

EVERY CONNECTION COUNTS



Dear Supporters and Volunteers,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. It has been a busy few months at Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland and you'll learn about many of our successes in this newsletter.

September marked Big Brother Big Sisters of Canada Month, which brought some exciting changes for the future.

You'll undoubtedly notice this newsletter has a new look. In June, the National Board of Directors unanimously approved a new mission, vision and brand for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and it was officially revealed on September 18th. This marked the culmination of a 20-month collaborative process to develop a clear strategy for the federation that will allow agencies across Canada to speak with a unified voice.

I am so excited to share with you that Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland will adopt the following mission and vision:

**MISSION: ENABLE LIFE-CHANGING MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS TO
IGNITE THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF YOUTH.**

VISION: ALL YOUNG PEOPLE REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

This reaffirms our commitment to the young people we serve, our volunteers and supporters.

It recognizes that mentoring relationships are at the heart of our work and those relationships can have a profound impact on a young life.

Thank you all for your continued support and look forward to sharing more stories soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanne Madsen'.

Hanne Madsen
Executive Director



FUTURE YOU CAMP PROFILE

Big Sisters Future You Camp took place July 9th to 11th bringing together 19 of our Big and Little Sisters for a fun filled camp aiming to inspire our youth to pursue futures they may not have considered.

Over the course of the three days, the youth participated in speaker panels focusing on STEM, Environmental Resources, Entrepreneurship and alternative vocations in which 36 volunteer speakers came to share their career stories and insight into their successes. One camper found the experience *"an eye opener to what women can achieve"* (Age 13) and another said that the speakers *"offered more info and career options/diversity. It helped me gather a wide variety of interests in career opportunities and offered a window into sustainability careers to help others and our environment"* (Age 18).

The great connection made between speakers, campers and our volunteers was inspiring to watch.

More than just a fun and educational camp, Future You Camp offered the full university experience. The youth stayed overnight in the SFU dorms, getting to bond with each other while experiencing campus life, they ate in the dining hall and made the long walk between classrooms from one side of campus to the other. They even got to experience the lifestyle of university students with a special dinner at one of the restaurants on campus.

Some of the hands-on workshops they participated in during camp included a Self-Defense workshop by VPD, a Sustainable Agriculture workshop, a Gold Panning experience by Yukon Dan sponsored by Eldorado Gold, a financial literacy workshop by RBC and a cool 3D Movie Making session hosted by Microsoft.

Our Future You Camp aims to extend Big Sisters' commitment to our youth to show that we are here for them today, and want to set them up for success beyond our programs. Hand in hand with our Bright Futures Bursary Fund, this camp aims at preparing our youth for their future. We hope to inspire further education and bring options forward that they never thought possible.

We are thankful to our sponsors and community for their support and look forward to the possibilities of next years' camp!



Royal Bank




BELL OUTSIDE THE BOX

On July 22nd, some of our Littles, Bigs and staff were invited by Bell Canada and Vancouver Whitecaps FC to appear in an Outside the Box video with star players Jake Nerwinski and Brett Levis. Our Littles got the chance to walk in the players' shoes for a day, while teaching them about what it is to be a Little in our community.

The day started in the Whitecaps locker room where everyone was treated to custom jerseys. Once kitted out, they all went on to the turf at BC Place for a round of stadium hide and seek, obstacle courses and games! The video, debuted on TSN and at the August 17th Whitecaps game.

Thank you so much to Bell Canada and Whitecaps FC for an unforgettable day and for being incredible champions of Big Sisters!

To see the final product, visit [@bigsisbersbclm](#) 



***THE WHITE CAP PLAYERS WERE WARM,
WELCOMING AND ENCOURAGING. IT WAS
GREAT WATCHING THE LITTLE SISTERS/
MATCHES BOND OVER AN AFTERNOON OF
LAUGHTER AND FUN.***

- MARLEY



THANK YOU COAST CAPITAL

A massive thank you to Coast Capital Savings for investing \$10,000 in our Study Buddy program. With your help, we will be able to support Littles in need of an extra academic boost.



Hanne Madsen, Executive Director at Big Sisters (left)

Steven Resendes, Manager Member Services at the Yaletown Coast Capital Branch (center)

Ivy Chiang, Study Buddy & Go Girls! Program Manager at Big Sisters (right)

EMPOWERING PHILANTROPY



Mark Marlow (TD Wealth), with Planned Giving Advisory Committee members: Carmen Thériault (Norton Rose Fullbright), Roxana Calquhoun (HNW Services), Heather Hesson (TD Wealth)

On September 27th, our Planned Giving Advisory Committee, with the support of TD Wealth and Norton Rose Fulbright, hosted an exclusive networking evening and opened an engaging discussion around the theme of empowering philanthropy.

We had the pleasure to host Janice Loomer Margolis, renowned Philanthropy Advisor, who discussed the power of strategic giving and offered insight on how to maximize individual benefits and impact when supporting organizations.

To learn more about planned giving or leaving a gift in your will contact Antonia Jennings at akjennings@bigsisters.bc.ca or 604-873-4525 ext. 316

Big Sisters'

THE LUMINARY AWARD Soirée

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to those who attended our 2019 Luminary Award Soirée. We were honored to recognize two incredible women Christina Anthony and Tracey McVicar and moved by this year's bigger than ever gala.

Please look forward to a full feature of the event in our Winter Newsletter.

RAFFLE

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