



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Clarington

THE BIG NEWSLETTER



SUMMER/FALL 2019

STORY FEATURE

Three generations of Bigs and Littles share special moment

It took almost 25 years, but the cycle was completed.

It was a summer's day back in 1995 when Henry cruised up on his motorcycle to meet a young Josh, 7 at the time, for the first meeting between a Big Brother and his Little.

Fast forward to 2019, and the cycle was completed one afternoon at a model train show at a local high school. Josh, now a Big Brother, introduced his Little, Nathan, to Henry. Three generations with a common bond developed by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Through BBBS I met one of the most important people in my life in Henry, and give full credit to my Big Brother in having significant influence over the way I was raised and choices made as a young person that put me on the path to becoming the person I am today," says Josh. "This is a program that, I can attest to, works."

Growing up in Cobourg, Josh was matched with Henry by the local agency. It was at the urging of a neighbour that Henry became a Big Brother in 1971, a natural fit having been involved with children as both a hockey and softball coach, as well as a councillor for the youth group at his church. The relationship Henry and Josh share has lasted close to 25 years.

"It was great fun watching him change from a shy seven year old into the self-assured young man that he is today," says Henry fondly.

Their first outing was simple enough – a motorcycle ride to get some ice cream together. It evolved into so much more than that over time. They still remain close.

"We have become great friends," says Josh. "Even in some years when we only see each other once or twice it is a very important relationship in my life."

The relationship had such a profound impact on Josh, he made a promise to himself from a fairly young age that when the time was right, he would give back. After stops in Ottawa, Vietnam and Toronto while transitioning through life, once he settled in Bowmanville with his wife, Allie, the timing was right.

"Aside from giving back and fulfilling the self-made commitment, BBBS is a program I believe works," says Josh. Josh was matched with Nathan. From their first outing, Josh was taken back in time. Although, in this round, he was the Big, not the Little.

"Many of the activities we do, or conversations we have, are a carbon copy of those Henry and I would have had 25 years prior," says Josh of his time with Nathan.

A proud moment in their new journey together came when Josh invited Henry into the mix during an outing. Not surprisingly, the three of them hit it off.

"When Josh told me he had become a Big Brother, I was thrilled and I know he is going to be a great Big," says Henry, whose interaction with a shy seven year old almost 25 years ago is still paying back to the community. "Meeting Nathan was a marvelous experience. It sure took me back. To watch the interaction between them, I know they are building a great relationship."

It's a unique bond that can last a lifetime.

"Henry was clearly happy to know that his actions not only had a direct impact on me, but continues to impact young lives through me," notes Josh. "Nathan was very



Back in 1995, Big Brother Henry took Little Brother Josh (top photo) out for ice cream on his motorcycle. Almost 25 years later, Josh, now a Big Brother, introduced his Little Brother, Nathan, to Henry.

MATCH ALERT

'Big' Natalie and 'Little' Isabella are celebrating their first year together as a match. Over the past year the list of things they have done together included going roller skating, to the beach, the mall, Port Hope to watch the filming of IT, apple picking, and so much more. These two have built a strong friendship and are looking forward to exploring the city and watching a sporting event together in Toronto.

Congratulations on your first year together!



'Big' Jenn and 'Little' Lainey have so much in common that it's hard to believe! They both like being active, outdoors and share a love for sports. Jenn and Lainey are excited about getting to know one another and have already set up their first outing. Jenn is looking forward to building a good friendship with Lainey, and Lainey is looking forward to beating Jenn at hockey. They are both skilled in hockey, so it will be interesting to see who comes out on top. We wish these two all the best on their journey together as Big Sister and Little Sister.



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR BIG BOOST MONTHLY DONORS!

The matches above are only possible through the generous contributions of our community including our Monthly Donors. You play a large part in helping the children and youth of our community to develop into self-confident, emotionally strong and socially-responsible adults.

To become a monthly donor, visit:

<https://clarington.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/monthly-giving-program/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Harvest Tea Party

Join us on September 21, 2019, for a delightful afternoon of tea, lunch and sweets. This year's theme will pay tribute to the 1920's era with a Downton Abbey theme. Guests will be invited to dress in their best 1920's-inspired outfit.

The event will include our ever-popular purse auction, vendor Market Place for a bit of shopping, guest speakers, a penny auction and best hat contest!

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2019

Time: 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Faith United Church
(1778 Nash Road in Courtyce)

Under the Sea Gala

Dive in and join us under the sea on Saturday, November 2, 2019 for our annual Gala.

This year's Gala will treat guests to a lavish catered dinner, followed by a live auction, silent auction and raffle at our new venue, Newcastle Community Hall.

Guests will also be able to dance the night away while our DJ spins some fantastic tunes!

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Location: Newcastle Community Hall
(20 King Avenue West, Newcastle)

Stay tuned for an announcement regarding the date of our **Appreciation Night** event in September!

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call the office at (905) 623-6646 or email brad.kelly@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.

Follow us on social media!



www.clarington.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca