

# BIG BROTHERS BIG NEWS



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## IN THIS EDITION



**The Big Night  
of Stars!**



**The importance of  
play in mentorship**



**Gaming for  
mentorship**

## The Big Night of Stars!



What a night!

On June 14, we held our annual recognition awards: The Big Night of Stars!

Bigs, Littles, families and our partners came out to thank and recognize those who give their time and energy to ignite potential of the children and youth in our communities.

It was a night full of good company, laughter, and even a few tears of joy.

Whether you're a Mentor, event volunteer, school liaison, donor, community partner, or simply engage with us on social media - every little bit helps our mission of serving young people for a better today and tomorrow.

Thank you to everyone who came out and made this day so special!

**A Little Upcoming Fun in the Sun**



## Big & Littles Low Tide Walk



What hides between the border of land and sea? Well, our Bigs and Littles will find out in August at our Low Tide Walk!

Our partners at NatureKidsBC are taking our matches on a tour to discover the maritime mysteries of the intertidal zone at Stanley Park.

NatureKidsBC is an organization that helps children aged 5-12 get outdoors with their families to explore, play, learn, and take action for nature.

Big, Littles and families can now step into the world of nature exploration and discovery by downloading the iNaturalist app and joining the [NatureKids project](#) today!

Embrace the fun and excitement of being in nature with your Big, Little or family, while learning about the incredible natural world that surrounds us.

You can even submit your observations and win amazing prizes!

If you're a Big and Little and haven't signed up yet, check your email or reach out to your Mentoring Coordinator to get involved!

Thank you NatureKidsBC for putting on such a fantastic event for our Mentors and Mentees.

## Dungeons & Dragons Club



Looks like you rolled a 20. Nice!

That means you're invited to join our new monthly Dungeons & Dragons Club for Bigs and Littles.

Come out and play some D&D with other Bigs & Littles once per month at our Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver main office.

Two of our very own community volunteers have stepped up to organize and lead this fun new club for our matches!

These sessions are for those who are looking to learn, play, and connect with fellow Big Brothers matches for a few hours. The D&D club will meet once per month to continue their campaign.

If this sounds like the thing you and your Little would like to participate in, then let us know!

Contact our Community Program Manager, Angie, to get involved: [Angie.Dube@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:Angie.Dube@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca).

We can't wait to see you there!

## How Your Organization Can Support Mentorship



Are you and your organization passionate about making a direct and positive impact in your community?

Then look no further than partnering with Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver!

We have three ways your organization can get involved today and in the future.

### 1. Community

Feature our initiatives in your newsletters, social media, and beyond! You can inspire others to take a BIG step toward contributing their time and skills to make a difference just like our community partner, [Urban Rec](#), does.

### 2. Volunteers

Volunteers are the core of how we run our free mentorship programs. They make what we do possible.

That's how your organization can play a pivotal role in serving local youth with BBGV – by encouraging volunteerism from your team, like our community partner [BC Housing](#).

### 3. Events

We understand not every organization's workflow allows them the opportunity to volunteer on a weekly basis, that's why we have one-off volunteering opportunities and events! They're a fun way to team build and support local children.

Whether it's a clothing drive, a fundraising gala, leveraging an existing event, or joining us at our annual B2Gold Big Brothers Golf Tournament, you have the power to amplify the potential of youth, like our community partner [Visier](#).

Pictured above is our community partner, [Hays Canada](#), and their Vancouver team.

Read the full article with more resources on our [Mentoring Matters Blog](#).

## Our Latest Clothing Drive!



Speaking of organizations supporting mentorship...

Every summer there's one thing you can be sure of: Oakwyn Realty's Clothing Drive!

On July 4, [Oakwyn Realty](#) held their annual donation drive in support of Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver and collected more than 770kg (1,700lbs) of clothing, 430kg (950lbs) of household items, and 175kg (385lbs) of books.

Now that's giving back in a BIG way to support local mentorship programs for children in our communities.

Thank you Oakwyn for being the awesome community partner you've been year after year. We can wait to see you at the next one!

[Volunteer at our next event!](#)

## Gaming for Mentorship



Still speaking of ways your organization can get involved, no matter how small, please give a HUGE thank you to the [Langara Esports Association](#)!

We've started the [BIG Gaming Fest](#) where we're partnering up with gamers, streamers, and partners to fundraise for youth mentorship.

Langara Esports Association hosted a fantastic first event, the Smash Bros x Big Bros Tournament, where students battled it out for the crown of Smash Bros champion!

Thank you for the amazing event and being awesome supporters of mentorship for children in our communities.

We're continually looking for more gaming partners in Greater Vancouver and beyond.

To get involved and learn more about the BIG Gaming Fest, click the button below.

[The BIG Gaming Fest](#)



## Serving Up a Hot Slice for Mentorship



# PANAGO

Go with goodness.™

Now that's a tasty way to raise money for a good cause!

On June 23, Panago in Surrey ([8556-120 St.](#)) donated \$1 from every pizza sold to support our Mentorship programs in our most in-demand service area.

Thank you Panago for supporting local mentorship programs for children and youth here at home.

## Mentorship and the Importance of Play



Let's shift gears and put the spotlight back onto our Mentors.

A born and raised Richmondite, Brett never expected himself to be an active volunteer in his community when he grew up.

That is until he learned about one of our unique programs, Game On!

"I thought the [Game On! program](#) would be really nice because it's really about play – and play has been something that's been dear to my heart. Play is something that's taught me a lot about how I interact with life and have fun when I was growing up. I really like how the program is a group setting, but it's also small enough that you get to connect individually with each of the Little Buddies. It was just a really good fit."

Brett has been a volunteer for almost three years now, but he doesn't necessarily see his role as a Mentor.

Let him explain.

"I've never really thought of myself as a Mentor. I guess by the definition of it, like the work that I do, you could probably consider it that type of role. But I just see myself as someone who meets youth where they're at. Wherever they're coming into, in the setting that we're together, I'm just there to see them, to be present with them, to help them feel comfortable and safe so that they can be their authentic selves in the space."

Read about his full journey in his feature story on our [Mentoring Matters Blog](#).

## Math & Mentorship



Jup personally knows how much of an impact it can have for a child to have someone to lean on when you're struggling with something, especially if that something is math.

"When I was younger, I had a lot of help from either my older siblings or older cousins with math and school-related homework. My parents were immigrants and they were at work a lot. So, they couldn't necessarily help me [study]," he said. "That extra support is something that I really benefited from."

So, when Jup learned about the [Mentoring with Math program](#) he knew he had found what he was looking for.

Read his full feature story on our [Mentoring Matters Blog](#).

## Imagine Canada & Big Brothers

IMAGINE  
CANADA



Having an Imagine Canada trust mark is a significant recognition and endorsement for Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver. It means that our organization has met high standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical practices.

When you see the [Imagine Canada](#) trust mark, it assures donors that we are committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and responsible stewardship of funds.

This trust mark signifies that we have undergone a thorough assessment by Imagine Canada, a respected national charity accreditation program. It provides assurance to donors and partners that their contributions to Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver will be used effectively and responsibly to support our mission of empowering children and youth through mentorship.

You can find their accreditation on our website and at the bottom on this newsletter.

## PLEASE GIVE A **BIG** THANK YOU TO THESE SPECTACULAR DONORS!

**Along with our volunteers, our generous donors and supporters help make it possible for more than 700 kids to have positive role models in their lives!**

Support for youth comes from a variety of community partners such as municipalities, private foundations, and individuals.

It's donors like these that help year-after-year fund amazing, free, and accessible mentorship programs for all the young people in our local communities.

Please give a special thank you to the Moffat Family Fund held at [The Winnipeg Foundation](#) and the [City of North Vancouver](#).

**Canada**

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**IMAGINE**  
CANADA

Standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical practices  
accredited by Imagine Canada

### 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.

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