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Big Sisters

of Southeast Texas

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**Chief Executive Officer**

Deborah Ortiz

September 7, 2001

Honorable Mayor and Council Members

City of College Station

P.O. Box 9960

College Station, Texas 77842

To Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

I am very pleased to have an opportunity to tell the College Station City Council about Big Brothers Big Sisters and the unprecedented progress we're making in your community.

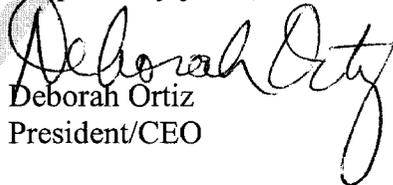
Mike Mullen has been instrumental in helping to bring our program to your city. He has urged me to come before the City Council to raise awareness in the hope that Council members will support our efforts.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Texas began as Big Brothers of Houston in 1950 as a nonprofit, 501 (C)(3) organization. It soon became part of Big Brothers of America and the United Way. In 1971, Big Sisters of Houston was founded and it merged with Big Brothers in 1977 to form Big Brothers Big Sisters. One of the five largest of 508 agencies in the U.S., it is nonprofit, non-sectarian, and multi-ethnic. It is funded through local, state and national government, the United Way, corporations, foundations, and individuals.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Texas covers 44 counties from Lufkin/Nacogdoches in the North, to Beaumont and Bryan/College Station in the East, through Harris and Montgomery counties, and down to Victoria in the southwest.

I look forward to meeting you on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully yours,

  
Deborah Ortiz  
President/CEO



# BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Visit us on the web at: [www.bbbsHouston.org](http://www.bbbsHouston.org) or email us at: [bbbsgh@pdq.net](mailto:bbbsgh@pdq.net)

**THE PURPOSE** of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Houston is to **provide dependable, adult friendship and guidance to youth in need.**

**VOLUNTEERS** are **age 16 or older**, and **share one-to-one time with a child for a few hours, twice a month or one hour weekly.** Volunteers are from all economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds, and can be individual, couple or family mentors. Volunteers are also needed for **fundraising committees, site-based programs, monthly children's activities** and special events.

**CHILDREN** are "matched" between the **ages of six and 17.** The youth and the parent (or guardian) apply for a Big Brother or Sister. A case manager interviews the family about the child's needs. A "match" can last until the child is 18 years old. There are always **hundreds of children seeking Big Brothers or Big Sisters.**

**THE PROGRAM** has been the subject of an Impact Study conducted by Public/Private Ventures (P/PV), of children from 10 to 16 years old in Houston and other cities. Half of the children were matched with Big Brothers or Big Sisters, while the rest were not. Researchers found that **children who had Big Brothers and Big Sisters were:**

- 1/2 as likely to skip school
- 1/3 less likely to fight to solve problems
- 1/4 less likely to start drinking
- more trusting of family members and peers.
- more confident about their schoolwork

**THE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION PROCESS** begins at the **information session** where prospective Big Brothers and Big Sisters fill out an application form. We ask for **two to four references** from people you have known two years or longer. There is a \$10- 20 (for couples/families) application fee to conduct criminal history and driving record checks. A staff member **interviews volunteers.** Before being matched, volunteers attend a training to learn about **the role of a Big Brother and Big Sister**, and how to establish a "match."

**MATCHES** There are currently over **1,200 carefully made matches**, by geographic area and common interests. A case manager supports each Match. There is no charge for services provided. Big Brothers and Sisters and their "Littles" participate in a **variety of fun, athletic, cultural, and creative activities according to their interests and goals.** Generally, activities focus on development of academic skills, exposure and enrichment, social skills, and self-esteem. The **Agency sponsors monthly activities** for the mentors and youth, as well children not yet matched.

**STAFF** is over 50 professionals. The President/CEO is Deborah Ortiz. The program staff conducts the application process including interviewing, training, matching, background checks, and on-going support of Big Brothers and Big Sisters and their "Littles."

**HISTORY:** BBBS began in **1950 when Big Brothers of Houston** was chartered as a non-profit organization; later it became a part of Big Brothers of America and the United Way. **In 1971, Big Sisters of Houston** was founded; the two programs merged in **1977 to form Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS).** One of the largest of 512 BBBS agencies in the U.S., it is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and multi-ethnic agency.

**ADMINISTRATION** is overseen by a **48-member Board of Directors** which is responsible for policies governing service delivery of the organization. Board members are selected from current and past Big Brothers and Sisters and from the community at large. The 2001 Chairman of the Board is Bruce Vincent.

**ITEMS FOR RESALE** are accepted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Houston's Donation Center. Useable clothing, shoes, furniture, and miscellaneous household items in good condition are needed. Donations are tax-deductible. **Call 713-270-7788 to arrange a pick up.**

**SITE-BASED PROGRAMS** are held at apartment complexes, in schools and in libraries during or after school hours. Volunteers are needed to mentor students on a weekly basis.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT** Big Brothers Big Sisters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is funded through the United Way, corporations, foundations, and individuals. The following have generously supported BBBS:

American General Corporation	Enterprise Products	Layfayette Well Testing	Quail Tools, LLP
Accenture	Equilon Transportation	Lansco, a Division of Hydrochem Industrial Services	Quail Valley Exchange Club
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Big Brothers Big Sisters of America	GM Nameplate	Mike and Judy Mayer	State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
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BouncingBall Inc.	Forrest E. Hogle	Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc.	Swalm Foundation
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Todd Cimino	IBM Global Resources	N. Harris Montgomery Community College	Tidewater Marine, Inc.
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Energy Operators, Inc.	Koch Gateway	Rives Carlberg	
Enron	Koch Industries		
	Kroger Food Stores		
	Al McGullion		
	Andrew Lulich		

**LOCATIONS for Big Brothers Big Sisters offices are:**

**Houston:** 6437 High Star, Houston, TX 77074 -5005 Tel. 713-271-5683 or 1-877-256-BIGS (2117)

**Angleton:** 201 E. Mulberry St. Angleton, TX 77515 Tel: 979-848-8479

**Baytown:** 5301 Decker Drive, Baytown, TX 77520 Tel. 281-424-8971

**Beaumont:** 1310 I-H 10, Suite 201, Beaumont, TX 77707 Tel: 409-840-6628

**Bryan/College Station:** 603 Church Ave., College Station, TX 77840 Tel: 979-846-5717

**Clear Lake:** 1300A Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, TX 77058 Tel: 281-282-6033

**Conroe:** 731 W. Davis, Conroe, TX 77301 Tel: 936-441-0789, ext. 111

**Lufkin:** 3213 S. Medford Dr., Lufkin, TX 75902-0335 Tel: 936-639-2670; 888-250-1720

**Kingwood/Humble:** 1302 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Humble, TX 77338 Tel: 281-446-3663, ext. 206

**Nacogdoches:** 118 E. Hospital St., Nacogdoches, TX 75963-0644 Tel: 936-560-9209; 888-250-1720

**Northwest Houston/ Katy/Brookshire:** 531 FM 359 S., Brookshire, TX 77423 Tel: 281-375-5110

**Pearland:** 2335 N. Texas Avenue, Pearland, TX 77581 Tel: 281-412-3477

**Stafford:** 10435 Greenbough Lane, Suite 200, Stafford, TX 77477 Tel: 281-261-1842

**The InWoods Apartments:** 5656A W. Gulfbank Rd. Tel: 281-931-5220

**Victoria:** 3200 N. Ben Jordan, Victoria, TX 77903 Tel: 361-575-5940

**The Woodlands:** 1600 Lake Front Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77380 Tel. 1-888-844-6289 ext. 237



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