I wouldn't trade it, or my little buddy Alyson, for anything in the world! I wish that everyone could experience the happiness that I feel by being a mentor.

Tracey Eelkema

## "A MENTORS PERSPECTIVE"

### (Four, In-School Mentors share their mentoring experiences with us) continued

You would think that after spending thirty years in schools, one of the last things I'd get involved with is kids in schools. But during that time of teaching and administering, I was always appreciative of the joys, and energy transfer, which come from contact with young people; and so after a couple of years away from schools totally, I became very interested in joining the Big Brothers/Sisters In-School Mentorship Program. I saw this as a way of not only giving something back to the community and making a positive difference for a student, but also a bit selfishly, as a chance to reconnect with the enthusiasm, interest, and sense of humor which can be good for you in so many ways. These are positive characteristics found in most young people today, although sometimes you have to be patient in helping them come to the forefront. And the program isn't burdensome in terms of time commitment - a little bit of preparation (if you're like me and appreciate organization), and an hour a week at a local school - that's hardly going to dent your own lifestyle choices. Is it rewarding?

There are many intrinsic rewards for the mentor - the look of interest or delight in your 'mentee's' eyes; the meaningful hellos and encouraging goodbyes; the improved attitude, self confidence, attendance; the laughter; the teacher or parent who shares that your visit days are a highlight when few before existed - the mentor's rewards come with the companionship focus of the program, and the chance to develop a meaningful relationship with someone not used to one. After the ice of unfamiliarity has melted (and that doesn't take long), you'll find that there are too many activities and ideas, and your hour is quickly gone. What have I learned the most so far? - Have fun, but don't expect a great deal of conversation from your 'buddy' about other things, at least to start with. "How's school?" "Fine.." What are you up to this weekend?" "Not much...." But come to think of it; the kids in my schools over thirty years were much like that too. A moment to remember? One day my buddy and I made cookies and I noticed that my friend seemed surprisingly disinterested in the taste tests, in spite of appearing to be a 'man who relished his meals'.

There was nothing wrong with the chocolate chip cookies we knew - having consumed the obligatory one or two at the oven. But I left him with so many cookies we couldn't close the lid on the tin I'd brought.

The next week I found out that the school's Grade 7's had been having a bake sale that same day; and my friend had gone round undercutting their price by two bits a cookie - he even went out to some maintenance men working on a portable on the school grounds and sold to them - so he could make some money for sleep-over he was having that night! We agreed before we started a gingerbread house together that he wouldn't be selling it!

This is a great program that's easy on your time budget, and big on returns. I'd encourage you to consider joining.  
jml

## Youth Are Mentors Too! Program

### Youth are Mentors Too

Nine youth from Mission successfully completed the Youth are Mentors Too! Basic Training Program on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2004. Youth are Mentors Too! Program is in its second year of service delivery to youth in our community. The 5 week program was funded in part by the Mission Foundation.

One of the program graduates said *"I learned about the skills that make a good leader. I recognize the leadership skills that I have already and I see the areas that I need to develop to be an effective leader."*



### Deaf Youth are Mentors Too

Seventeen youth from across this province completed the first Deaf Youth are Mentors Too! Program. Deaf facilitators delivered this program. We were pleased to note that half of these youth were from the Valley. We are now in the process of working with Deaf youth from Abbotsford to get our local Deaf community involved with our mentoring programs. This program was a partnership between BBBS Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows and Deaf Youth Today and has been funded by the Vancouver Foundation and Vancouver Sun Children's Fund.

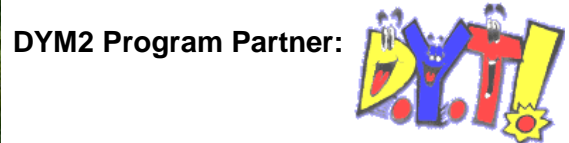
All of our program graduates are now eligible for the Advanced Certificate Program which consists of 30 volunteer hours in a mentoring or leadership capacity within the programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows. If you are a graduate of Youth are Mentors Too! contact us to sign up for a volunteer role that will earn you the Advanced Certificate!

**Big Brothers Big Sisters wants to congratulate the participating youth from these two programs for their commitment to becoming future leaders and mentors in our community. Youth can make a difference too!**

Our next group will be Fall 2004 and will run out of Abbotsford. If you are interested in becoming involved or know of a friend who may be interested please call us at 604.852.3331.



Photos (top right and bottom left): **Deaf Youth Are Mentors Too! Program 2004**



DYM2 Program Funded by:



**Vancouver Sun  
Children's Fund**



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters has a new Executive Director**

Fawzia Ahmad is the new Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows. Fawzia comes to this agency from Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver. She has been a part of this mentoring movement for four years. Fawzia's experience is in education, crisis intervention, program development for children and youth and fund development.



“The Big Brothers Big Sisters movement warms my heart. It is a fun program for all involved . . . it is always amazing to realize that it's the simple things in life (like mentoring) that have the greatest impact. I look forward to continuing to expand our agency's ability to respond to the growing needs of our communities.”

“The staff and volunteers of this agency should be proud to know that their commitment and dedication to mentoring has made tremendous contributions to the healthy development of children on local, regional and national levels. It is indeed a privilege to lead this agency toward the movement's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013. ”

Big Brothers Big Sisters is sad to see Dave Bahr leave the position of Executive Director. Dave has led this agency for the past two and a half years. His leadership played a vital role in the recent growth of the agency. The Board, staff and volunteers of Big Brothers Big Sisters will miss him and wish Dave well for the future.

### **Program Summer Events**

***July 5th–8th*** — Kids N' Kops Camp in Ridge Meadows

***Sunday July 11th*** — Water-ski & Barbecue at Albert Dyck Park in Abby

***July 16th–18th*** — Big Sister Summer Camp

***August 3- 6th*** — Kids N' Kops Camp in Abbotsford/Mission

## Matched Activity

### Laser Tag

40 matched Bigs and Littles met at Planet Laser in Langley for 2 exciting and competitive hours of laser tag. Although the most obvious front runners to outplay everyone were two Big Brother police officers, however coming up from behind, very quietly... was the winning team Big Brother Mark Sippola & Little Brother Troy.

## Waitlist Activity

### Hiking: Tea Pot Hill

On May 17th Little Brothers and Little Sisters on the waitlist participated in a hike up Teapot Hill. Doug Short from Pacific Outdoor Adventure Tours and long-time friend of Big Brothers Big Sisters, lead the hike. Along the way he spent time educating the kids about outdoor survival skills. This even included a lesson on how to build a shelter to sleep in overnight if you are lost in the wilderness without any supplies! Many thanks to Doug Short for the event. The Kids loved it!!



## Up in Coming Activities

*For Big/Little Matches Only*  
**July**

Waterskiing At  
Albert Dyck Park

*For Waitlist Kids Only*

The waitlist events take a break for the summer as we gear up to put on our annual kids N Kops camps with local RCMP and city Police detachments. Many of the kids on our Waitlist will participate in these dynamic camps this summer. Regular waitlist events will resume this September!

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[www.mentoringworks.ca](http://www.mentoringworks.ca)

## Abbotsford In– School Mentoring Year End Party

This year's wrap –up party for Abbotsford Matches is on Tuesday June 7th. From 11:00—2:30. It is taking place at Galaxy Bowling Alley: 32490 Simon Street Abbotsford. Come out and have your Little Buddy impress you with their bowling skills or pizza eating

## Maple Ridge/Mission In-School Mentoring Year End Party

The Wrap up parties for Mission and Maple Ridge takes Place

**Maple Ridge:** June 15th from 12:15—2:00 at the Maple Ridge Bowling Lanes.

**Mission:** June 10th from 12:00 2:00 at Mission

## WELCOME

### New Matches:

Jeff Powell & Charlie, Donna Wiens & Kaylah, Lynn Foley & Cordell, Brandon Haddrell & Jordon, Nancy Williams & Sammy, Rachel Kraft & Eryn, Angela Hooper & Stormy, Dean Fuller & David, Doug & Kathy & Sharon, Shane Yetman & Joey, Sukhi Atwal & Aaina, Erin Dittmer & Taylor, Mark Friesen & Jared, Kulbir Grewal & Carter, Aybskey Caldwell & Cassandra, Naomi Klein & Randi-Lynn, Jerry George & Michael.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### April, May, June & July Anniversaries :

Wendy Coulthard & Cassie, Ryan Parsons & Dylan, Chris Foster & Anthony, Carmen Edwards & Emily, Kim Parcher & Emma, Kim Barrager & Chloe, Mike Didyk & Chase, Curtis Braber & Cody Doug Ruggles & Joseph, Andrew Slane & Johnathan, Pat Uprichard & Leanne, Ryan Masales & Cody, Betty Tough & Melissa, Esther Groenhoff & Chelsea, Dwane Van Beek & Trevor, Crystal Ruggles & Aimee, Faith Funk & Pearl, Fay Curtis & Jennifer, Ron Hickman & Casey, Mark Sippola & Troy, Antonio Arruarrena & Logan, Tony Mortimer & Michael, Wendy Neufeld & Sarita, Sonya Gronberg & Kelsey, Melissa Williams & Raeanne, Hallie Jacobs & Trudy, Riva Driesen & Jessica. Orla Gaughan & Jessica. Stephanie Galt & Katie