



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Media Release

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Coast Capital Savings Foundation provides \$300,000 grant to Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in BC

Vancouver – Coast Capital Savings Foundation has entered into a three-year partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in B.C. to provide \$300,000 towards its teen mentoring program.

The partnership marks the first provincial grant Big Brothers Big Sisters has received from a corporate partner.

“We are thrilled to work with Coast Capital Savings Foundation to diversify our program mix and serve more youth and children,” says Mark Ely, executive director of Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver (BBGV). “This provincial contribution will be felt in many communities. In Vancouver, North Vancouver, Surrey, the Tri-Cities, Squamish and the Sunshine Coast, it will allow us to increase the number of mentors and children we support by 50%.”

Big Brother Big Sisters teen mentoring program matches high school students with elementary children to help build friendship-based relationships.

BBGV program manager Heidi Benson said the program helps increase children’s self-esteem through friendship, and improves their social competence and attachment to the community. The program also gives teen mentors leadership and relationship building skills, and promotes civic commitment to their community.

“Coast Capital Savings Foundation is committed to supporting youth leadership, and we’re delighted to help Big Brothers Big Sisters expand its teen mentoring program in BC,” said Robert Wicks, chair, Coast Capital Savings Foundation. “The teen mentoring program creates so many opportunities for youth to grow and encourages participation and citizenship in our local communities.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters will receive \$100,000 annually for three years towards the expansion and growth of the teen mentoring program in local agencies in Greater Vancouver, Central Fraser Valley, Upper Fraser Valley, and Langley in the Lower Mainland and the Victoria Capital Region, Cowichan Valley, and Nanaimo on Vancouver Island.

Coast Capital Savings Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to supporting initiatives, programs and partnerships that build or enhance leadership skills for youth. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, the Foundation represents the interests of Coast Capital Savings Credit Union’s employees, corporate board, and members of the community. Coast Capital Savings Foundation provides \$500,000 in grants annually.

Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver (BBGV) promotes the healthy development of boys and girls through a variety of high-quality, prevention-based mentoring programs. The agency, which

served more than 730 children last year, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2007. Our goal is to create 1,200 friendships by the year 2010.