

**COST PER DAY  
TO RUN  
BIG BROTHERS  
BIG SISTERS  
CHRISTCHURCH**

**\$b50**

**REGULAR GIVERS PROGRAMME**

Our generous Regular Givers set up an automatic payment (weekly or monthly) to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch. All donations are tax deductible. See 'I Want To Help' below for some ways in which your regular donation can help us. For example, just \$26 a month will pay for 12 new mentors to be trained into our programme each year!  
Email or call us on 358 4019 to discuss this opportunity further.

**KIWI LABELS**



We gratefully acknowledge the support of the team at Kiwilabels who donate the design and layout of this newsletter to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Thanks to Nic and Guy for their patience, creativity and valuable time!  
**Do you have a business that could help BBBS Christchurch?**  
Contact Craig on [craig.ogilvie@bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz](mailto:craig.ogilvie@bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz)

**I WANT TO HELP**

- \$200 pays for our office rental for a month
- \$127 recruits a new volunteer
- \$90 pays for 6 children to attend one of our group events
- \$56 pays for resources in a school for a mentor
- \$26 pays for training a new mentor

Please fill in this form and return it in the enclosed reply paid envelope.

Cheques should be made payable to Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch

Or debit my Credit Card with .....\$

Visa  Mastercard

Name on Card ..... Signature .....

Card Number ..... Expiry Date ..... CCV Number .....

Please send information on how I can support Big Brothers Big Sisters through regular giving.

Please send information on how I can help Big Brothers Big Sisters through volunteering.

Please send information on how I can help the Big Brothers Big Sisters through my will.

Full Name .....

Postal Address.....

Email Address..... Telephone.....

PO Box 20045, Bishopdale, Christchurch 8053 Office | 63 Brookside Terrace, Bryndwr, Christchurch 8053  
Phone 03 3584019 | Email [christchurch@bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz](mailto:christchurch@bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz)



**WE NEED MORE BLOKES!**

We are always looking for more volunteer mentors, especially blokes for all parts of the city! Know someone who might be interested? Direct them to our website [www.bbbschch.co.nz](http://www.bbbschch.co.nz). Our next training is in late January.

**Give a boy a break!**



**ONE TO ONE**

**MAGIC MOMENTS AT PHILLIPSTOWN**



There's a large, bright sign on the wall of Margaret Preston's office at Phillipstown School. It reads, 'Fantastic Phillipstown Children.' Below it and sweeping across the room are pictures of some of the current students she supports in her role as Learning and Behaviour Teacher at the school. She adores these kids and has lots of great stories about them and many more from years past. Some sad, some uplifting.

After a protracted public battle with the Ministry of Education, Phillipstown will close its doors to students on December 15 with all students needing to find alternative schools.

Phillipstown holds a special place in the heart of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch. Right from when mentoring first started in the school in 2007, the staff have done all they can to support the children and their mentors. Margaret was right there at the beginning championing the cause and assisting us to find the right child for each volunteer. Her in depth knowledge of the children, their families and understanding of the benefits of mentoring have been invaluable to the success of the programme." Mentors give these kids stability in a world where (often) there isn't. They accept the children unconditionally, and make them feel a bit special." Margaret believes that it's not what you teach

**Mural on the wall of Phillipstown School**

kids that matters, it's the relationship you establish with them that truly makes a difference. She knows from experience that mentors who are consistent and keep turning up week after week to spend an hour with the kids mean the world to the children. She rolls off so many stories of children who have had mentors at Phillipstown (many of whom, having left the school, still have those mentors!) and in every case, she points to some small but significant point about the relationship that made it special. Like when they made something with the child, or a first time swimming in the ocean, or the day that the child asked the mentor something about them, rather than focusing on their own world. These are all big, magic moments to Margaret.

At the beginning, to the children it all seems like make believe. To Margaret, Tony Simpson (Principal) and Paul



Morrow (formerly on staff at Grace Vineyard Church) who were all there right from the beginning, championing the Big Brothers Big Sisters programme at Phillipstown, we thank you for trusting us to help the 'make believe' become real for your children.

**MENTORING MATCHES SERVED 2014: 172**



## UPS AND DOWNS..BUT MORE UPS!



So there I was, dangling at least 10ft above the floor of Clip & Climb (where the air is thin and the temperature can drop as low as 20 degrees) with blood streaming – okay dribbling – down my face from a cut in my head sustained by an embarrassing tumble from the centre’s easiest ascent. People dashed to help – well strolled quite fast – but it was too late, my pride was shot. The instructors wanted to put a band aid on it and call it quits but I insisted on a brain scan the following day. Fortunately they found nothing but better safe than sorry. Other than that, The Big Climb at The Roxx was yet another roaring success for BBBS Events (available for children’s parties, weddings, mitzvahs etc.) and, more importantly, it raised \$8,000, which will help the operations team to continue to deliver a very high quality mentoring service to the children of Christchurch. Special mentions to all of our climbers but also to Lydia and Summer from the BBBS Board and Matt, Craig Vanessa and Amanda who were outstanding as always. Every year is challenging when you’re operating in the not-for-profit sector and 2014 has been no different, but Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch is in good shape and, barring any curved balls,

2015 promises to be another extremely productive year. It would be remiss of me to sign off this epistle without saying that we are losing Vanessa who is due to have her first child shortly – it’s hard to quantify just how big an asset she has been and how much she will be missed. And also to mention that we celebrated our tenth anniversary at the Big Climb, which is some achievement in this economic climate. Our durability is down to three things: A great operational team, a talented Board and a wonderful group of mentors – past and present – who give of their time so freely. All we need is more of a chairman and less of a drama queen (nominations gratefully received) and we’ll be set for another 10 years. Happy holidays one and all!

**Tim Webster, Chairman Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch.**

*Ed Note: Tim Webster will be stepping down as Board Chairman effective March 2015*

## BRIDGE BUILDERS



It must be frustrating to be able to see across the other side of a river and not be able to get there - never quite knowing what you’re missing out on. And then someone comes along and builds a bridge to the other side and your world is opened

up to new experiences and perspectives on the other side.

One of the core values of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to build bridges for young people so they can live a fuller life, and get to experience whatever is on “the other side of the river”. Nine year old Kate was an energetic and agile girl. Her mentor was always impressed by her athletic ability but there appeared no outlet for her to develop that. So she looked into gym classes for Kate, leading to her going to a weekly class for most of this year. This is one of many stories of mentors building a bridge for their young person: Just in 2014, another young person has had drama lessons, another joined scouts and yet another music lessons. Without the mentor, the young person would never have had the chance to experience the world in a new way. Without support of the Blogg Charitable Trust, these young people would not have had the finances to give it a go. The Blogg Charitable Trust sees the value in dedicated support for young people who would otherwise be stuck on their own side of the river, watching the action on the other side. Thanks for giving our children a chance to shine!

**“When something is bothering me, we talk it out - she’s my go to person.”  
(P.R about her mentor G.L)**

## FAMILY TIES



It’s not unusual to have two siblings within a family mentored by Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteers, but it is most unusual to have several members of one family mentoring children! Meet the Butlers, Chandelle and Jacinta, and Chandelle’s

partner, Aaron, all of whom live under the one roof with Jacinta and Chandelle’s parents in Wigram. Chandelle was the first to sign up in 2012 as a school based mentor. Her BBBS little sister was “very shy” to start with but Chandelle has enjoyed seeing her increase in confidence.

Younger sister, Jacinta came on board a few months ago as a community based mentor. The sisters feel they have been blessed with a supportive and positive upbringing and really want to provide something of what they had for a young person. “We do simple things like having a picnic in the park, playing on the slides and swings”, says Jacinta.

Inspired by Chandelle and Jacinta, Aaron has just recently started school based mentoring. His ‘little brother’ has no contact with his mother or father and lives with a caregiver (he calls her ‘Nan’). “I like my sport and the boy I have been matched loves Rugby, so we are getting on just fine.”



**Would your family like to get behind a child? Become mentors or support us as a family by becoming a Regular Donor (see back page).**

## THE FUNdraiser



Special mention for a new volunteer mentor Robin Quinn who wasn’t able to climb and be involved on the day of our Big Climb Fundraiser at The YMCA Roxx, but whom set up a givealittle.co.nz page and raised funds for us anyway! Robin was the single biggest individual fundraiser this year, raising over \$1000 towards our total of \$8000. We’ve become used to Robin popping into our office, having a laugh with us and bringing with him a little extra cash from yet another donor



he has talked to about what he does as a Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor. Robin has only recently started school based mentoring at West Spreydon school with 11 year old Jimmy. Jimmy thinks Robin is ‘Fun and awesome’ and so do we! Thank you, Robin. Your efforts to secure us funds and to get our name out there, not to mention the time you spend with Jimmy, are highly appreciated.

## THE BIG CLIMB: CONQUERING COOK AND CO! OUR TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND FUNDRAISER



It’s not often you see Superman, Batwoman, Wonder Woman and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, all gathered under one roof in Christchurch! If you had been at The YMCA Roxx Climbing Centre on November 6th, you would have met a number of our mentors dressed up as Superheroes (all volunteer mentors are superheroes in our eyes) climbing the walls of Clip’N Climb with a big physical and fundraising challenge ahead of them - our annual fundraising event, The Big Climb. Last year we virtually climbed Mount Everest on the walls of Clip’N Climb at The Roxx, that’s just under 9 km of climbing! This year we kept it ‘local’ and upped the challenge to conquer Cook and co - New Zealand’s top 4 peaks totalling just under 14 kms. Extremely enthusiastic teams of climbers banded together, set up givealittle.co.nz pages and started fundraising ahead of the event. Thanks to their outstanding efforts we raised over \$8000 and conquered the challenge by around 7pm that night. The night was topped off by our Ten Year Anniversary Celebration at The Off The Wall Café upstairs. Supporters and mentors past and present joined us for a celebration of ten years of mentoring kids all over Christchurch. Manager Matthew Button and Board Chair, Tim Webster honoured the founding board members, community members and funders who had the vision and drive to guide Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch forward to where we are today. Special thanks to The YMCA Roxx Adventure Centre, Bounce NZ, Kathmandu, The Warehouse, Henry’s and McKenzie and Willis for their support of this event.



## OUR SUPPORTERS

We gratefully acknowledge grants and support recently received from the following funders and donors, without whom we could not operate.



- Blogg Charitable Trust
- EB Milton Charitable Trust
- Maurice Carter Charitable Trust
- Copy Print Riccarton
- Sara Murray : BBBS Charity Shop
- St Andrews College
- BBBS Regular givers and individual donors
- Alastair Bean and Associates
- Clyde Graham Trust
- Jack and Marjorie Ferrier Trust
- Canterbury Youth Services
- Phillipstown School
- Canterbury Youth Services
- PWC Foundation
- Digiweb

WHAT OUR MATCHES ARE UP TO.....



DAVE AND TYRIN WENT TO WOODFORD GLEN, JESS AND CHARLOTTE MADE A MINI CITY, ROD AND JOSH FLEW A KITE, CHLOE AND PAIGE MADE LOOM BANDS, DAVE AND CORBYN DREW CRAZY PICTURES, SOPHIE AND CHARLOTTE BAKED, MADISON AND LAURA PLAYED FETCH WITH HER DOG, TYLA AND MAURI PLAYED BASKETBALL, LINDY AND SAMANTHA MADE DECORATIONS.....

