

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE COWICHAN VALLEY

2016

ANNUAL REPORT



Mentors make you smile...

AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday June 13th, 2017 6:00pm
Island Savings Centre, 2687 James Street Duncan BC
Koksilah Room

1. **Welcome – Elizabeth Robinow**
2. **Call to Order – Elizabeth Robinow**
3. **Approval of Agenda - Elizabeth Robinow**
4. **Adoption of Previous Minutes – Elizabeth Robinow**
May 18th, 2016
5. **Auditor’s Report MNP**
6. **Approval of Financial Statements – Elizabeth Robinow**
7. **Presentation: Big Sister Bonnie Potter and Little Sister Anna**
8. **Annual Reports**
 - President Report – **Elizabeth Robinow**
 - Executive Directors Report & Caseworkers Report - **Erin Generous**
9. **Nominations and Elections - (Elections officer & Scrutineer)**
10. **Volunteer Appreciation Awards**
 - President’s Award – **Elizabeth Robinow**
 - Island Savings In-School Mentoring - **Chris Waddell - Community Relations Specialist**
 - Bob Honor Memorial Award of Excellence – **Erin Generous & Chris Waddell**
11. **Adjournment – Elizabeth Robinow**

Next meeting date: June 13th, 2017

A brief meeting of the new Board of Directors will follow the Annual General Meeting while guests have refreshments.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE COWICHAN VALLEY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2016 HELD AT ISLAND SAVINGS CENTRE 2687 JAMES STREET DUNCAN BC

PRESENT: Julie Rosenthal (President), Tony Jensen (Treasurer), Elizabeth Robinow (Director), Kristina Mills (Director), Nira Hopewell (Director).

IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Swift (BBBSCV Administrative Assistant), Cheryl Fotos (BBBSCV Caseworker), Erin Generous (BBBSCV Executive Director), Terry Remus (Member), Kevin Maccullough, Paulyne Robinson (Member), Candy Kitchen (Member), Cherry Beckett (Member), Vincent Goniemy, Lloyd Ledoux, , Becky Bennett (Member), Kristy Martin Hale (Member), Amanda Peterson (Member), Tony Andersen (Member), Christina Wojciuk (Member), Shaun Mann, Kristi Woodall, Francis Nuttgens (Member), Keli Pickard.

REGRETS: Emily Bozanich (Director), Debbie Cook (Director), Kristy Chowen (ISM), Catilin Doran (Go Girls), Christy Villiers (Parent), Kelly Frazer (Parent), Kelly Grounds (Parent), Beverly McCarron (Parent), Chloe Wan (Teen Mentor), Bonnie Potter (Big Sister), Vlad Protik (Big Brother), Karleigh Malner (ISM), Georgina Kelk (Parent), Lauren McKay (ISM), Rita Cooper (ISM), Nicole Evans (ISM), Alison Pirie (Parent), Joseph Boudreau (Principal of Tansor), Denise Robinson (BBBS Central Vancouver Island), Rhonda Brown (BBBS Victoria), Denise Williams (Jumpstart Partner), Jamie Covey (VIU) Cheryl Hughes (Big Sister), Sean and Kari Mcdowell (Big Couple).

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – JULIE ROSENTHAL

CALL TO ORDER BY JULIE ROSENTHAL

This meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Elizabeth Robinow made a **motion** to accept the Agenda the motioned was **seconded** by Candy Kitchen. The motion was carried.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Becky Bennett made a **motion** to accept the May 25th, 2015 minutes. The motioned was **seconded** by Kristina Mills. The motion was carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Audit was presented by George Morine from Morine & Co. He presented the findings from the audit that was conducted and found that BBBS Cowichan Valley was in good standing. Board and staff did a great job by increasing funding and decreasing spending. Internal procedures reported good,

staff co-operative and timely. George mentioned if any of the membership had questions concluding the AGM they could contact the BBBS office and he would be happy to answer them.

Candy Kitchen made a **motion** to accept the Auditor's Report prepared by Morine & Co. as presented the motion was **seconded** by Kristy Martin. The motion was carried.

ANNUAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: presented by Julie Rosenthal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: presented by Erin Generous.

Caseworkers Report: presented by Cheryl Fotos.

Volunteer Appreciation Awards

Julie Rosenthal presented two President Awards: Tony Jensen and Elizabeth Robinow.

Bob Honor Award presented to: Rita Cooper not in attendance.

Erin Generous presented Julie Rosenthal with an appreciation award.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, PRESENTED BY BECKY BENNETT:

Julie Rosenthal resigned from the board.

Tony Jensen was up for re-election Kristina Mills made a motion to elect Tony Jensen as Treasurer Cherry Beckett seconded Motion Carried.

Elizabeth Robinow made a motion to elect Emily Bozanich to the board of directors. Francis Nuttgens seconded. Motion Carried.

Candy Kitchen made a motion to elect Nira Hopewell to board of directors. Julie Rosenthal seconded. Motion Carried.

Julie Rosenthal made a motion to elect Shaun Mann to the board of directors. Cherry Beckett seconded. Motion Carried.

Becky Bennett called to the floor three times, hearing none.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2016

President: Emily Bozanich

Vice President: Elizabeth Robinow

Treasurer: Tony Jensen

Secretary: Kristina Mills

Director Debbie Cook

Director Nira Hopewell

Director Shaun Mann

EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Elizabeth Robinow motioned Tony Jensen for Treasurer, seconded by Nira Hopewell motion carried.

Kristina Mills motioned Emily Bozanich for President, seconded by Elizabeth Robinow motion carried.

Tony Jensen motioned Elizabeth Robinow for Vice President seconded by Nira Hopewell motion carried.

Elizabeth Robinow motioned Kristina Mills for Secretary, seconded by Tony Jensen motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Julie Rosenthal **motioned** for adjournment, and was **seconded** by Tony Jensen.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39pm.

All reports are available upon request.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's perhaps an understatement to describe this past year as 'eventful'. We lost not one, but two Board Presidents (which accounts for my inexperienced self being promoted to the office!). Although I have not been able to come close to filling the GIGANTIC shoes of Julie Rosenthal (metaphorically huge, of course, Ms. Rosenthal!), it has been with the enthusiasm and active involvement of our incredible Board, and the tireless devotion of our ED, Erin Generous, that this year has been such a success. It has been my tremendous honour to be involved, and although I would like to, I can't take any of the credit for the incredible strides BBBSCV has made this year.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is an organization that, at its core, is focused on improving the lives of children and thus, improving the future for all of us. It seems right, then, that this year we were able to improve the future of our chapter through increased funding, successful grant applications, and more volunteer mentors. One of our (many) strategic goals is an increase in funding, which can in turn allow us to expand our programming and enrich the lives of even more children in our community. The future looks very bright, and we are very excited.

One major challenge that came our way was the transition to the new *Societies Act* of British Columbia. Like many other not-for-profit organizations and various charities in this province, we were a bit confused and alarmed about what we would need to do to ensure we are compliant with the new Act. Fortunately our transition application is on schedule and we will continue to provide uninterrupted service to the community.

Did I mention we also lost our caseworker, Cheryl Fotos? As sad as we were to see her go, her exit brought us Meghan Watkins. Meghan's hard work, energy and patience have made a huge difference in the organization, and we are so happy to have her.

This year also brought us several new Board members; Nira Hopewell, Kevin McCullough, and Sean Mann. These folks, and the rest of our Board, are owed a huge debt of gratitude for their time, energy, and efforts. Thank you. I'd also like to extend a huge thanks to all of our volunteers, our mentors, our supporters, our staff, and of course, our fearless ED. THANK YOU!

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth L. Robinow

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT 2016

THANK-YOU VOLUNTEERS

Mentors are the heart and soul of this organization, without them we simply would not exist. Big Brothers Big Sisters is incredibly thankful for our kind, dedicated, positive, fun volunteers who give up time in their personal lives as well as take time on lunch breaks to build a relationship with a child they care about. Big Brothers Big Sisters is *only* successful with the wonderful support of volunteers. “Youth who have been matched with a mentor are: 48% less likely to have behaviour problems at school and 2x more likely to have high level of school bonding and commitment. 34% less likely to allow themselves to be victimized or bullied by peers and 2 and half times more likely to participate in extracurricular school activities” BBBSC. BIG heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers for making a difference to children and youth in our community.

PROGRAM GROWTH

It was a busy year with lots of change. The number of children served increased from 81 in 2015 to 108 children in 2016 a 33% increase in the number of children served. Group programs expanded with Go Girls offering a first summer program in partnership with Island Savings to offer girls an opportunity to attend a condensed session, one for July and August facilitated by Island Savings Youth Ambassadors. This was a great outreach opportunity for girls “at risk” to get out of the house during the summer months and learn practical strategies for healthy bodies healthy minds.

In 2016 through funding opportunities with Coastal Communities Credit Union and Our Cowichan our first Game On session was held at Khowhemun Elementary School. Boys engaged in an 8 week session for 1.5 hours participating in 4 key themes; physical activity, healthy eating, self-esteem and social skills. The organization is responding to the low number of male mentors and offering a mentoring program that matches males 2:10 in a program that encompasses healthy choices and social development.

STAFF CHANGES

In July we said good-bye to our caseworker Cheryl Fotos and welcomed a new caseworker Meghan Watkins. We are pleased to have Meghan join our team officially as she previously held a practicum placement with us in the school year 2014-2015. She has been a great addition to the team and it’s been pleasure watching Meghan grow into her new position.



Mentors help us grow...



FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

In 2016 the Board of Directors took a step to invest in grant applications. Through consultation with Jennifer Barnes van Elk from Inkwell the agency has been able to increase grant revenues that assist with operational and program costs. This has changed the course of the organization in a positive way allowing opportunities for program development, program expansion and increased staff hours to keep up with the demanding capacity challenges. We hope to see continued success in this area to reach our strategic goals in 2017.

Throughout the year we had a variety of fundraising initiatives that contributed to a successful year:

Westjet raffle ticket sales
Bowl For Kids Sake
Clothing Donation program
Tim Horton's Smile cookies
Smile Card's from Thrifty Foods

The Fund Development Committee is working towards adding an additional fundraising initiative for 2017-2018 as it takes many funding streams to grow a healthy organization.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND MARKETING

As part of the Strategic plan the goal was to increase the number of children served it was also the very important to increase the number of male mentors. Through our Marketing and Public relations Plan we are pleased to report an increase in male inquiries there were 11 total inquires in 2016, one new Big Brother match and three male mentors for Game On facilitation. We are committed to increasing awareness to promote the need for male mentors to assist with the larger waitlist of 20 boys and 6 more in process in the Community program. Where possible, boys waiting for a Big Brother will be encouraged to have a mentor in the In School or Game On program offered through our partnership schools.

This was the first year we also experience an influx of Big Sisters that lead to volunteers being waitlisted. It is important to mention that even though we have a small waitlist for Little Sisters we want to ensure we are making the best possible match for both child and volunteer. We continue to match our waitlist Big Sisters with our waiting Little Sisters and hope to decrease the wait for both Big and Little.

With increased presence on social media platforms we continue to increase our followers on Facebook and Twitter as well as our newsletter members. Growth in these areas helps us share information around fundraisers, amazing contributions from our sponsors, funders and community support. We appreciate your help in sharing agency information bringing a greater awareness to our movement and the phenomenal impacts mentoring can make. We continue to implement our Marketing and Public relations plan to help increase our community profile and number of mentors.



PROGRAMMING REPORT 2016

SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

Children served: 46

Big Brothers Big Sisters is fortunate to have supportive partnerships with 7 elementary schools in School District 79 as well as 4 Secondary Schools. The Adult and Teen In-School Mentoring program is offered at the following elementary schools: Chemainus Elementary, Alexander Elementary, Khowhemun Elementary, Tansor Elementary School, Palsson Elementary, and George Bonner Elementary.

The Teen Mentoring program is also offered at the following partnership schools where mentors in grades 10-12 can participate as a Teen Mentor:

Cowichan Secondary
Chemainus Secondary
Queen Margaret's School
Frances Kelsey Secondary School

Proudly sponsored by:

IslandSavings



GROUP MENTORING

Go Girls children served: 45

Game On children served: 7

A total of 6 Go Girls sessions were held in 2016 and one Game On. We were pleased to see Khowhemun, Alexander, Chemainus and Tansor Elementary Schools receive the 8 week program around healthy bodies' healthy minds.

With the support of Coastal Communities Credit Union and Our Cowichan our agency was able to offer the first Game On session at Khowhemun Elementary. We were further excited when we received funding from Pacific Blue Cross to run 5 Game On sessions in total for 2016-2017.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Children served: 12

Our community program numbers continue to stay stable each year. We continue to strive to increase the number of male mentors. We saw an increase in male mentor applications this year that resulted in one Big Brother match with several still in process/on hold.

EVENTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters are thank-full for opportunities for matches to connect, families and children having an opportunity to enjoy events and activities out in our community.

- Magic show Murray Hatfield and Teresa donated by Duncan Fire Department, 40 individuals participated.
- Pet the Fish Productions at Chemainus Theatre donated by Island Savings, 15 individuals attended.
- Shriners Variety Show 21 individuals attended
- Forest Discovery Centre 10 individuals attended.
- Privately donated Season tickets for all our volunteers, matches, waiting Littles and their families to attend the Cowichan Capitals hockey games.

On behalf of our volunteers, Littles and families we want to thank-you for your generosity.

THANK-YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hard working Board of Directors and Committee members who support the ongoing work of the organization. Your passion, dedication, ideas, advocacy, expertise are greatly appreciated. It is with your commitment and guidance we are creating a stronger more vibrant mentoring organization that is implementing a full Strategic Action plan that ultimately provides a positive mentoring experience to children and youth in need. It has been a pleasure working with you all. This year we say good bye to Debbie Cook, Kristina Mills, and Bill King. We look forward to onboarding new members in 2017 and hope to continue the success that has been ignited. Thank-you, to each and every one of you for time and commitment.

WE 
VOLUNTEERS



OUR WONDERFUL PROGRAM MENTORS

A huge THANK-YOU to our amazing dedicated caring volunteers! You are the foundation of change making a difference each time you connect with your Little or Little Buddy. We cannot thank-you enough for all your support, creativity and passion for the program.

IN SCHOOL MENTORS

Orianna Beckett
Cathleen Brooks
Rita Cooper
Naomi Eastman
Kim Girolami
Nancy Janicki
Candice Kitchen
Mikayla Rambaldini

Kristy Chowen
Caitlin Doran
Karleigh Malner
Daphne Swift
Pip Woodcock
Felicia Rubright



TEENS MENTORS

Alyssa
Camilla
Gabriela
Lelaine
Becky
Pam
Alice
Isabelle
Chloe
Angela
Samantha
Alexis

Timothy
Jesse
Ziyi
Emma
Jimin
Kelly
Kyra
Julia
Fiona
Nerissa
Aila
Alexandra

Daisy
Richard
Kelly
Cassie
Jaleh
Maria
Andre
Taylor
Shirley
Nicole
Sunny



COMMUNITY PROGRAM- BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS

Steve Hale
Michael MacDowell
Vlad Portik
Kristy Martin Hale
Bonnie Potter
Connie Croteau

Tammy Andrews
Julie Rosenthal
Cheryl Hughes
Everett Dixon
Sean and Kari M
Cammy Lockwood



THANK-YOU TO OUR GO GIRLS & GAME ON FACILITATORS

Mikayla Rambaldini

Caitlin Doran

Rylie Keller

Tony Brown

Madison Pirie

Cara MacLeod

Kali King



THANK-YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Elizabeth Robinow

Vice President – Vacant

Treasurer Tony Jensen

Secretary Kristina Mills

Director Nira Hopewell

Director Debbie Cook

Director Kevin MacCullough

Director Shaun Mann

Director Bill King

STAFF AT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS



Erin Generous- Executive Director

Meghan Watkins- Caseworker

Julie Swift- Administrative Assistant

BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE SPONSORS 2017

Little's Team Sponsor



Match Sponsor Shawnigan Lake School



Island Savings
Community Partner

IslandSavings

LANE SPONSORS

- Mr. Mikes Steakhouse
- Peninsula Co-op
- Steve Houser
- Panago Pizza
- Falt Towing
- Coast Capital Savings
- Raymond James Mike Ganter
- Drillwell
- Sands Funeral Chapel

- Duncan Lanes
- Mark's Instant Sign Shop
- The Old Farm Market
- Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken
- Thrifty Foods
- Dr. Ronald G Smith Inc.
- IRIS Dr. Karen McClinchey
- Generous Electric
- Island Return It
- Dairy Queen



THANK-YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORTERS – WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Island Savings – In School Mentoring Partner \$20,000

IslandSavings

Thank-you, Island Savings a division of First West Credit Union for your support in growing our In School Mentoring program and to all the dedicated Island Savings staff who participate as mentors. Island Savings Staff are *phenomenal* supporters- 6 participate as mentors, 5 volunteered on event day for Bowl For Kids Sake, Island Savings teams participated in the event fundraising and furthermore, Island Savings staff helped us prepare for the event through “Days of Caring initiative”. We thank-you for your belief in mentoring and understanding the powerful impacts of how ‘one hour’ can make a difference. *Special thank-you to Chris Waddell for all your support!*



emPOWERING

Through our partnership with Island Savings, Island Savings applied on behalf of the three sister agencies across Vancouver Island and was successful in funding each agency \$8,300 to support In School Mentoring with a total funding of \$25,000.



Tim Horton's – Smile Cookies



Over 10,955 Smile Cookies were sold in September campaign with a donation of \$10,955 dollars coming to support mentoring programs. Nothing could make you SMILE more knowing these delicious cookies make a difference here in the Cowichan Valley. Thank-you Tim Horton's for your community support.



United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island

Thank-you United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island for your continued support for our In School Mentoring, Go Girls and male mentor recruitment. It's great to see 11 new male inquires, one new Big Brother and 3 Game On male facilitators.



United Way
Central & Northern
Vancouver Island



We appreciate YOU WestJet! Each year Westjet donates a round trip for two to any regular scheduled WestJet destination to assist us in raising funds to support our mentoring programs. There was also a super exciting day for two Littles who got to be a Westjetter for the day. Both Madi and Justin got to spend the morning at Nanaimo airport touring around, assisting with boarding passengers and getting an opportunity to meet a pilot and check out the cockpit.



Cowichan Valley Regional District

With funding of \$10,000 in 2016 the agency was able to expand staff hours for the Caseworkers position. This was a huge support and directly impacted the increased number of children and new programs offered. 108 children were matched in 2016!



Coastal Communities Credit Union

Thank-you Coastal Community Credit Union and Our Cowichan for your support, two sessions of Game On were implemented. This is a fun, interactive program that implements the importance of eating smart, playing smart, and living smart. Game On provides information and support to make informed choices about a range of healthy practices while building competence, confidence and self-esteem of boys between the ages of 11-14 years of age.



TOGETHER, LET'S DO GREAT THINGS



Community Gaming

"We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia"



Loblaw's

In early 2017 we were excited to offer our very first afterschool program of Go Girls at Drinkwater Elementary. 10 girls participated in 8 sessions that focused on healthy Bodies Healthy Minds while increasing the confidence and self-awareness.



Supporting our group programs Go Girls and Game on with active participation. With funds from ParticipACTION Teen Challenge we were able to purchase sports equipment and resources for physical activity, which is super important in our Go

Girls and Game on program where we promote opportunities for Healthy Bodies Healthy minds. The programs are thriving and it is these resources that help enhance the key program messages.



Pacific Blue Cross

We are super pleased to offer Game On in School year 2016 and 2017, with the support of Blue Cross. Five Game On Session will be held at our partnership school. Game On supports young men during a highly transitional phase in their life as they navigate what it means to be a man. The program is designed to engage boys ages 11-14 years to introduce and cement healthy life patters of activities and smart nutrition choices. Game On provides a safe space to create opportunities for honest discussions, personal growth and learning moments, building and trusting interpersonal relationships between participants, peers and mentors, builds coping skills, and self-care strategies within a positive social network. We are beyond thrilled to offer this program at our partnership schools.

