

## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County To Receive Gold Standard and Gold Standard Pinnacle Awards at Upcoming National Conference**

**SANTA ANA, Calif. – June 3, 2015** – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County is set to receive prestigious recognition as a Gold Standard Award winner from the organization’s National Leadership Council. In addition, the agency is a Gold Standard Pinnacle Award winner based on achieving the Gold Standard two years in a row. The awards honor exemplary leadership, growth and dedication to helping area youth. Formal presentation will take place at the Big Brothers Big Sisters National Conference in Philadelphia on June 2 and 3, 2015.

The Gold Standard Award recognizes the top tier of outstanding, high-performing Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies from around the country that have demonstrated pace-setting performance in 2014. The criteria for nomination include growth and quality measures of mentor relationships. Gold Standard Pinnacle Award winners achieve consecutive years of success as one of the top 5% of the 400 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in the nation on factors such as numbers of children served, high match support, low closure rates and increases in revenue to sustain the professionally supported mentoring relationships.

“Awards like this are never a singular accomplishment. This achievement is a direct response to the need in our community and the support of our incredible donors and volunteers,” said Melissa Beck, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County. “We are driven and forward thinking, with a laser focus on quality and growth through more services, support and ancillary programs than ever before. Every suggestion is thoroughly vetted, and we approach all initiatives from a standpoint of whether they will help a family, child or volunteer. And to deliver on that commitment, we’ve created an environment of collaboration, innovation and customer service.”

Several important achievements highlighted the past year for the agency. Matches between Bigs and Littles grew by 20 percent (35 percent in the last two years). A total of 2,672 area children were served, with that figure expected to be over 3,000 by the end of this year. Fund development has increased by 85 percent. In addition, the agency has implemented some of the most stringent

quality standards in the country. And a fundamental commitment to team building, with a focus on the culture and creating a dynamic workplace, has been highly successful. Finally, to accommodate this growth, the agency held a grand opening in late March for its newly acquired, 52,500-sq.-ft. headquarters building in Santa Ana.

“This kind of agency growth means that more children are matched with more caring adults. It is possible only through the dedication of the affiliate’s staff, board, donors and volunteers,” said Pam Iorio, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. “We sincerely thank Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County for its unwavering commitment to our mission.”

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](http://www.bigbrooc.org).

###

### **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](http://www.bigbrooc.org).