

BIG BROTHERS BIG NEWS



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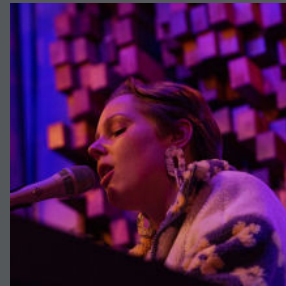
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**Singing, Running,
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National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



Tomorrow, Sept. 30, is our National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

This day honours the murdered children and the survivors of the residential schools system as well as the communities impacted them.

The last of the residential schools closed in 1998. However, the effects of this institution are being felt, and will continue to be felt, through multiple generations. This program implemented systemic cultural genocide to Indigenous peoples across what is now Canada for more than 100 years.

As a nation, we have only just begun to take steps towards reconciliation.

At Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver, we are dedicated to taking intentional actions towards advancing our commitments to equity, reconciliation and anti-racism across our organization.

As part of our current five-year strategic plan, we sought out professional development to help us advance our commitment to reconciliation. We had the privilege of participating with Future Ancestors Services in two half-day training sessions this summer.

The training sessions were spaces to build understanding on anti-racism work by exploring concepts of systemic racism, equity, microaggressions, and biases in contextualized and relevant ways to the agency at large as well as within specific roles at the organization. The training sessions hosted 36 of our staff from across Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver. We have begun to implement the new knowledge and perspective gained from the training sessions into our policy, procedure and practice.

We will engage deeper with this knowledge and continue to pursue and implement the [94 recommendations](#) of the 2012 Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Raising Awareness and Highlighting the Need for Volunteers

Big Brothers Big Sisters Month



September is recognized across Canada as Big Brothers Big Sisters Month. Throughout the month we celebrate our volunteers and advocate for youth mentorship programs in our communities. This year's theme was Shining a Light on the Need for Volunteers.

A Spotlight on Mentorship

On Sept. 18, landmarks across Vancouver lit up Teal in recognition of Big Brothers Big Sisters Day. Vancouver City Hall, Burrard Street Bridge and the TELUS Garden Offices were among some of the structures that participated this year in celebrating our mentors and supporting youth programs throughout Greater Vancouver.

Missed out this time? Find out how your business or city can take part next year by emailing us at volunteer@bbgvf.com.

Kids are Back in School - and so are We!



We are delighted to have returned face-to-face for our In-School Mentoring Program this year. We know the value of in-person connections, friendships and mentoring cannot be overstated. This is one of our most in-demand programs for a reason!

With that said, it means we have a BIG need for volunteers. We know word-of-mouth is the best tried and true method to meet this resurgent demand. And, after such a long break due worldly events, we could really use your help in this way.

So here's three easy ways to help us spread the word:

1. Ask your workplace or school: about their volunteerism policy, to hang up a Big Brothers info poster or to host an information sessions with us.
2. Share your experience with your friends and colleagues! Our mentors and mentees know the impact volunteering has. So, be loud and proud and tell your friends, family and colleagues all about it!
3. Follow us on social media! We share our success stories, third-party events supporting Big Brothers, and more on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Our current partner schools for the In-School Mentoring Program are located in Burnaby, Coquitlam, North Vancouver, Surrey and Vancouver.

[Learn more about In-School Mentoring](#)

Back With a Splash!



Our 2022 Bigs and Littles Picnic was a special one.

After two years of social distancing and persevering through the pandemic, we finally all came together again – and what a success it was!

On Saturday Sept. 10, more than 120 people, made up of Bigs, Littles, guardians and their families, came out to enjoy our beach-themed picnic at Fraser River Park, in south Vancouver. It was an opportunity for Bigs and Littles to meet other matches and connect on a personal level. An array of fun and games were set up for our matches to enjoy.

Matches mixed and mingled in friendly competitive water games, volleyball, cornhole toss and Connect 4. Others kept it casual by playing catch with footballs, lobbing passes across the grass field while playing soccer or playing various other sports. Everyone enjoyed a pizza lunch and nibbling on snacks throughout the day, which wrapped up with a prize draw!

Thank you to all the volunteers, matches and families that joined us. We look forward to doing it all again next time!

On the Green for a Great Cause



Fore!

As golfing season draws to a close, we ended the summer with a hole-in-one for Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver.

On Sept. 26, we hosted the 12th annual B2Gold Big Brothers Golf Classic. This charitable golf tournament draws an esteemed guest list of executive-level business people from across Canada.

Nearly 100 golfers experienced an incredible day of golf at Vancouver's finest private course, Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club. Throughout the 18 holes, teams took part in fun on-course games, competed in contests for fabulous prizes and much more. Participants also enjoyed delicious on-course food from breakfast sandwiches, to truffle mac and cheese to "tornado potatoes" and tacos – all while sipping on specialty cocktails. This year we wrapped up the day with a sunset cocktail reception followed by a decadent banquet dinner.

This special and important event could not have been done with the support of YOU, our volunteers. More than 40 of you showed up to help make this day

a BIG success to benefit youth in our communities!

Please also extend your thanks to all the sponsors of this tournament for helping fund youth programs throughout Greater Vancouver and a special thank you to our Title Sponsor, B2Gold, for their continuous support and generosity year after year.

If you would like to get your company involved and join us next year, please email events@bbgvf.com for more information.

Community Events in Support of Big Brothers

Singing, running, and golfing for youth



Vancouver Triathlon:

Thank you to the athletes who raised more than \$4,000 for Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver at the Vancouver Triathlon on Sept. 5! Also give a BIG thanks to our 20 volunteers who helped make the day a huge success!

Derek Gibson Golf Tournament:

Please give a special thank you to the Derek Gibson Memorial Golf Tournament!

Derek Gibson was a Canadian Border Service Agent and a huge supporter of Big Brothers for many years. While Derek may no longer be with us, his legacy lives on through this tournament.

Held on Sept. 9 and now in its 6th year at the Surrey Golf Course, Derek continues to support Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver with the generous support of his colleagues at CBSA, who organize this third-party event every year.

Blue Lights Session:

Extend a huge thank you to the team at Blue Light Studio for hosting their annual fundraiser, on Sept. 17, for Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver!

The City of Lougheed Shopping Centre Back to School Shoe Drive:

Many thanks to the City of Lougheed Shopping Centre for donating 10 bags of shoes to Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver! Their Back to School Shoe Drive, which took place the week of Aug. 24 to 31, collected more than 150 pairs of shoes!

Get involved:

Want to support Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver at your event or host a clothing drive? Click the button below to find out how.

Third Party Fundraiser Toolkit

Meet our team!



Mentoring Coordinator, Cindy Chan:

Cindy has been a Mentoring Coordinator at Big Brothers for over a year. Before working with us, she had worked in the banking industry then went back to school at an Aboriginal University to get her Bachelors in Social Work. Cindy had her practicum at the Aboriginal Mothers Centre for a couple years, working with women fleeing. After that, she helped with the starting stages of setting up a non-profit organization that provides afterschool programming for children in the Downtown Eastside.

As a Mentoring Coordinator, Cindy supports the mentoring matches in the Community Big Brothers Program, Adult Virtual In-School Mentoring Program, and the Mentoring with Math program. "To me, mentoring is building a safe space for people to walk alongside and journey through life together while learning how to deal with different life experiences."

Continue reading Cindy's story online.

[Read the full story](#)

What's Next?



IKEA Coquitlam Donation Drive:

IKEA Coquitlam is hosting a fall clean up donation drive to support Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver next month.

For every person who brings in 2 IKEA-sized bags of donations, they are generously offering a coupon for \$30 off your next minimum purchase of \$150.

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 15, and Sunday, Oct. 16, between 11 A.M. and 3

P.M. at the IKEA Coquitlam parking lot at 1000 Lougheed Hwy., Coquitlam, B.C., V3K 3T5.

For a full list of acceptable donations, click the button below.

[Clothing Donations FAQ](#)

THANK YOU



Along with our volunteers, our generous donors and supporters help make it possible for more than 1,000 kids to have positive role models in their lives!

This month our special thanks go to:

City of Vancouver
District of North Vancouver
City of North Vancouver
City of New Westminster
City of Burnaby
CKNW



Funded by the
Government of Canada



Administered by United Way
of the Lower Mainland



We acknowledge the financial assistance of the
Province of British Columbia

STAY CONNECTED



At Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver (BBGV), we acknowledge that the land on which we work and mentor is the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh; the Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, Tsawwassen, Semiahmoo and the Stó:lō Nation.

Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver
102 - 1193 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5V 3C9
604.876.2447

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