



ONE TO ONE

Steve and Amos

On Taking A Closer Look

We've captured a snapshot of comments made by mentored children and their parents. As you read these snippets, remember there's a story behind each match. A generous mentor who offers something of themselves to a young person. A child and family who generously allow a mentor to become part of their lives. Then there are the stories along the way of first meetings, memorable fun activities and a relationship being forged.

From the parents/caregivers:

"My daughter and her mentor are like two peas in a pod. She has gained more confidence and is so much fun to be around. We get on so much better".

"When things were a little rocky in my child's life her mentor was constant and made that time and transition easier".

"It gives my daughter the opportunity to experience a different world view".

"My son has never had a positive role model in his life. His mentor has turned out to be that plus some! He has proven to my son that he can be trusted and no one has ever done that before".

"I definitely see the change in him. I've seen him learn to cook and bake. Now I have to learn to bake so we can do it more at home"!

"My daughter has learnt how to interact with friends and is more positive. She knows what friendship is all about now. She is really taking pride in her appearance and we see how she has grown in her self-respect".

"Her academics have definitely improved a lot, especially her writing. Her attitude has improved too and she is more alert. It is such a privilege to have a mentor like ours".

"Kids like my son get a lot of negative and this is something really positive in his life. I can see that my son really feels like he has achieved something after being with his mentor".

"It is the one day of the week where I don't have to force my son to go to school".

From the young people:

"My mentor is so kind hearted, a very creative and caring person".

"He always tells me I am good at tricks on my scooter and he is really fun to hang with. Thanks for being really nice to me".

"It would be so cool if he was a millionaire then we can do anything we wanted"!

"I'm not afraid to tell him anything because I trust him".

"She always tells me I am really good at stuff. She is good to talk to and I can hang out with her and she'll listen to me. I know I can trust her".

"I want to say thank you to my mentor for taking me out and doing things, she doesn't have to and it is really nice of her".

"My mentor has taught me not to judge people when they can't help it and not to use bad words".

"He taught me not to give up if I feel like I am losing".

"When we play touch he always mucks up, which is pretty funny"!

"10 out of 10 for awesome"!

"He's a nice guy. Really encouraging, gentle, bald and he is really funny".

"MY MENTOR GIVES ME SOMETHING TO GET OUT OF BED FOR ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY. IT'S WHAT I LOOK FORWARD TO ON THE WEEKEND BECAUSE IT'S THE FUNNEST THING I DO!"

The Post Lunch Experience



It was 2pm and I was getting a pretty heavy dose of the post lunch blues at work. My energy was low, motivation flat, and a spot in the sun was inviting me to lay down and sleep. Though I was tempted, I knew I had a task list that couldn't get any shorter by having a sleep. As I sat staring at my computer screen, I felt so heavy, I didn't want to move. The prospect of getting out of the office and interacting with people had no appeal, in fact it sounded daunting. Would I have the energy to engage with people and give of myself? Mentors often say they feel some heaviness prior to seeing their young person. However, they are clear the young person is not responsible for them feeling that way. Instead they attribute it to their own busyness, tiredness and even their mental health. You see, they understand the importance of being emotionally available for their young person. They can't just show up and go through the motions to get through the session – they have to be present. This is why they experience the heaviness, because they recognise they need to be "up for it". But after returning from being with the young people, mentors then describe the value of that hour for themselves. The young person reminded them of things that hold different significance to the adult world of work, schedules and agendas. They reminded them of the importance of fun, laughter and simply being together. One mentor says "It is the best hour of my week; it helps to bring me balance".

...Fortunately, that afternoon, a wise friend reminded me of the value of engaging with others, even when we're feeling pretty flat. So I went to visit two homes of mentored children. At both houses, the mothers conceded how much their social anxieties limit their child's life. The mentors had offered an opportunity for their child not to miss out due to the mothers challenges. As I finished the day, I reflected on how I could have missed hearing these stories. The interactions with the mothers were a privilege – despite their own anxiety, they invited me into their home and in doing so, they gave me hope. I was reminded of the immense gift our mentors give both the young person and their families, but it is a gift that does come back to them too.

Matt Button - Manager

893 AVERAGE DAYS
A MENTORING MATCH CONTINUES

27 PERCENT
OF CURRENT MATCHES HAVE
BEEN GOING FOR 3 YEARS

53 BOYS MATCHED

37 BOYS WAITING
FOR A MENTOR

49 NEW MENTORING
MATCHES STARTED
(IN THE LAST YEAR)

182 CHILDREN MENTORED
(OVER THE LAST YEAR)

Creating New Stories



Big families are often full of laughter and busyness. However, having lots of siblings can mean missing out on a thing or two. After school activities are beyond reach – it's just that resources have limits. Big Brothers Big Sisters support young

people in these situations by providing extra opportunities and support. It was for similar reasons that Ali wanted to become a mentor. So it made sense to match her with Haylee, a girl from a large family.

"Mentoring to me is about helping a young person know there are so many options out there". says Ali and after two years with Haylee, she knows mentoring was unquestionably worth doing. "I really enjoy being around Haylee. I have a busy work life so my time with Haylee is always fun. She has a refreshing innocence that keeps me humble".

Earlier this year Ali asked if there was anything Haylee wanted to "give a go" and she said gymnastics.

Ali contacted her BBBS supervisor and the Blogg Charitable Trust agreed to fund Haylee a term of gymnastics. She loved it from the first session and didn't want it to end.



Haylee and Ali brighten each others worlds!

"Of all we have done, gymnastics is when I see Haylee with the most enthusiastic smile. It can be a challenge to get her to smile, but at gymnastics she is smiling and laughing the whole time. It is one time I know she is really happy. I've seen her gain confidence, have fun and really give things a go. She is inspiring me with the way she is approaching this. I love her attitude."

Ali generally works long days but starts earlier on the days she takes Haylee to class. Ali credits her workplace for how supportive they are of her mentoring and the Big Brothers Big Sisters programme.

The Blogg Charitable Trust has offered to support Haylee's gymnastics for a further three terms, which Ali and Haylee are really excited about!



Looking Beneath The Surface



Rachel and her son, after the ride of their life!

I've worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters for a short time now and when asked if I wanted to bring my son to the recent jet boating event, I jumped at the chance (as any parent would do). This sort of thrill seeking adventure was right up his alley.

While sitting on the boat, holding my son's hand (for my own reassurance more than his), I realised we were the only related pair on the boat. All the other adults/child couples were there because Big Brothers Big Sisters had bought them together. To the unknowing eye, you would never have known. I was aware of a young boy behind me. He was obviously nervous and rallying courage from the grown up sitting next to him. Throughout our ride I noticed the grown up checking in with his little friend and casting a huge smile over him to let him know everything was fine. They were not related, but their bond was tangible. I watched a man in his 60s perch on the farmyard fence, with a 14 year old beside him. They were simply discussing life and sharing some laughs. Seeing this for the first time reinforced the value of mentoring and reminded me how subtly, though significantly we can impact the lives of others. During the car ride home I explain to my son that he was most likely the only child there with his own mum or dad. I was able to highlight the kindness of the mentors and the impact on the young people. What a great life lesson!

Thanks so much Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Trust, Alpine Jet and RICOH for making this event possible.

When The Community Comes To School

"I've really seen my mentee grow and mature in the last year. I hope that having that one hour a week where he can simply get a lot of positive feedback about what he enjoys doing has, if nothing else, let him become more comfortable just being himself".

What happens if you take a community focussed business or funder, partner them with a supportive local school and add a handful of Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors? You get a recipe for success and some young people get the opportunity to connect with positive adult role

- models.
- ANZ Staff Foundation recently made a generous donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters to support matches in Wharenui School. A connection was made between the school and the Foundation, with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the intermediary. Connecting with the communities we live in makes us part of a real story and provides an opportunity to see our efforts make a tangible difference.
- One of our new matches is a young boy who was struggling to make friends. His mum says her son is now having more positive social interaction at school and she is particularly grateful for the opportunity for her son has to build a relationship with a positive male role model. It is early days for their match but it has got off to a great start.



Students from Wharenui school saying "thank you"!

If you know of any local businesses that would like to support mentoring matches, we would love to hear from them. Contact: 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.



EB Millton Charitable Trust ♦ Kevin Blogg Charitable Trust ♦ Christchurch Youth Services ♦ New Zealand Charitable Foundation ♦ George Sevicke Jones Trust ♦ The Holzer Family Trust ♦ Keith Laugesen Charitable Trust ♦ Jack and Marjorie Ferrier Trust ♦ Clyde Graham Charitable Trust ♦ Maurice Carter Charitable Trust ♦ Sabema Ltd (Z Stations) ♦ Hatrick Services (Z Stations) ♦ Jeffkar Holdings Limited (Z Stations) ♦ Albion Clothing ♦ Rotary Burnside/Bishopdale ♦ Rotary Club of Sunrise ♦ St Aidans Anglican Church ♦ Beacham Foundation ♦ St Andrews College ♦ Steve Clancey (IT Support) ♦ Copy Print Riccarton ♦ Waimak Alpine Jet ♦ RICOH ♦ NZ Post ♦ St Aidan's Vege CoOp ♦ Holcim Ltd ♦ Kiwi Labels ♦ BBBS Regular givers and individual donors



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

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 (03) 358 4019 to discuss this opportunity further.



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.



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

Or debit my Credit Card with \$

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on Card

Signature

Card Number

Expiry Date CCV Number

☐ Please send information on how I can support Big Brothers Big Sisters through regular giving.

☐ Please send information on how I can help Big Brothers Big Sisters through volunteering.

☐ Please send information on how I can help the Big Brothers Big Sisters through my will.

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