

Fullerton Stories

FULLERTON YOUTH REPRESENTS BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ORANGE COUNTY AT STARS & STRIPES CHARITY TOURNAMENT

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Fullerton Resident Jorge Calderon, age 18, was bullied in school and isolated at home, where he was raised by a single mother and had trouble relating to his four siblings. Along with these struggles, he also had difficulty controlling his emotions, which often led to angry outbursts. In August 2012, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County made a life-changing match for Jorge, introducing him to Big Brother Michael Keyser.

Jorge and Michael developed a close bond, which played an important role two years later when Jorge's mother was in a serious car accident that left her temporarily unable to care for the children. Jorge, who was facing difficult teenage years, found his self-esteem plummeting. His angry outbursts returned, his grades began to drop and he even ran away from home. His Big Brother Michael stepped in to help, purchasing meals for him and finding resources to help his mom. Michael boosted the teen's self-esteem through positive and encouraging words, but was still concerned that Jorge needed more support. Through Big Brothers Big Sisters, he connected Jorge with the Multidisciplinary Consultation Group, which provided him with free counseling and an action plan for graduating high school.

As a result, Jorge feels more in control of his emotions and is making plans to save money for his own apartment as he finishes high school and prepares for community college.

To share the immeasurable impact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County has had on Jorge's life, the Fullerton youth will represent the nonprofit at the 20th annual Stars & Stripes Tournament in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. His trip will be sponsored by the charity fundraiser's Angel Flight program, which allows the beneficiary nonprofits to invite representatives to attend the event. Jorge will be accompanied to the tournament by his Big Brother Michael, who was honored as the agency's Big Brother of the Year in early 2016.

A world-class fishing and golf fundraising event in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, the Stars & Stripes Tournament will be held June 23-26 and will help raise funds to improve the lives of youth and their families. The four-day tournament has raised and donated more than \$20 million to youth charities over the course of its 19-year history.

Named after the children it helps — the real stars of the tournament — and the striped marlin in the Sea of Cortez, Stars & Stripes began as a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County. Since then, the tournament has grown to include six children's charities based in Orange County and Mexico.

The 2016 nonprofit beneficiaries of the Stars & Stripes Tournament include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, Miracles For Kids, Orangewood Foundation, HomeAid Orange County, Tilly's Life Center and Building Baja's Future. The Stars & Stripes beneficiaries receive much-needed financial assistance, which they can use to expand their programs. This year they are slated to net record-breaking funds for OC youth charities to support youth such as Jorge.

The Stars & Stripes tournament, benefiting youth charities since 1997, combines spectacular deep-sea fishing and golf on Mexico's finest courses with beautiful accommodations and top-notch musical entertainment. For more information, visit www.starsandstripesournament.com.

