



## Our Volunteers Make All the Difference!

Here is a glimpse from around the state...

### Spotlight on Big Brother, Don Callahan

Don is a Big Brother, a stellar volunteer, a donor, and a huge advocate for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska. For many years, Don has made a difference in the lives of young men, and in his community.

Don has been a Big Brother for Stevie since July 23, 2003 – when Stevie was just in 4th grade. For the last six years, Don has spent time with Stevie on a weekly basis. From the beginning of their match, Don has been a consistent force in Stevie's life, providing guidance and support. Over the years Don and Stevie have participated in just about every Big Brothers Big Sisters activity – from Highway clean up to fundraising events to picnics and recruitment events.



Don Callahan, boating with the guys on a hot summer day.

Don is a wonderful role model; modeling courtesy, compassion, an ethic of service and simple curiosity about the world around us. While all of Don and Stevie's match activities are fun, Don makes sure that he also finds ways to educate Stevie and to teach him responsibility and the importance of giving back to his community.

### A Perfect Partnership!

Kyler really, really wanted to go fishing in a boat and his new Big Brother just happened to have one! In Ketchikan,



New match Harvey and Kyler... and the big fish!

new Big, Harvey Hansen and **Little Brother Kyler went fishing on June 7th, the day they were matched.** A ticket was donated from the King Salmon Derby so Kyler could fish with Harvey. It was the last day of the Derby and Kyler caught a fish. A great time was had by all ... except perhaps the salmon!

### No Bowling Alley? No Problem!



In Valdez, the Bowl for Kids' Sake event was a great success, even if there is no real bowling alley. Thanks to some creative thinking, lengths of yellow "boom" (normally used for oil spill cleanup) were deployed to line the floor in the shape of alleys and rubber pins were flying for the afternoon!

In Valdez, the Bowl for Kids' Sake event was a great success, even if there is no real bowling alley. Thanks to some creative thinking, lengths of yellow "boom" (normally used for oil spill cleanup) were deployed to line the floor in the shape of alleys and rubber pins were flying for the afternoon!

### Little Sister, Tishia Graduates!



Big Sister Sharon with Little Sister Tishia

Big Sister, Sharon celebrates Little Sister, Tishia's earning her diploma at the graduation ceremony of Adult Learning Programs of Alaska in Fairbanks.

### Yakutat Match Ready to Go

Savannah and Molly pose for their first match photo. Yakutat has a vibrant program with matches busy in both the school- and community-based programs.



Savannah and Molly





# Big Brothers Big Sisters

## CEO Message



Taber Rehbaum, Interim CEO

Happy Summer to our Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska family!

I hope everyone is enjoying our long days and all that Alaska offers in the summer. Gardening, hiking, fishing... we all pack in as much as possible during these few months. At Big Brothers Big Sisters we have a number of fun activities and events for our Bigs and Littles all across the state. We are also embarking on a transition of leadership.

The Board of Directors is in the process of a search for a new CEO, and expects the process to be complete this August. In the meantime, it is my great honor to serve BBBSAK as Interim CEO. I was the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters – Greater Fairbanks Area for twelve years, and have been working in both partnership and fund development for our organization since becoming a statewide network two years ago. This is work I am passionate about – and I know that all of the dedicated staff members of our agency share that passion.

I am happy to serve in this role and to support our commitment to the mission and vision of putting a caring adult mentor into the life of every Alaskan child who needs and wants one. Achieving this vision will take the combined effort of all of us who care about children – hard-working staff, committed Board members – and you – our extended BBBS family. I welcome you to join with us, get excited about the possibilities and do whatever you can to help us make a brighter future for so many of Alaska's children.

Taber Rehbaum  
taber.rehbaum@bbbs.org

## Who is Flossie Iqilan Spencer?

Flossie Iqilan Spencer has recently joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska as the Alaska Native/Native American Mentoring Initiative Director. She is Inupiat, her mother's family is located in Wainwright and Barrow; her father from Utah.



Flossie has an extensive educational background which includes law school, doctorate work, a BS and MS in Business. She is an emerging artist whose medium is leather, sea otter, seal and beaver fur.

Headquartered in Anchorage, Flossie's will develop partnerships to further the goal of the Alaska Native Mentoring Initiative: to increase and improve our services to Alaska Native children and youth. Flossie will travel to many of our communities and has already spent time in Fairbanks representing our program at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska is honored to have Flossie work with us.

*"We thought that perhaps we could "give back" when in fact we receive much more than we give."*

—Karen Wright  
Big Sister (of Big Couple), Juneau



## Big Rewards for Big Couple in Juneau...

My husband Jeff and I have the unique opportunity and privilege to share a couple's match with Marco, our Little Brother. The power of play and seeing the world through the eyes of a child again are just a few of the gifts that we have gained from participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

In a couples match, we have an opportunity for all three of us to have time together, but it also gave Jeff and I a chance for one-on-one time with Marco. One week, Marco and Jeff built a catapult for a school project. The week before, Marco and I went to see "Night at the Museum."

We get together for fishing trips, marathon games of Risk, building a camp fire and roasting hot dogs, baking, playing games, experimental science projects, cooking, and more.

We thought that perhaps we could "give back" when in fact we receive much more than we give.

I would recommend any couple who enjoy each other's company, who would like to share their lives with someone look into a couple's match with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Nurture your inner child while you nurture a friendship with a child.



Marco and his "Big Couple," Karen and Jeff

Karen Wright – Juneau



### Board of Directors

- Chairman: Forrest Karr**  
Fairbanks, UAF
- Jed Chamberlain**, Anchorage,  
ConocoPhillips
- John Binkley**, Fairbanks,  
Alaska Cruise Association
- Scott Jones**, Anchorage,  
SAJJ Architecture
- Cody Bennett**, Juneau,  
Self Employed
- Patrick Duke**, Anchorage,  
CIRI
- JC Conley**, Ketchikan,  
Service Auto Parts
- Kristi Acuff**, Anchorage,  
Alyeska Pipeline Service
- Joseph Everhart**, Anchorage,  
Wells Fargo
- Rick Fox**, Anchorage,  
Shell Oil Company
- Kelly Gunnels**, Fairbanks,  
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage



Big cheers at the Pride Parade in Anchorage



## Making a BIG Difference, in Memory of Dennis Bourne

Our community and Big Brothers Big Sisters has lost a quiet hero. Even as we mourn the loss of Dennis Bourne, we know that he has left a legacy that will be celebrated for years to come.

Dennis shared his time and resources with Big Brothers Big Sisters; as a Big, hosting events and activities, serving on our Board in Fairbanks, and advocating for agency employees.

Pictured at right, Dennis on the Riverboat Discovery with Daniel, one of two Community-based Little Brothers that Dennis mentored over the past 14 years. Little Brother Joe, seen in the rafting photo, was Dennis' other Community-based Little Brother. These matches were in addition to the four students Dennis mentored in the School-based program. Each of these young men have benefited tremendously from Dennis' friendship; growing in self-confidence and all becoming fine young men. But Dennis often told us that he felt that he gained even more than what he gave.



Dennis on the river with LBs Daniel and Joe



Big Brother Dennis with Little Brother Daniel on the Riverboat Discovery

Shortly after his retirement and move from Fairbanks to his beloved Kenai, Dennis was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Treatment was in Seattle each month. Daniel, in college in Seattle, jumped at the chance to help Dennis through his treatments. Allowing Daniel to return his caring and kindness may have been one of Dennis' most meaningful gifts. And Little Brother, Joe, arranged a special trip to see Dennis last fall, shortly before his deployment to Iraq. Dennis is a role model for our programs. His generosity and positive impacts live on well beyond his own life. Daniel and Joe are part of Dennis' rich legacy – boys who have become good, responsible and caring men– men who will carry Dennis' spirit with them forever.

*“ There is something inherently noble about a man who will take the time to guide a boy and help him to meet life’s challenges with grace and giving.”*

... excerpt from a letter to Dennis  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski,  
United States Senate

## Congratulations to New Matches!

### Anchorage

Jamin Taylor & Kalem  
EuGene Algiene & Jordan  
Mary Eckardt & Misty  
Joy Yates & Jacqueline  
Russell Badowski & Dakota  
William Akin & Branden  
Jon Mapes & Cody  
Tressa Anderson & Dezmond  
Nikki Smith & Sheri  
Amy Goodwin & Donna  
Camille Riley & Breonna

### Fairbanks

Rachelle Coleman & Ashley  
Freya Sakkinen & Kaytrina  
Heather Knudsen & Jade  
Sarah Webber & Kalina  
Christopher Tuckness & Richard  
Rebecca Phillips & Sarah  
Stephanie Sweet & Kiara  
Sarah Naber & MaKayla  
Melody Monje & Torianne  
Jessica Elkins & Shir'rena  
Kelly Weckesser & Carina  
Katie Hartman & Mekhia  
Caleb Thompson & JayDell  
Riley Leonard & James  
Theresa Soutiere & Michaela

### North Pole

Chanthal Harris & Brooke  
Susan Bonanno & Dahlia  
James Barr/Laurii Woodriff & Thomas  
Emily Proper & Reagan  
Ashleigh Aanerud/Tim Aanerud & Chantz  
Anthony Espino & Peirce  
Christian Armour & Colton

### Haines

Greg Brask & Daytan

### Homer

Megan Wiard & Liberty  
Susanna Sharp & Jenna  
Caryn Cordova & Carly Jo

### Hoonah

Sally Dybdahl & Zada  
Dodie Lunda & Sophie  
Garry Thaalesen & Tristan  
Teresa McConnell & Valarie  
Maureen DesRosiers & Zhane

### Juneau

Katy Jordan & Barbara  
Patrick Wade & Kindie  
Patricia Lonergan & Samara  
Eric Wescott & Hansel  
Toren Ulrikson & Kendall  
Alida Bus & Laurel  
Rebecca Gerondale & Danielle

Marit Carlson-Van Dort & Amber  
Lael Harrison & Taylor  
Caitlyn McLaughlin & Sofia  
Robert Billideau & Anthony  
Gretchen Powers & Cassandra  
Karen Wilson & Jemma  
Martha Murray & Veronica  
Margaret Lavender & Marquita  
Stephen Masters & Devin  
Jon-Paul Rios & Isaac  
**Ketchikan**

Lauren Elerding & LeAnn  
Robert Rice & Tanner  
Michael Fitzgerald & Hart Lee  
Theresa Elliot & Melody  
Allan Manuel & Brandon  
Harvey Hansen & Kyler  
Garrett Guynn & Trenton Swansen  
Richard Gray & David Ray  
**Mat-Su**

Amber Lee & Hayley  
Nicole Bendle & Zoe  
Kimberly Cyrus & DeAnna  
Kristen Fox & Ashlee  
Harvey Tanttilla & Cobain  
Jean Hammer & Morgan  
Susannah Stoneking & Paige  
Amanda Wise & Skylr

## Many thanks to our Dream Big Society donors

**William Moores & Jeanette  
Anderson Moores  
Cody & Heather Bennett  
Bob & Debbie Berto  
Mary Binkley  
Gene & Diane Blakey  
JR Bowman  
Tom & Anne Brooks  
Jed & Patty Chamberlain  
John & Marian Clough  
Dennis & Carol Comeau  
J.C. Conley  
Stuart Dewitt  
Gary & Georgette Droubay  
Walt Ebell  
Mike & Michal Beth Elerding**

### Sitka

Miranda Whitson & Madison  
**Tok**  
George Pine & Jacen  
Carrie Gerber & Claire  
**Yakutat**  
Russel Wicka & Kalani  
Marcos Weinrick & Thomas  
Adam Williams & Kenneth Wayne  
Christina Esbenshade & Emma

**Elgee, Rehfeld & Mertz, LLC  
Clark & Rosemary Gruening  
Stephen & Angie Hage  
Pauli & Harmon Hall  
Jensen Yorba Lott  
Scott Jones  
Marjorie Kaiser  
Liz Kiehne-Perry  
Gretchen Klein  
Svend-Karl Klein  
Cynthia Klepaski  
David Dierdorff & Madeleine  
Lefebvre  
David & Patty Mongold  
Murray & Associates  
Olerud's, Inc.  
Chris Parks  
Paul Peterson  
George & Debbie Reifenstein  
RIM Architects  
Lisa Sanders  
Greg Brask & Debra Schnabel  
John Schnabel  
Rob & Kimberly Skinner  
Bill St. Pierre  
Linda Thomas  
Doug Weaver  
Bill & Sharon Wildes**



# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Anchorage, AK  
Permit #697

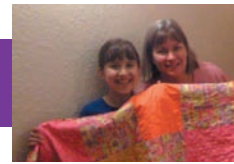
## Upcoming events...

- Annual Picnic, Anch. 8/8
- Plane Pull, Anch 8/22
- Highway Clean-up, Fairbanks, 8/12
- Dream Big Events, October - December



Serving: Allakaket, Anchorage, Chevak, Delta/Greely, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Galena, Haines, Homer, Hoonah, Hughes, Huslia, Juneau, Kaltag, Ketchikan, Minto, Nenana, Nome, North Pole, Northway, Nulato, Palmer, Ruby, Seward, Sitka, Skagway, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Valdez, Wasilla, and Yakutat.

## Changing Lives, Changing Communities



## Seen Our Spiffy Pickup Trucks?

Each year, our partnership with For the Kids Foundation provides significant funding for our programs and helps us to match more caring adult mentors with Alaskan children. Thank you for supporting the Foundation through your donations.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters pickup service gathers used clothing and light goods to resell and support our services. Thanks go to their dedicated staff for all their calls and hard work to help make our programs successful.

In the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas, you can see these trucks up close by scheduling a pick-up at 563-1997 or find links to everything at [BigBrothersBigSistersAlaska.org](http://BigBrothersBigSistersAlaska.org).



*Your support is vital to our programs. People like you who volunteer time, resources, and energy make it possible for "Littles" to have "Bigs."*

*Thanks for your commitment to the children of your community, and thank you for making an investment in the future of our state through your support of the life-changing programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska.  
Thank You!*



[www.BigBrothersBigSistersAlaska.org](http://www.BigBrothersBigSistersAlaska.org)

Want to receive this newsletter via email?  
Please contact us via our website to give us your email address.  
Look for the newsletter link. [www.BigBrothersBigSistersAlaska.org](http://www.BigBrothersBigSistersAlaska.org)