



 **Big Brothers Big Sisters.**
OF ORANGE COUNTY & THE INLAND EMPIRE

PARENT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BBBS TEAM

CHEERS TO THE NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year to our BBBS families! We hope that you enjoyed the holiday season with your loved ones, and may the year ahead bring you good luck and happiness. In this newsletter, you can learn about upcoming events, training, support and resources available through our organization and our community partners, as well as important program news.

Your Match Support Team



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
OF ORANGE COUNTY
& THE INLAND EMPIRE

We want to hear from you!

Have a question, suggestion or feedback for Big Brothers Big Sisters?

[CLICK HERE TO CONTACT US](#)

or text 714.619.7036

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



MEET GABY | MOTHER TO LITTLE BROTHERS JAVIER & JAMES

Since enrolling her two young boys in our program back in 2019, Gaby has loved taking advantage of all the family engagement opportunities Big Brothers Big Sisters offers. She has attended Parent Trainings focused on education, mental health, child safety, and active parenting, as well as Parent Chats and the Clementine Food Trolley events.

“Any information or classes I can take to learn more as my kids grow is a privilege,” Gaby said. “I try to be there for my kids, since my mom was working all the time and didn’t go to any school functions. I wish she had all these resources and programs when we were growing up.”

To learn more about upcoming family engagement opportunities or if you need additional support, please contact Jessica González at jgonzalez@ocbigs.org or text 714.619.7008.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR PARENTS



Life > Drugs and Parenting in Today's Society

PARENT TRAINING

+ KIDS-ONLY SESSION

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Saturday, March 11, 2023 | 10 AM - 11:30 AM

Samueli Academy

1901 N Fairview St, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Parent Training Topics:

- Discuss the role a parent and/or caring adult plays in preventing youth substance abuse
- Understand the risk factors that contribute to mental health issues and youth substance use
- Learn how you can increase your child's confidence in using prevention strategies when it comes to drugs and alcohol

Kids-Only Session Topics:

- Learn about the facts and potential impact alcohol, cannabis, opioids and other drugs can have on youth's health and development
- Practice drug/alcohol prevention strategies and discuss the value of living a drug-free lifestyle to achieve your goals

Register for yourself, yourself and your child(ren) or just the Kids-Only Session for your child.

Child care is also available upon request for younger children.



63rd Annual Swallows Day Parade and Mercado Street Fair

The Fiesta de las Golondrinas celebrates the return of the swallows to the San Juan Capistrano Mission on St. Joseph's Day. The parade runs through downtown San Juan Capistrano, then check out the Mercado Street Fair where you can dine, dance, play and shop at over 100 booths. Arrive early; most streets close by 10 AM!

Date & Time: March 25 | Parade starts at 11 AM | Mercado 9 AM - 5 PM
Location: Downtown San Juan Capistrano

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Mobile Dental Care for Families

Presented by Healthy Smiles

Come experience the Smile Mobile at BBBS! Services and treatments include dental check-ups, cleanings, fillings, and more for your entire family. Accepted insurance plans include Medi-Cal and most PPO plans, as well as a no-insurance sliding fee scale. Call (714) 537-0700 to schedule an appointment for an upcoming date.

Upcoming Dates: February 11, March 11, April 8
Location: BBBS Parking Lot (1801 E. Edinger Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705)



Free Tax Preparation — Filing Deadline: April 18, 2023

Through the Abrazar Tax Preparation program, households that make less than \$100,000 income are able to file their taxes for free! Preparations will be done in person by appointment—bring a photo ID, Social Security Card or ITIN number, W-2's, 1099's and all other tax-related documents for 2022, Health Insurance Coverage Statements, and childcare provider information (if applicable). To schedule an appointment, call (714) 278-4679.

Location: 7101 Wyoming St, Westminster, CA 92683

Medi-Cal (CalOptima Health) Redetermination: Effective April 1, 2023

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is returning to regular Medi-Cal eligibility and enrollment operations as of April 1. During the declared COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), Medi-Cal members retained coverage regardless of any changes in circumstances. However, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, the continuous coverage requirements will end after March 31. Counties will then have to determine if members are still eligible for Medi-Cal.

CalOptima Health members will receive a mailed letter from the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) asking to confirm their contact information as an initial step in this verification effort. Families that receive Medi-Cal (CalOptima Health) benefits and have had a change in address or other contact information since the PHE should notify SSA by calling (855) 541-5411 or visiting ssa.ocgov.com.



SHOP THE CLEMENTINE MOBILE FOOD TROLLEY AT BBBS

Get your fresh fruits and vegetables at Clementine, the mobile food trolley! Set up in the Big Brothers Big Sisters parking lot, free groceries and supplies for eligible OC families* as available. Advanced sign up is required.

March 8

SIGN UP AT [OCBIGS.ORG/FOOD-TROLLEY](https://ocbigs.org/food-trolley)

** Must be a resident of Orange County with school-aged child(ren) in the home*



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