



## Media Release

### mPower Youth Mentoring program launched

Calgary, September 10, 2008 – The Alberta Mentor Foundation for Youth (AMFY) and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area today announced the launch of *mPower Youth Mentoring*, a youth mentoring program offered in 68 junior and senior high schools in Calgary, Airdrie and Cochrane. Formerly known as AMFY, the launch of the *mPower Youth Mentoring* program as a Big Brothers and Big Sisters program was announced in a ceremony held at Forest Lawn High School.

Alberta Mentor Foundation for Youth board chair, Steele Curry, said, “By merging our program with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and by bringing together the knowledge and expertise of both organizations, we believe we will be in a much stronger position to provide significantly more young people with mentoring support to achieve their potential, and to be a strong voice and resource for growing mentorship in the communities we serve.”

As a program of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, young people and volunteers in *mPower* mentoring relationships will enjoy access to additional mentoring opportunities offered by Big Brothers and Big Sisters including scholarship programs, mentor/mentee events, tickets to entertainment and sporting events, and more.

Also speaking at the launch celebration, Paul Harrison, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area board president said, “We are very pleased to welcome *mPower Youth Mentoring* to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters family and commend their Board of Directors for their vision and commitment – to mentoring and to the young people we serve. I am confident that our shared passion and belief in mentoring will take mentorship to new heights in this community, reaching more children and youth, and providing a full spectrum of mentoring services to help all young people achieve their potential.”

*mPower Youth Mentoring* is a school-based mentoring program that helps junior and senior high school students achieve their full potential through supportive in-school mentoring relationships. Adult volunteer mentors (20 years and older) spend one-to-one time with their mentee, one hour per week at the mentee's school.

Anyone interested in becoming an mPower youth mentor, may call Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary and Area at 403-777-3535 or visit their website at [www.bbbscalgary.com](http://www.bbbscalgary.com)

*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 2007-2008 we served nearly 1,100 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](http://www.bbbscalgary.com) or call (403) 777-3535.*

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