

Friday, May 23rd, 2008

Dear Mentor:

The Alberta Mentor Foundation for Youth (AMFY) has some exciting news!

On April 18th, 2008, AMFY signed an agreement to merge our youth mentoring program with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area (BBBS)! By combining our knowledge and expertise in mentoring children and youth, we will be in a much stronger position to:

- Provide significantly more children and youth with mentoring support to achieve their potential;
- Be a strong voice and resource for growing mentoring in the community;
- Enhance the mentoring services and support we provide to each of our stakeholders – children and youth, volunteers, schools and communities, sector colleagues and service providers, and funders.

Some of the benefits to mentors include more options to support individual volunteer interests, plus more events and activities for mentors and protégés to interact. We want to assure all mentors that this will be a positive move for everyone involved with AMFY.

What Does This Mean For The AMFY Mentoring Program?

No changes of consequence will be made to the AMFY program which will continue as an important part of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization.

What Will Happen To The AMFY Program Name?

To better reflect our youth connection, AMFY's program is being renamed "mPower Youth Mentoring". You will hear more about this at our School Year-End Celebration on June 7th, 2008 at Heritage Park.

When Will This Happen?

Our goal is to have the organization fully integrated in mid August so everything will be operational for the start of the new school year. A media launch and celebration is being planned for September to coincide with back to school. Watch for your invitation this summer.

In the interim, it is business as usual, with all activities and support continuing as before.

Where Will The Merged Program Be Located?

On August 6th 2008, all Calgary-based AMFY staff are moving into the Big Brothers and Big Sisters' office at 5960 Centre Street SE. AMFY's Airdrie and Cochrane staff will continue to work out of those communities. Our new Calgary location has excellent LRT access and convenient FREE parking.

What Does This Mean For You?

Maintaining the stability of all existing matches and mentors between matches is of the utmost importance to us. As such, every effort is being made to ensure a smooth transition from AMFY to BBBS with minimal disruption to the matches. We need your help to ensure that this seamless transition is achieved.

What Is Your Role in the Transition?

As a mentor, we need your help in making the transition to BBBS. There are two steps that you need to complete:

Step 1 Release of Information Form

To comply with the Personal Information Protection Act, AMFY needs your written consent to transfer your AMFY related files to BBBS where the same rules of confidentiality will apply. Please complete the enclosed '**Release of Information Form**' and submit it to AMFY no later than **June 15th, 2008** via:

- i. Fax : 270-7037 or
- ii. Mail: Suite 570, 1207 11th Ave SW Calgary T3C 0M5 or
- iii. Drop it off at the registration table at the School Year End Celebration on June 7th.

Step 2 BBBS Forms and Welcome Back Session

In order to maintain your match, we need you to attend one of the 'Welcome Back' sessions. These sessions will include an overview of BBBS and will walk you through the required paperwork to transfer your match.

All mentors need to attend one Welcome Back session prior to reconnecting with their protégés in September. (Photo Identification Required) Below are the scheduled sessions:

Calgary (BBBS Office – 5960 Centre Street SE)

Saturday, July 26th from 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Tuesday, August 12th from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Thursday, August 21st from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Saturday, August 23rd from 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Wednesday, August 27th from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Airdrie (Community Links S Bldg)– 211 125 Main St.

Monday, August 25th from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Cochrane (FCSS Office) – 209 2nd Ave W

Tuesday, August 26th from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Please call Barb at (403) 270-3637 to sign up for your Welcome Back session. If you are out of town or unable to attend any of these sessions, please call Barb to make alternate arrangements.

Why Is Attending a Welcome Back Session Necessary?

For legal and insurance purposes, a face-to-face introduction and original signatures on BBBS forms are required in order to transfer your match in time for the upcoming school year.

What Does This Mean For Your Protégé?

This transfer process also involves the protégés and their parents/guardians. An information package will be mailed to their homes in June. Your help may be required to ensure that all required documents are completed and returned to AMFY by August 15th, 2008.

Can Off-Campus Visits Continue During the Summer?

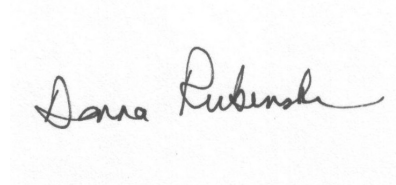
Off-campus visits can continue as usual for the summer of 2008 until August 15th. After August 15th, all mentor, protégé and parent paperwork must be completed and submitted in order for off-campus visits to continue. Once all of the necessary pieces of information have been completed, you will be notified by your coordinator when you may continue off campus visits.

Who Do I Contact Now And Who Will Be My mPower Contact After Aug 15?

Your current Program Coordinator is your primary contact person and will continue to be in this role under the umbrella of BBBS.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as AMFY and BBBS come together to grow mentorship in our communities. If you have questions regarding the program merger please contact your Program Coordinator or myself at 270-3637. More information will also be provided on our websites www.amfy.org or www.bbbscalgary.com as the details are worked out over the next few months. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to helping to make an important difference in the life of your protégé.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donna Rubenstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'R'.

Donna Rubenstein
Executive Director
Alberta Mentor Foundation for Youth