



Big Brothers Big Sisters.

OF ORANGE COUNTY & THE INLAND EMPIRE

PARENT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BBBS TEAM



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we close out the year, many of us are feeling the impact of change in our communities, our schools, and the ways families access resources. Through it all, one thing remains constant: **our commitment to stand alongside you and your children.**

Through our mentoring programs, we have learned that youth thrive when their families are supported, too. Across Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, **our team partners with more than 250 community organizations** to make sure families have access to wraparound support that meets real needs. This whole-family, whole-child approach is what keeps our mission strong and helps us reach more families each year.

You can expect us to keep doing what we have always done: listen to what families share with us, learn from those experiences, and find ways to better support our youth. Working hand in hand with our partners, we stay present in community spaces and continue to grow with the families we serve. This department began with a simple goal to support the whole family and has grown because the need is real and the work matters. That means parent trainings, partnerships, community events, pilot programs, and sometimes, learning from what does not work, always with the mindset of growth and care.

You can count on us to show up, to adapt, and to keep building the kind of village every child deserves.

In partnership,



Jessica González

Director of Program Support Services

jgonzalez@ocbigs.org

To stay up on the latest news and updates for parents and guardians, visit ocbigs.org/parent-news



FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Our monthly **TEFAP Food Distribution** continues to be a vital resource for families in our community, providing both fresh and pantry foods to around 60 families each month. We are grateful for our volunteers and staff who make this event possible each month, and we're honored to support families facing food insecurity.

We look forward to seeing you at our next food distribution.

NEXT EVENT: JANUARY 22

Register now at ocbigs.org/food

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](https://ocbigs.org/food)



BBBS PARENT TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

This past quarter, we were excited to host **Better Together: Supporting Children Through Bullying**, presented by Radiant Futures. This training brought together nearly 30 families from across Orange County and the Inland Empire to learn about the different types of bullying—including online bullying—and got helpful tips on how to talk with and support their children who may be facing bullying. Families left feeling more confident and ready to create safe, caring spaces.

Keep an eye out for more Parent Trainings coming in the new year—you won't want to miss the next chance to learn and connect!



FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAM PARENTS

MEET KENNY | MENTOR SUCCESS MANAGER



Our Mentor Success Manager, Kenny Torres, has been working incredibly hard this past year to build connections and community across both our Orange County and Inland Empire matches. Her focus has been on creating fun, meaningful opportunities for Bigs and Littles to come together, strengthen their bond, and enjoy shared experiences outside of their regular outings—and the impact has already been felt!

Check out the recap below to read about a recent Halloween-themed match event Kenny hosted for our Bigs and Littles.

We're grateful for the thoughtful planning behind these gatherings and look forward to many more opportunities for our matches across both regions to come together and create lasting memories.

MATCH EVENT SPOTLIGHT: HALLOWEEN CRAFTING

Our Halloween Crafting Match Event brought together matches from both regions for an afternoon full of creativity and spooky fun. Bigs and Littles showed up in their best costumes for a spirited costume contest that had everyone smiling and cheering each other on. Matches also spent time decorating their own trick-or-treat totes, giving Littles a chance to express themselves and enjoy a hands-on activity with their Bigs.

Our Littles loved meeting new friends and participating in something festive and fun with their Bigs. This event truly highlights the value of shared community events in strengthening match relationships.





FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAM PARENTS



BBBS x CLIPPERS PARTNERSHIP IS A SLAM DUNK!

Thanks to a generous donation by the Clippers Foundation, several of our matches and families had the opportunity to attend a game at Intuit Dome to cheer on the Los Angeles Clippers as they defeated the Portland Trail Blazers. For many of our Littles and Bigs, this was a memorable first-time experience at a live professional sports game, creating moments they will carry with them for years to come.

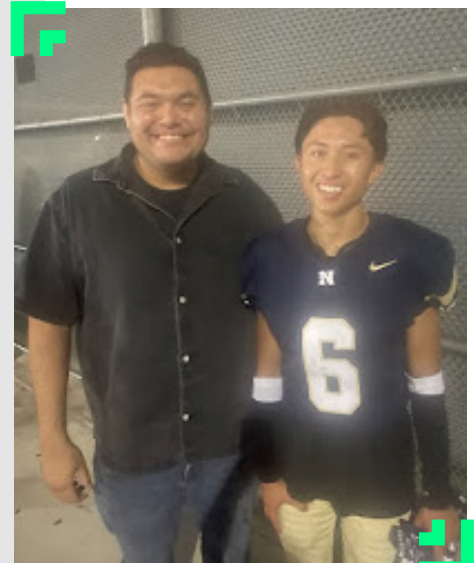
We are grateful to the Clippers Foundation for their continued support and commitment to providing our matches and families with meaningful experiences this NBA season. Opportunities like this help strengthen connections, build lasting memories, and remind our youth that their community is cheering them on every step of the way.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | RICKY SALANGA

Former Little Ricky has officially graduated from Navy boot camp, marking an incredible milestone in his post-grad journey!

Despite their physical distance, Ricky's Big Brother, Kevin, has remained a steady presence during this new chapter of his life, celebrating Ricky's achievements and offering encouragement. Their ongoing connection is a true example of the long-lasting impact a mentoring relationship can have, even as BBBS Alumni.

We are honored to celebrate Ricky's accomplishments and wish him every success as he begins his career with the United States Navy. His future is bright, and we look forward to cheering him on as he continues to thrive.





FOR HIGH SCHOOL BIGS PARENTS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the holiday season approaches, we wish you and your family a joyful and restful break. While **our sessions will pause during this time**, please know that our support for your child and family continues year-round. Once sessions resume, it's important to stay in close contact with your Program Specialist so we can work together to ensure your child has the best possible experience in our program.

This year, we're excited to introduce a **digital Welcome Packet** created to ensure every parent has quick and easy access to important program details and resources. We encourage you to review it with your student and reach out to your Program Specialist with any questions.

In addition, if your family could benefit from extra support—whether that's financial assistance, food services, or mental health resources—please don't hesitate to let your Program Specialist know. They can connect you with our **Family Resource Specialist**, who is here to help your family thrive beyond the program.

Thank you for your continued partnership, and we wish you a wonderful holiday season!

Warmly,



Nadia Sanchez

High School Bigs Program Manager

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BB PARENT TESTIMONIALS

"Wednesday is the one day my child wants to make sure she's coming to school on time, wants to make sure she doesn't leave school early if she's feeling a little bit tired or a little bit sick. She gets the energy to stay because she's going to see her Big that day and now she has a day. She's always excited to come to program with Miss Stephanie... she's really developing her self-confidence as well as her social skills with the rest of the group."

- Delia Lucero

"Mi hija se siente muy feliz con su Big, la anima a que sea mejor en su escuela, como persona y eso me tiene muy orgullosa, a precio mucho el programa ya que por medio de él los niños son mejores en su desempeño académico y personal."

- Claudia Paredes

"Thank you for all the support you gave my daughter and helping to make her time in elementary school less difficult. I truly thank you infinitely for your support. She changed a lot with your help and guidance."

- Cindy Sanchez Ordaz

FOR HIGH SCHOOL BIGS PARENTS



PROGRAM REMINDERS

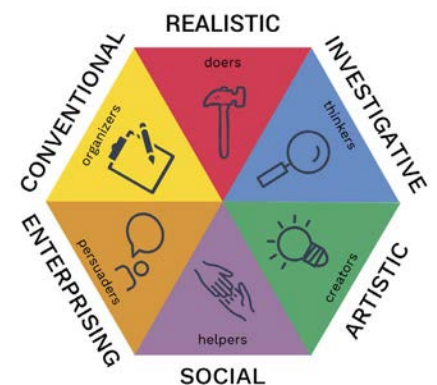
- **Holiday Break:** The High School Bigs after-school program will not run during your child's designated holiday break. Your Program Specialist will contact you once sessions are ready to begin again in the new year. We hope you and your student enjoy a joyful holiday with your loved ones and return refreshed and ready for more fun in January!
- **Match Communication:** Your child's safety is always our number one priority. During winter break, **Bigs and Littles are not allowed to meet or communicate outside of the program.** For everyone's protection, Littles should not share personal information (like phone numbers, addresses, or social media) with their Big. Thank you for helping us keep every child safe and cared for.
- **Special Events:** After the holiday break, we're excited to host a **High School Bigs Open House** at your school! This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to visit a program session, see your child and their Big in action, and connect with other BBBS families. Your Program Specialist will reach out in February with details about the date and time of your school's Open House session.



SITE ACTIVITIES

We are excited to share that this year we've added something new and meaningful to our activities—**RIASEC**, a tool that helps children explore their interests and strengths through fun, hands-on experiences.

Each letter in RIASEC represents a different area of interest: **Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional.** By trying out activities in each of these areas, your child will begin to discover what they enjoy, what motivates them, and even start to imagine future careers that fit their unique strengths.



Through creative projects, games, and collaboration, Littles will build confidence, learn new skills, and strengthen their relationship with their Big. Our goal is to help every child see the amazing possibilities for their future—while still having fun and making memories each week!





FOR WORKPLACE MENTORING PARENTS

Session Recap

This quarter, Loara High School students and their Disneyland Resort mentors participated in an engaging Workplace Mentoring Program session focused on **time management and post-graduation planning**. The session emphasized practical strategies for balancing school, extracurriculars, and personal time, while also helping students begin to visualize the steps required to reach their postsecondary goals.

Students and mentors worked together to complete a weekly calendar activity, identifying how their time is currently spent and exploring ways to prioritize responsibilities and commitments. This collaborative exercise encouraged open discussion about routines, productivity, and work-life balance. They also reviewed a college planning timeline that highlighted important milestones and checklists for the coming school years, including deadlines for college applications, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities. Mentors shared personal insights about their own career paths and educational experiences, helping students understand different pathways toward success after high school.



Students gained a better understanding of how to organize their time effectively using visual scheduling tools. Mentors provided valuable real-world perspectives on setting goals and maintaining accountability. Participants left the session with greater awareness of upcoming college preparation steps and how to stay on track throughout high school.

Parent Support

Parents and Guardians can continue to reinforce these lessons at home by helping students establish consistent routines and designated study times. Encouraging open conversations about priorities, goals, and upcoming deadlines can strengthen students' time management skills and reduce stress. Families can also explore college and career planning resources together, such as visiting college websites, attending information sessions, or reviewing scholarship opportunities.

By staying engaged and supportive, parents play a key role in helping their students build healthy habits and confidence as they plan for life after high school.



Renee Valencia

Workplace Mentoring Program Specialist
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES & EVENTS



First Night in Fullerton

First Night is a free community event where families can enjoy fireworks, live music, a Kids Lane, family-friendly activities, and so much more as they welcome the new year together.

Dates & Times: Wednesday, December 31, 7 PM - 12 AM

Location: Downtown Fullerton Plaza
125 E Wilshire Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832

[View Flyer](#)



Bowers Museum's Festival of India

Hosted by Bowers Museum, this free monthly family festival features live performances, hands-on art activities, face painting, and complimentary treats in their Key Courtyard.

Date & Time: Sunday, January 4, 11 AM - 3 PM

Location: Bowers Museum
2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

[View Flyer](#)

Hilbert Museum of California Art

This free museum has rotating exhibits and galleries that celebrate California stories through art. Reservations are available online.

Dates & Time: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 AM - 5 PM

Location: 167 N. Atchison Street, Orange, CA 92866

[Learn more](#)





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