



Matches Going the Extra Mile

Imagine being strapped into a catapult, with the tension on ready to be released. Ahead of you is a portal to a really bad world. There is nothing you can do to prevent it. Then someone comes along and pings you in a different direction, rescuing you. This is how 16 year old Justuss describes the impact that his mentor, Craig has had in his life.

"I look at Craig as family. We've only known each other a few years and we've become real close... We're like brothers, I guess that's why they call it Big Brothers"

"In our family, we have a good person within us and a criminal mind. If I didn't have Craig around I'd be out doing

the bad stuff, living the legacy of my family".

Justuss' now has a dream for the future. It begins with a 2 year construction course (starting soon) and then he'd like to join the army for 10 years. His dream then moves to providing for his own kids.

"I want to provide for them, give them a good life, with clean clothes, food in the cupboard and always being there, not booting them out of home".

Justuss' mentoring started 4 years ago at his primary school. He recalls the awkwardness of the early session, not knowing this man who'd come to hang out with him. Within half an hour, Justuss said it all became easy and they've never looked back. His favourite memories are the baking sessions at school, just kicking a ball around and going mountain biking.



He has always loved a physical challenge, so Craig got him into a rock climbing club. Craig transported him to climbing and that became a good catch up time for the two of them.

"I look at him as family. We've only known each other a few years and we've become real close... We're like brothers – I guess that's why they call it Big Brothers".

Key moments can change our life trajectory: Justuss recalls a night he'd rather forget when he lost his cool at the home of his caregiver. The police came and asked him whether he had anywhere else to stay. His father was in prison and he had not seen his mother for years. He was alone that night, feeling abandoned by his family. Only one person came into his mind and that was Craig. Within 24 hours, Craig helped him to reconnect with his mother.

"He's been a great role model, talking to me about everything, especially just being there for me, just to talk, it's real helpful. We talk about different scenarios and the consequences of what can happen to me. We talk about what might happen, not just in a couple of weeks but in the future"

Justuss had to farewell Craig recently as Craig went overseas to work.

"Of course we'll catch up in the future"

His future remains uncertain but the tension on the catapult that was going to take him to a bad world has weakened. It no longer has the same hold on him. Craig has gone the extra mile and will, from a distance for now, continue to offer Justuss hope that he can make this new dream of his a reality.

In a Surprise Twist



In a surprise twist, sometimes our mentors are asked to go the extra mile in order to not go the extra mile. When confronted with challenging circumstances in the young persons' life, how will they respond to feeling helpless? Will they become more involved with the family and young person in an attempt to alleviate the situation? If they do, they risk being pulled into bigger issues requiring more time and energy. They go the extra mile in the hope they can relieve some of the problems they see. But sometimes there is a harder path to walk...

Big Brothers Big Sisters creates new stories for vulnerable young people. The new stories take time to develop and require tenacity from both the mentor and young person. Most often new stories are birthed in longer term mentoring matches. In these cases, mentors may have had to go the extra mile in quite a different way. They have had to work really hard to let go of their need to fix or rescue the family of the young person. Instead, they have refocused on their young person. They have had to curb their sense of helplessness and limit their role to "just being there". In doing so, they increase their chances of going the distance. This sort of extra mile is hard work for the mentor as they confront their own expectations and

helplessness. I commend mentors who recognise within themselves the desire to go the extra mile for their young person but realise that actually the work needed to be done is on themselves.

Matt Button
Manager

5th Birthdays Are a Big Thing



Every volunteer mentor hopes that the future of the young person will be better in some way through their mentoring. But there are never guarantees. Of one thing we can be sure, long term matches are more likely to bring about long term change. That's why we make a big cheer

when a match reaches five years. Currently we have ten matches that have passed that mark. We're very grateful to Lucy and the team from Joe's Garage for generously donating dinner vouchers for each five year match, to celebrate the achievement.

The final word goes to one young man who recently celebrated his five year anniversary with his mentor: **"He has sacrificed his time for me. Looking back on myself I've changed into a more likeable person. I don't know where I'd be if he didn't come along"**.



Bryce and Roelant first met in March 2010 and still meet up today.

Good in the Hood



Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch was delighted to be nominated again for Z stations 'Good in the Hood'.

Z Stations in Barrington, Burnside, Curletts Rd and New Brighton provided voting boxes where customers could vote for their favourite local charity to receive a share of

\$4000 per site. After voting had concluded we found that we had won a total of \$3880 from across those 4 stations, thanks to the huge efforts of our supporters in the community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch would like to say a huge thanks to station owners **Hamish Wright** and **John Allen** as well as **Tania Barber** who always make us feel valued in the work we do in the city. Thanks guys! You brought a lot of good to our hood!



Local Business Going the Extra Mile Kiwi Labels



Kiwi Labels Managing Director, Guy Phillips was looking for a way for his company and staff to get involved with the community. After hearing about Big Brothers Big Sisters, Guy decided to make contact.

Kiwi Labels now donates the time and design required to complete these newsletters. Nic Downes does a brilliant job putting the newsletter together and for Big Brothers Big Sisters this relationship has been invaluable. It was great to then have Wendy Wiechern (Kiwi Labels Accounts Administrator) come on board as a volunteer mentor after spotting a Big Brothers Big Sisters newsletter in the staffroom. Guy generously allows Wendy 1 hour a week within work hours to catch up with one of the young girls in the Big Brothers Big Sisters programme.



As a way of giving back to the community, BBBS suits me to a 'T'.
(Wendy Wiechern – Kiwi Labels)

Wendy says that so far it has been fantastic! When asked about her best moment, Wendy says it would be finding out that Destiny's favourite activity was one of hers at the same age - dressing paper dolls. Wendy also loves the happy (gleeful even) reception she gets from Destiny when she turns up for their time together.

Wendy says that mentoring has been a lot simpler than she had envisaged. She had worried that she wouldn't be able to think of things to do but that has not been the case at all!

"I'm very lucky that my boss, Guy, readily agreed to the necessary time off work without hesitation. As a way of giving back to the community, mentoring suits me to a 'T' - I get to spend quality time with a lovely young lady without any strings or expectations (for either of us). I think that my older son could have benefited from a 'Big Brother' himself at primary school, being the older, quieter brother of a very outgoing younger brother".

Do you know other businesses that would like to support Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch?

Email us at Christchurch@bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz

OUR SUPPORTERS

We gratefully acknowledge grants and support recently received from the following funders and donors, without whom we could not operate.

Backing the Community to Make a Difference

Tissues can be in short supply at the Big Brothers Big Sisters office upon hearing stories of both pain and poverty in children's lives and in contrast, hope, where a mentor's presence has been priceless. We want more stories of hope. However, they do not come about by accident.

The staff team are dedicated to ensuring mentors are of the highest quality and have the support and accountability needed to generate strong matches that go the distance. On any given day our coordinators could be training new mentors, screening and vetting mentor applications, receiving referrals or requests of young people in need of mentors or meeting with current mentors for supervision. Meanwhile other staff work to secure funding and grants to keep the programme running. Each mentor match costs about \$1500 per year to run. Current funding allows us to employ 3 full time staff and two part time staff who in turn oversee almost 150 matches.

Right now we are operating at full capacity and have full waiting lists in all areas of the city (especially for boys in need of mentors). To increase our capacity further and to meet these waiting lists we need to be able to achieve two things:

One: Secure more funding to employ additional staff so we can create new mentoring matches.

Two: Secure more male volunteers who would like to be mentors.

We believe in the simplicity of what mentors do week by week and our research tells us how much confidence a young person gains from a mentor. We believe in our mentors, our matches and our young people.



The Warehouse • St Andrews • Keith Laugesen Charitable Trust • New Zealand Charitable Foundation • St Aidan's Vege Co Op • George Sevicke Jones Trust • Blogg Charitable Trust • Beacham Foundation • John Allen - Sabema Ltd (Z Stations) • Hamish Wright – Hatrick Services (Z Stations) • Tania Barber-Jefkar Holdings Limited (Z Stations) • EB Millton Charitable Trust • Rotary Burnside/Bishopdale • Rotary Club of Sunrise • Jack and Marjorie Ferrier Trust • Steve Clancy (IT Support) • Joe's Garage • Copy Print Riccarton • BBBS Regular givers and individual donors.



Could you spare \$4.60 a week to become a Regular Giver?



WE NEED MORE BLOKES!

We are always looking for more volunteer mentors, especially blokes for all parts of the city! Know someone who might be interested? Direct them to our website www.bbbschch.co.nz.



REGULAR GIVERS PROGRAMME

Our generous Regular Givers set up an automatic payment (weekly or monthly) to support Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch. For as little as the price of one cup of coffee per week you can support a new mentor match! (Alternatively, you could donate a 'suspended coffee' the next time you're at Ristretto Café!)

Email or call us on 358 4019 to discuss this opportunity further.



KIWI LABELS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the team at Kiwilabels who donate the design and layout of this newsletter to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Thanks to Nic and Guy for their patience, creativity and valuable time!

Do you have a business that could help BBBS Christchurch?
Contact christchurch@bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz



I WANT TO HELP

Do you want to help Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch go the extra mile?

- \$200 pays for our office rental for a month
- \$127 recruits a new volunteer
- \$90 pays for 6 children to attend one of our group events
- \$56 pays for resources in a school for a mentor
- \$26 pays for training a new mentor

Please fill in this form and return it in the enclosed reply paid envelope.

Cheques should be made payable to Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch

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