



FINELINE

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

PARENT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BBBS TEAM

WELCOME TO THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION!

With a new school year around the corner, we understand parents might be feeling a mix of emotions as they get themselves and their kids back-to-school ready. So, we wanted to take a minute to **thank you** for welcoming Big Brothers Big Sisters to be a part of your village and remind you that we are here to work alongside your family to help your family succeed! In this issue of our Parent Newsletter, you can learn about the upcoming events, program initiatives and parent volunteer opportunities, as well as resources available to you through our organization and community partners.

Your Match Support Team



We want to hear from you!

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

[CLICK HERE TO CONTACT US](#)

or call 714.544.7773

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



MEET CASSANDRA CHAVIRA | FAMILY RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Since joining our organization at the beginning of the year, Cassandra has helped connect hundreds of our mentees and their families to the vital community services and resources they need. Cassandra has eight years of experience working in social services, including working directly with youth as a group leader, facilitating a mobile after-school program, and providing resident services at low-income housing throughout OC and LA.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cassandra works hand-in-hand with our Match Support and Program Specialist teams to connect Littles and their families to trusted partners in the community that provide services related to child education, food security, legal aid, physical health, mental health and housing needs.

*"Every family is different, and so are their needs. So my advice to parents in need of any kind of wraparound services is, **just ask!** Together, we will work alongside your family to help you access the support you need."*

— Cassandra Chavira

If you are in need of additional resources and support, please contact your Match Support or Program Specialist who will connect you with Cassandra.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR PARENTS



Back-to-School Bash

Backpack Distribution & Resource Fair

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Sunday, August 13, 2023 | 10 AM - 12:30 PM | Big Brothers Big Sisters Office

1801 E Edinger Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705

FOR BBBS FAMILIES ONLY

Get your family ready to start the new school year in style at our Back-to-School Bash! We will be giving out free backpacks, school supplies and haircuts* to students, as well as educational resources and information at our community resource fair. **Registration is required for backpack distribution.**

*Reservations for haircuts are limited. The first 50 families to register for this event will be given first access to reservations and will be contacted directly to select their appointment time.



Mental Health Summit

Coming Together to Move Forward

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Saturday, September 16, 2023 | 10 AM - 2:30 PM | Samueli Academy

1901 N Fairview St, Santa Ana, CA 92706

FOR BBBS PARENTS/GUARDIANS, LITTLES, AND BIGS

Join us at the first-ever BBBS Mental Health Summit for a unique opportunity for you, your child, and their Big to learn, listen, and grow **together**. Through age-specific learning sessions and hands-on workshops—led by BBBS support staff and mental health professionals—your child and their village of support will leave this half-day summit with the shared information, language and tools you need to advocate for their health and well-being.

Plus, we will also have free childcare and lunch, as well as prizes and giveaways!

FOR HIGH SCHOOL BIGS PARENTS

SEE YOU SOON!

While the kids get a break for the summer, the High School Bigs team is hard at work gearing up for our best school year yet! Your Program Specialist will be reaching out to you in August with an official start date for your child's site; please look out for a text or email from us and reply with any questions.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Your High School Bigs Team

hsbig@ocbig.org

SAFETY REMINDERS



Contact is **NOT PERMITTED** outside of site sessions. Matches may only meet under BBBS staff supervision. Bigs and Littles are also **NOT PERMITTED** to exchange contact information, (phone numbers, emails, social media profiles, mailing addresses, etc.)

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Geared towards social-emotional learning and relationship building



Thank you to all the Bigs and Littles who joined us for our Summer Celebration at the Santa Ana Zoo. More than 360 students from High School Bigs programs across Orange County spent the day together learning about wildlife, catching up with friends, and making new ones! The best part? Getting the chance to see their Big or Little during summer break to make some unforgettable memories.





NEW

BB SPORTS BUDDIES

Introducing a brand-new Big Brothers Big Sisters program launching Fall 2023! **Sports Buddies** connects young people to mentors through sports and wellness. Matches participate together in one to two group activities per month, such as soccer, basketball, kite flying, hiking and more! With all sessions organized and facilitated by BBBS staff, all that Bigs and Littles need to do is **show up for each other and play**.

NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL-WINTER SESSIONS

>> PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD! <<

SHARE FLYER

LEARN MORE

Please note that children who are actively enrolled in another Big Brothers Big Sisters program are not eligible to join Sports Buddies.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



T-Mobile x BBBS Partnership

T-Mobile believes that access to education is access to opportunity. That's why they're offering **free internet and hot spots** to 10 million eligible households across the nation! Applying takes less than 10 minutes, and now Big Brothers Big Sisters has partnered with T-Mobile to make the application process even easier.

For questions or to start the application process, please contact Cassandra Chavira at (714) 426-5620.

Accepted families will receive 100GB of mobile data per year for 5 years and a mobile hotspot at no cost, plus the opportunity to purchase additional Wi-Fi devices at a low cost. To be eligible, families must have a student enrolled in the National School Lunch Program or receive benefits such as CalFresh, Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT or P-EBT), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Medicaid.



Families and Children Together (FaCT) Family Resource Centers

Throughout Orange County there is a network of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) — 16 to be exact! Each FRC is a family-friendly, community-based site that provides access to comprehensive prevention and treatment-oriented social, educational, and health services for *all* families, including birth, blended, kinship, adoptive and foster families. Core services include:

- Counseling
- Parent education
- Family and emergency support
- Information and referrals
- Case Management Team
- Domestic Violence Personal Empowerment program

To find the center nearest you, visit factoc.org.



Anaheim Fall Festival & Halloween Parade

Continue the 100-year-long tradition of family-friendly Halloween celebrations in the heart of Anaheim! Join in on the daytime festival fun with local entertainers, costume contests, tasty treats and crafts. Then, stay for the nighttime community-created parade along Center Street Promenade and Broadway, starting at City Hall. All are welcome!

Date: Saturday, October 28 | 11 AM - 9 PM

Location: 350 Center Street Promenade, Anaheim, CA 92805



EMPOWERING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH ENGAGEMENT



Jessica González

Family Engagement Manager

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County



Being a parent is a remarkable journey filled with love, joy and endless opportunities to shape your child's future. What if I told you that just by showing up and sharing your voice, you can not only improve your family's quality of life, but also help us shape a better future for other families in our community?

Here at Big Brothers Big Sisters, our Family Engagement team designs educational and engagement events to support and empower families like yours. These **free events** have been thoughtfully curated to address a range of needs of the families in our mentoring programs with the aim to create a positive and nurturing home environment for our Littles to not just survive, but to thrive.

Now, trust me. I understand that the demands of everyday life can be overwhelming, and finding the time to attend events outside of work and school may seem challenging. But, I can assure you that the benefits gained from these experiences will transform your lives. By attending our family engagement events, parents and guardians have the chance to:

- >> **Gain valuable knowledge (at no cost!)** Parent Trainings cover a range of topics, from effective parenting techniques and communication skills to stress management and healthy living. Our expert speakers and facilitators can equip you with practical tools to navigate life's challenges with confidence.
- >> **Forge meaningful connections.** Building strong connections within the community can be immensely beneficial for both parents and children. These events provide a welcoming space to meet other families, share experiences, and create lasting friendships.
- >> **Strengthen family bonds.** Engaging in these activities as a family unit can foster deeper connections between parents and children, encouraging open communication and mutual understanding.
- >> **Enhance your child's mentorship journey.** By engaging with the support systems, educational opportunities and wraparound services provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters program, you become an active participant in your child's personal development.

Whether you are seeking personal growth, family support, or a sense of community, there is something for everyone at these events. I also encourage you to bring along other parents and guardians in your circle here at BBBS to share in these enriching experiences! Let's all work together to create a stronger, more connected community where our families can thrive. I look forward to meeting you at our family engagement events and witnessing the positive impact they will have on your relationships with your child, their mentor, and our village. See you there!

*Let's
Collaborate!*

*Eager to contribute your ideas and suggestions for upcoming family engagement events or initiatives?
Contact Jessica at (714) 619-7008.*



Big Brothers Big Sisters®

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