

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County Garners National and Local Recognition for Quality of Leadership

SANTA ANA, Calif. – June 11, 2015 – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County has received significant national and local recognition for the quality and depth of the agency’s leadership. Nationally, the agency garnered Board of the Year honors at the organization’s recent National Conference in Philadelphia. On the local front, it received an Excellence in Leadership Development award from the Center for Leadership at the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics at California State University, Fullerton.

The national Board of the Year Award is based on a rigorous set of criteria that encompasses monitoring of long-range strategic and annual operating plans; use of board committees to achieve annual goals; reflection of the diversity in the service area; level of participation in national, state and regional activities; monitoring of executive leadership; monitoring of agency finances; compliance with national program standards; level of attendance at meetings; recruitment and orientation plans; evaluation of board performance; fund development planning; and percentage making personal financial contributions.

Melissa Beck, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, noted a pivotal milestone for the organization achieved through the leadership of its board and staff. “By Jan. 1, 2014, we were faced with an acute facility issue. We had materially outgrown our 9,000-sq.-ft. facility after 10 years of sustained growth in children served. The team answered that challenge with the purchase of a 52,000-sq.-ft. building and sale of the previous facility. Moreover, in the process, we secured \$2.5 million in U.S. government tax credits and \$2.1 million in capital campaign pledges, without impacting our regular fundraising levels.”

Locally, the Excellence in Leadership Development Award from Cal State, Fullerton recognizes outstanding Orange County-based organizations that have excelled in developing their human capital as evidenced by organizational policies and creative leadership development programming. The center offers

programs that enhance undergraduate, graduate, professional, and executive audiences throughout Southern California with an advisory board consisting of VPs, CEOs, COOs, partners and principals from leading companies headquartered in Southern California.

“These awards are a testament to what we’ve been working diligently on for the past two years in terms of a cultural transformation and leadership development of our teams,” said Beck. “We have been laser focused on these key issues and have achieved significant gains in strategic planning, team spirit, collaboration and effective implementation. In terms of the ‘bottom line,’ the results speak for themselves in the quality of our programs and increased numbers of area youth served.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, one of the national organization’s leading local agencies, provides children facing adversity with professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships. 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 (“Biggs”) 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.