



## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martha's Vineyard

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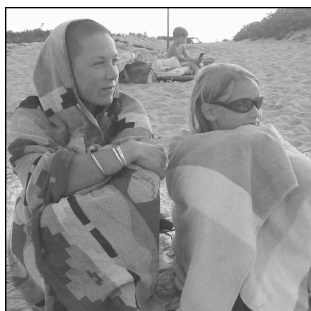
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Dear Friend:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martha's Vineyard is embarking on its 30th year of successful youth and community building initiatives. In the spirit of the season we reflect on our program successes over the past year and are grateful for the contributions you are making in support of our island children.

Engaging close to 100 volunteers, which include board members, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and mentors, we continue to strengthen local families through our multi-faceted program. Our volunteers dedicate approximately 10 hours per month fulfilling the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Through our sponsorship of diverse activities, including holiday parties, beach barbeques, off-island camping trips, children are affected by the program that brings this special adult and new opportunities into their lives. Currently we support 80 matches of Bigs and Littles.

Research has proven a child with a Big Brother or Big Sister is:



- \* 46% less likely to use drugs
- \* 27% less likely to start using alcohol
- \* 52% less likely to skip school
- \* more confident of their performance in schoolwork
- \* less likely to strike someone
- \* get along better with their families

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martha's Vineyard receives its current funding through a combination of fundraising events, grants, and personal donations. We are asking you to consider making a generous contribution in support of our efforts. Recently, *Forbes* magazine ranked Big Brothers Big Sisters one of the top 10, out of 200, National Charities. Their choice was based on charitable commitment, fundraising efficiency, and donor dependency. We thank you in advance for your donation. It will allow us to continue our efforts in 2005, as we strive to meet the growing needs of our special island community.

*"Gordie and I have a many faceted, mutually rewarding relationship that I hope will last for many years. Even if he eventually goes away to camp, boarding school, or college." Big Brother Bill.*

*"She's funny friendly, stylish, and helps me with my problems. For example, when I'm mad at someone I have her to talk to and not just a family member" Little Sister Erin.*

Sincerely,

Mike McCourt

Greg Orcutt

