

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County Announces 2015 “Bigs” of the Year

Exemplary Individuals Recognized for Personal Commitment to Youth Mentoring

TUSTIN, Calif. (Feb. 10, 2015) – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, a Tustin-based, nonprofit organization that helps youth realize their potential and build productive futures through one-on-one mentoring, has announced the selection of its 2015 Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year. Exemplary “Bigs” are honored each year for their unwavering dedication to making a positive and long-lasting impact on their “Littles” through one-on-one mentorship.

In his day job, Big Brother of the Year Rick Robbins of Santa Ana serves as Assistant Vice President & Training Coordinator for City National Bank. The Santa Ana resident also makes time for guiding his Little Brother Tereck and has been doing so for 10 years. Tereck is 18 years old and a graduating high school senior from a single-parent household in Lake Forest.

The two have experienced many life transitions together, both difficult and joyful. Through the years, Robbiins has remained an active and present figure in Tereck's life and continues to encourage him to pursue his dreams. In their time together, Tereck has gained greater self-confidence and communication skills. And he hopes to pursue continued education after graduation.

Big Sister of the Year Robin O’Shea is an attorney with Klinedinst PC. Before moving to the firm’s San Diego office, Robin was matched with Little Sister Andrea for six years. Andrea is 17 years old and a graduating senior in high school. Through their time together, O’Shea has helped Andrea build her positive decision-making skills, a contribution that has turned Andrea's life around for the better.

O’Shea makes a continued effort to see Andrea regularly, though many miles separate the two. Because of the positive influence O’Shea has had in Andrea's life, Andrea has decided to become a Big Sister as well and now serves as a High School Big in her community.

“Without the incredibly generous commitment of time, energy and caring from our Big Brothers and Big Sisters, many young people in our communities would not have the opportunity to rise above their current situations and build a promising future,” said Melissa Beck, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County. “These are the folks who do the real work, and we are very fortunate to have

them in our organization.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, one of the leading chapters in the country, provided over 2,700 children facing adversity with professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships in 2014. Positive outcomes have included: 98 percent graduated high school on time, 83 percent enrolled in college, and 100 percent said their “Big” was their biggest influence on pursuing a higher education. For more information, visit www.bigbrooc.org.

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About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County

For more than 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Most children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters live in single-parent and low-income families, or households with a parent who has been incarcerated. It is the nation’s largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network and makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”). The organization’s system of ongoing evaluation and support has been proven by independent studies to help families by improving the odds that “Littles” will perform better in school, avoid violence and illegal activities, and have stronger relationships with their parents and others. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, with a network of nearly 400 agencies across the country, Big Brothers Big Sisters serves a quarter-million children annually. In 2014, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County served over 2,700 children. For more information, visit www.bigbrooc.org.