

August Feature: [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#)

This month, NWC has chosen [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) for our monthly feature. Big Brothers Big Sisters matches young people with positive adult role models and was selected due to the involvement of NWC CEO, Josh Dirlam.

We Care

[Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) helps youth realize their potential by providing positive growth experiences through one-to-one mentoring relationships. Big Brothers Big Sisters places carefully screened adult volunteers in the life of children in need. This mentoring relationship is meant to enrich the child, the child's family and the assets of the community today and in the future. According to Big Brothers Big Sisters, national research shows that a positive relationship between a child and their mentor has a direct and measurable impact on that child's life. They have found that program participants (Little Brothers and Little Sisters):

- Are more confident in their schoolwork
- Get along better with their families
- Are 46% less likely to use illegal drugs
- Are 27% less likely to use alcohol
- Are 52% less likely to skip school

We Serve

In 2000, Josh Dirlam was matched with his little brother while attending St. Johns University. While many [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) matches ask for a commitment of one or two years, this particular match was made because of Josh's willing commitment to be in his little brother's life forever. Since meeting over a decade ago, Josh and his little brother have grown together as men. Josh has remained committed to spending time and opening his little brother's life to new perspectives and experiences. For example, when living away from Minnesota, Josh had the opportunity to bring his little brother to Newport Beach for a visit. This experience remains a highlight of their time together and led to his little brother opening his mind to new opportunities from foods he has never tried to places he would like to travel to careers he would like to pursue. While his little brother is now a senior in high school, they continue to visit regularly on the phone and in-person. Together, Josh and his little brother enjoy finding new places for dinner, watching movies, hunting and fishing and generally hanging out. Josh has helped his little brother through challenging and sad times by being a constant and stable source of support and unconditional friend. His little brother has helped Josh remember that people are the most important priority and that the simple act of friendship can have the most profound impact on helping make the world a better place.

We Give

NWC chooses to give regularly to [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#). If you would like to join us in our giving, we invite you to visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters website at www.bbbs.org. Once there, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the mentoring program and opportunities to donate your time and/or financial support.

