



Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Serving Calgary, Airdrie, Cochrane, High River and surrounding areas

Impacting the lives of young people and volunteers through the power of mentoring.

August 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

Community Initiatives Program Supports the Power of Mentorship

Calgary, August 18, 2009 – On Tuesday, August 18, 2009 Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, will present Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area with four community investment grants from the Community Initiatives Program (CIP) totaling \$274,005. The funds will be used to support four of Big Brothers and Big Sisters' mentoring programs: mPower Youth Mentoring, Recreation Mentoring, Club-Based Mentoring and Big Brother/Big Sister/Big Couple Mentoring.

"As a lifelong volunteer, I have seen the positive effect mentoring can have on a person's life," said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. "It's important that we, as Albertans, help support organizations like Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area, so they can continue to create a positive atmosphere for youth to succeed in life."

Funds provided by the CIP will be used to directly assist the delivery of the four mentoring programs, serving nearly 900 children and youth in the Calgary community with a cumulative 87,600 volunteer hours. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area is a donor supported, volunteer-driven charitable organization that is dedicated to matching young people with caring volunteers in a variety of mentoring programs.

"With the support of the Alberta government we will be able to serve more of our community's young people through the power of mentorship. Mentorship positively impacts the lives of children and youth by improving their self-esteem, relationships with others, value of education and hope for the future," says Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area Executive Director Sharon Moore.

mPower Youth mentoring is a school-based program that matches adult volunteers with students in middle, junior and senior high school. Recreation Mentoring collaborates with the YMCA and COP to provide year-round sports and recreation oriented mentoring activities. Club-Based mentoring focuses on strengthening young girls' knowledge, confidence and creativity through working with the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary. Big Brother/Big Sister/Big Couple volunteer mentors spend time with their Little Brother or Little Sister in the community doing activities of their choice.

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The Community Initiatives Program, a lottery-funded program, supports project-based initiatives in areas such as community services, education, recreation, and is dedicated to assisting the enhancement of programs that provide a direct service to the community. The Government of Alberta has a wide variety of community investment programs that create stronger and safer communities. For more information, visit www.culture.alberta.ca

More than 40 years old, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area is a non-profit registered charity that was founded by the Canadian Progress Clubs of Calgary in 1994, through the merger of Aunts at Large, Big Sisters of Calgary and Uncles at Large. It is our mission to impact the lives of young people and volunteers through the power of mentoring. To do this we match children and youth who would benefit from a one-to-one relationship with caring volunteer mentors. In 2008-2009 we served more than 1,300 children and their families through our mentorship programs and services. To learn more about Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area, or to become a mentor, please visit www.bbbscalgary.com or call (403) 777-3535.

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