

BIG BROTHERS BIG NEWS



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We Asked and You Answered!

A BIG START TO THE YEAR



Mentoring Month was a great success and it kicked off 2023 in a fantastic way!

After hearing about our urgent need in our communities, so many of you reached out and started your volunteering journey.

So, thank you! It's the best start we could have asked for.

If we can keep the momentum from January and February going we hope we can alleviate our volunteer shortage by this time next year.

So please keep spreading the word and telling all your friends, family, and colleagues about our programs – and don't forget to follow us on social media too @BigBrothersYVR!

[Follow us on Instagram](#)

Volunteer Appreciation Night

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

In Surrey



What a night! The smell of delicious dishes and the clinking of cold glasses filled the room.

So many of YOU, our volunteers and the volunteer-curious, came out to Surrey Central to mix and mingle.

Our volunteers shared their mentoring experiences with each other and with those looking to get involved in our programs.

We love seeing our mentors come together and share their experiences with one another and we know you do too!

We strive to make as many opportunities for our volunteers to be recognized for the great work they do with children and youth in our communities. So, we're already planning our next appreciation event for you!

But you won't have to wait that long because we'll be showing more of our appreciation for you in just a few weeks' time. Read more on that below.

[Tell a friend about volunteering!](#)

Get Ready! It's National Volunteer Week



Heads up! Show some appreciation for the volunteers in your life next month for National Volunteer Week!

We'll be featuring our volunteers from April 16 to 22, and throughout the rest of the month, with special pieces sharing their stories in their own words.

We're excited to keep on sharing the impact mentorship has on children, youth and on our mentors themselves!

If you want to share your mentoring story with us or how our programs have made a positive impact, please reach out! Message us on social media or email ngalimski@bbgvf.com and get in touch.

[Read more mentoring stories](#)

Bigs & Littles Game Night



Trains, creatures, and treasure! These are only some of the adventures our matches went on at our Bigs & Littles Weekend Game Night.

As Bigs and Littles trickled into our Vancouver Kingsway office, each pair linked up with other matches to play board games like Ticket to Ride, King of Tokyo, Rouges to Riches and many more. Each person fought for access to fictional railroad tracks, battled it out with creatures for control of Japan's capital, and burst out in uncontrollable laughter in quirky scenarios in the hunt for hidden treasure.

Excitement and laughter filled the room the same way the smell of pizza flooded the building as everyone dug into its cheesy goodness.

It was wonderful to see our matches interacting with one another and to feel how much of a nice sense of community it brought to our office space.

We have a lot more events like this planned for the future so keep an eye on your inboxes and our social media for updates and announcements!

Hint: our next event takes place at the Vancouver Public Library. More on that later!

Anti-Bullying Day



Sharing is caring!

For Anti-Bullying Day, on Feb. 22, our Teen and Roots Mentoring Program participants were given a strip of coloured paper and asked to write down how they can show someone affected by bullying that they care.

What resulted was a symbol of support and solidarity for everyone affected by bullying.

Many students went above and beyond covering each paper circlet with more than one way to help. Others wrote whole paragraphs of positive phrases.

In the end, all the bracelets were linked together to create a beautiful chain of positive messages from our mentors, mentees, and staff in support of Anti-Bullying Day.

Spring Break With Big Brothers

SPRING BREAK CAMP!



Everybody needs a break from time-to-time, especially kids! What better way to spend it than with friendly faces at our Big Brothers Spring Break Camp.

More than 20 Littles took part in this fun-filled week of activities and laughter. Everyone made arts & crafts, played b-ball, learned magic tricks, built giant Jenga towers and so many more exciting things!

This camp was made possible thanks to our teen volunteers who came to help champion this five-day event to success for our Littles. Now that's the power of youth!

And we're not done yet. Our next Bigs & Littles event is just around the corner in April.

Keep on reading to find out more!

**Coming Up: Bigs and Littles
Hide & Seek Night**



Get excited because our next Bigs and Littles event is just around the corner!

You'll have the whole downtown Vancouver Public Library to yourselves to not only play hide and seek, but also take part in a scavenger hunt, sign up for a library card, eat pizza and more.

We hope to see you there!

[Book your spot here](#)

Coming Up: IKEA Clothing Drives!



Back by popular demand! Join us this Earth Day, Saturday April 22, in recycling clothing to support community youth mentorship at our IKEA Richmond and IKEA Coquitlam Clothing Drives.

Clearing out your closet never felt so good!

For each pair of IKEA-sized bags of donations you'll receive an in-store IKEA coupon for your next purchase as a token of appreciation! Limited of one coupon per person donating.

So come on down to your choice of IKEA location and donate your unused clothing for a great cause!

All clothing donations will go to help fund free mentoring programs for children and youth in Greater Vancouver.

For more details closer to the date at each location, head to IKEA.ca/Richmond and IKEA.ca/Coquitlam.

[Book a free clothing donation pickup](#)

We Have New Donation Bins!



Got old books you don't know what to do with? We got you covered!

We've updated our Donation Bin Map to include book donation bins. It's now easier than ever to recycle and support a great cause at the same time!

If you see a donation bin in your neighborhood, tag us on social media @BigBrothersYVR and spread the word.

[Find a donation bin here](#)

Book a Volunteer Info Chat With Us

BOOK A VOLUNTEER INFO CHAT WITH US



Know someone interested in volunteering, but could use a guiding hand? We're here for them!

You can book a free 1-to-1 volunteer information call with us where we can answer any and every question one might have about our volunteer programs and opportunities.

We're happy to accommodate you over the phone or virtually.

To refer a curious volunteer and a book call, click the button!

[Schedule a chat here](#)

Partnership Opportunities



**COMMUNITY IMPACT
THROUGH ACTION**
Partnership Opportunities



Is your company or workplace looking to give back in a BIG way? Then partner with Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver!

There's so many ways to give whether that be getting a free clothing donation bin for the office, hosting a clothing drive, or volunteering with us at our events! Just continue reading below in this newsletter to see some examples.

To get involved as a partner directly, please contact [Teresa Quach](#) or click the button below.

From our poker tournament fundraisers to running events to our biggest and best one, our Annual B2Gold Big Brothers Classic!

Speaking of which...

[Learn more on become a partner](#)

Looking Back at Golf



YEARBOOK

Want to relive our most exciting event of the year? Well, you're in luck because our B2Gold Big Brothers Golf Classic Yearbook is here!

Fun games, tasty food, and great people!

Looks like a great time right? Well, it's never too early to join us for the next one!

Sign up and volunteer with us at our 2023 B2Gold Big Brothers Golf Classic. We'll need at least 50 volunteers! So reach out to us and sign up at: events@bbqvf.com.

You can help us run a wine tasting, ride around in golf carts, take in the views of the ocean, and so much more! We hope to see you there.

Click the button to swipe through our yearbook!

**Flip through the yearbook
here!**

Visier Charity Poker Tournament



What a blast the Visier Poker Tournament was!

It must have been the whole Visier team that came out to participate and donate for a great cause!

The competition was fierce, but the banter friendly, in the race to be the poker champ.

However, while there was only room for one at the top, everyone came out a winner thanks to all the funds raised for community youth mentorship!

Visier is a BIG support of Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver and a constant presence at our events as volunteers, like the B2Gold Golf Classic.

So, please give them a BIG thank you for their continued support!

Running Green for a Great Cause



Did you join us at the 2023 Shamrock'N Race!?

Hundreds of locals showed up on a beautifully crispy and sunny Sunday morning to race and fundraise for youth mentorship.

We raised more than \$2,000 for local mentoring programs! Thank you for everyone who participated, supported us, and dressed up in green!

Didn't get a chance to race for us? Well it's not too late! There's still the Vancouver Sun Run and BMO Vancouver Marathon coming up.

Join us and run for a BIG cause!



We're honored that Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver is one of the official Charity Partners of the 2023 Vancouver Sun Run.

Run, walk or donate for Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver and raise funds for local youth mentorship!

Join a team to run or walk with us! When you register make sure you select the SHAW TEAM DIVISION - JOIN A TEAM - In Person 10K. Select our team - **BIG BROTHERS OF GREATER VANCOUVER** -

[Register for the Vancouver Sun Run](#)

[Join our team](#)

All funds raised go toward supporting children and youth mentorship in our communities in Surrey, White Rock, Delta, Richmond, New Westminister, the Tri-Cities, Burnaby, the North Shore and Vancouver.

RUN WITH US!

Go Far With Us at the BMO Marathon!



Go the extra mile, or a casual 42km, with us at the BMO Vancouver Marathon!

Run and raise money with us to support youth mentorship in our communities.

It's easy! All you need to do is:

1. Register as a Charity Runner
2. Select to support Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver

The race kicks off on May 7. So, there's still lots of time to register and join our team.

We hope to see you there!

Register or donate here!

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 Art & Pearl Van der Linden Foundation and Tom Seltzer.



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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