



Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Central Vancouver Island



# BIG Times

July/August 2016



**A BIG Thank you to Island Savings and Conentra Financial Services for your special donation!**

We are very happy to announce that Island Savings was nominated by its long-time community partner, Conentra Financial for its Empowering Your Communities award program.

This funding (which for our agency comes to over \$8300) will allow us to serve even more deserving children with our In-School Mentoring Programs! A BIG Thank you to Island Savings and Conentra Financial



**A Big Welcome to Stephen Cochrane, our new Director of Service Delivery.**

We want to give a hearty welcome to Stephen Cochrane, our new Director of Service Delivery. Stephen comes to us with over 20 years experience working in the Child and Youth Care Field in the Vancouver Island Area and is extensively involved in our community.

Services Association for this funding!

You can contact Island Savings at  
[www.islandsavings.ca](http://www.islandsavings.ca)

You can also contact Concentra  
Financial Services Association at  
[www.concentra.ca](http://www.concentra.ca)



## Our Big Deals Clothing Program continues to gain momentum!

We are happy to announce that our Big Deals Clothing Program is continuing to become known in our community and attract new shoppers!

The Big Deals Clothing program is a new program operated from our location at 2030 Northfield Road and sells a wide variety of Quality Mens, Womens and Childrens clothing with all items under \$10.00

We are now open (New Hours) from Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

For more information, give us a call at 250-756-2447 or email: [jennifer@bigscvi.ca](mailto:jennifer@bigscvi.ca)



## A BIG Thank you to everyone who supported the Island Savings Big Give Clothing Drive and Family Event!

We sincerely want to thank everyone who came out to support our First Ever Clothing Drive sponsored by Island Savings on Saturday, June 18th!

We had somewhat rainy weather but a good time was had by all. We featured food, facepainting for the kids (provided by the Island Savings Youth Ambassadors) and music. In total, we collected over 3500 pounds of Clothing which will go toward funding our programs!

A Special Thanks to Island Savings for partnering on this event, Wave/Wolf Radio for helping promote the event, Industrial Paint and Plastics for donating the grab bags and The Nanaimo Daily News for running a story publicizing the event.



## A BIG Thank you to the Ames Family Foundation!

A BIG Thank you to the Ames Family Foundation for their generous donation of \$5000 to our agency. The Ames Family Foundation is also supporting other BBBS agencies in British Columbia as well!

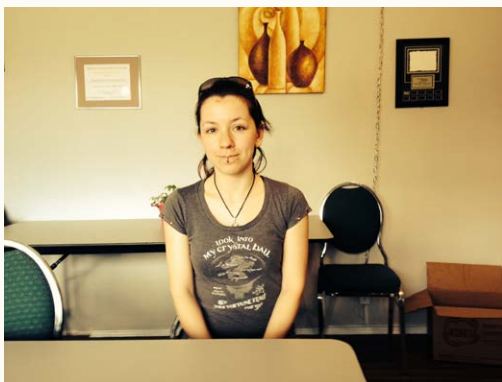


## Thank you to Milner Group!

Thank you to Milner Group/The Pacific Waste Management Facility for hosting a fundraiser on our behalf on Saturday, May 14th!

In Lieu of the regular dumping fees, they collected donations for our agency. The collected donations as well as a generous donation from Milner Group made the total \$2000 !

Many Thanks to everyone at Milner Group for hosting this as well as providing food and beverages. Thanks also to Kal tire for donating use of the grill and toys for the kids as well as everyone who volunteered!



## Another Great Testimonial from one of our VIU Practicum Students

Ivorne Elliott is a practicum student who worked with us this year. We sat down with her and wanted to ask her about her experience.

Ivorne is in her 2nd year in the Child and Youth Care Program. She heard about our agency through her Practicum Leader. "I wanted a practicum with some good variety so I thought working with Big Brothers Big Sisters would be a good option.", she said. Ivorne worked at Park Avenue as well as Georgia Avenue Schools this year doing both one on one mentoring as well as co-

facilitating a Go Girls Group at Uplands School.

She mentored 4 girls and found it to be an extremely rewarding experience for her. "I had one girl with a lot of behavior issues but I found mentoring really allowed her to open up and her teacher said that her behavior in school improved as well", she said. "I found In-School Mentoring to be an amazing experience for the kids as well as myself. The important thing is to be reliable and dependable as many of these kids are missing that in their life. Overall it is a great gift to give a child!" She said.

When we talked about her experience facilitating the Go Girls Group she said "Go Girls is an awesome program. I really benefited as it gave me some great experience facilitating a group." she said. "The girls learned a lot from all the different topics we talked about and made some really great friendships as well!", she said.

When asked what advice she would give someone who is interested in mentoring, she said, "Just go into it with an open mind. Try to gauge where the child is at and meet them there. Mentoring really lets you give back to a child and you will benefit as much as the child does!"



## Congratulations to our Match Anniversaries!

### April 2016

Big Brother Bruce and Little Brother Felix  
2 years

### May 2016

Big Sister Amber and Little Sister Sara  
3 years  
Big Brother Andy and Little Brother Griffin  
3 years

### June 2016

Big Sister Kristi and Little Sister Jessie  
3 years

## Reflections from Paulyne

**Paulyne Robinson, our beloved caseworker for over 12 years is sadly leaving us this summer. She wanted to share some thoughts about**





## **her time with our agency.**

First of all, I would like to thank everyone I have worked with over the past 12 years. That includes Board Members, Volunteers, Parents, School Personnel and Coworkers and Children, you guys are amazing. I first moved to Vancouver Island way back in 2003, I had a background in Child and Youth Care work, but didn't know a whole lot about the agency. Denise really made me feel comfortable and we made a great team. I knew right away that I had made a good decision and had found a wonderful place to work. In fact I can honestly say that every day was a good day at the office.

Our agency has had a lot of ups and downs over the past 12 years but Denise and I always stuck together and made it through. I always felt during my time here that I had the full support of the Board in everything I wanted to do. At one point, I had the opportunity to donate one of my kidneys to a friend who desperately needed one and I was supported 100%. I was off work for 7 weeks during this time, which did increase the stress on everyone but they valued what I was doing and had my back, which I appreciate. I really felt that I was supported personally at our agency as well. I went through some personal changes during my time here and Denise was always there for me during those times.

While I am sad to leave, I am leaving my caseload in good hands with our new staff person, Stephen Cochrane. I have really loved my time with this agency and I wouldn't change it for the world. I want to thank everyone for making my time on the Island so amazing and I will miss everyone very much.

**Paulyne**



## 9 of our littles are going to Tim Hortons Camp!

A BIG Thanks to the Tim Hortons locations on Bowen Road and Wallace Street for sponsoring 9 kids to go to Tim Hortons Camp in the beautiful Kananaskis this year! There will be 5 Girls and 4 Boys going and they are sure to have a lot of fun and grow from the experience!



## Congratulations to Megan!

Congratulations to former Little Sister Megan on her upcoming wedding! We sincerely wish you all the happiness in the world!



## A BIG Thank you to the United Way!

A BIG Thank you to the United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island for their contribution of \$9500 to our In-School Mentoring Programs! Thank you so much for making a difference!



## Join us for our Summer Picnic!

Join us for our Summer Picnic on Sunday September 11th from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Rath Trevor Beach. We will have food and games for everyone! Thank you to the Light of Christ Church for putting this on for us!



## We are expanding our In-School Mentoring Programs!

We are happy to announce that we will now offer our In-School Mentoring Programs at Gabriola Elementary School on Gabriola Island starting in September!



## Farewell to Paulyne from our Agency

On behalf of the Board, Staff and Volunteers of our agency we want to thank our dedicated Program Manager Paulyne for over 12 years of outstanding service to our agency. We sincerely appreciate your dedication. Your passion and commitment to the children and families we serve has been of immeasurable value.

Not only has Paulyne been an incredible Program Manager, she is also an amazing and compassionate person. She has been a kidney donor to a friend in need. She has also been a foster parent and has supported many other charities and causes. Although we are sad to see her go, we know that with a heart as big as hers, she is sure to impact many lives for years to come. We wish her all the best on her journey and have no doubt she will do well on her future goals and endeavors.

PAULYNE HAS TRULY BEEN A GIFT TO THIS AGENCY!

**Thank you from all of us at Big Brothers  
Big Sisters of Central Vancouver  
Island**

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### OUR LOCATION

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Central Vancouver Island  
2030 Northfield Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9S 3B8

### OUR HOURS

Monday to Friday  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

### VISIT US ONLINE

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