

# LET'S CONNECT



A Publication of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County

OCTOBER 2017

## The "Stars" Came Out For Our Bowl For Kids' Sake!

**BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE** 19 "Star" teams came out to enjoy an afternoon of bowling fun at our 2017 Community-wide Bowl for Kids' Sake, to celebrate their amazing fundraising efforts. Thanks to the efforts of Sherry Bogus, recruiting aficionado, The Everett Clinic brought in 12 teams and raised more than \$8500 - helping with the grand total of over \$13,000! Joining The Everett Clinic were teams from Mountain Pacific Bank, Philips, RE/MAX Elite, The Boeing Company, and Wolfe Plumbing. Many, many thanks to all of the teams and local companies who supported us on Saturday. You are THE BEST!

Bowl for Kids' Sake is a fun and easy way for companies to support the life changing work of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Teams are formed and do a bit of fundraising and then come together to bowl - our way of saying thank you for supporting us. For more information on how your company can host a Bowl for Kids' Sake, please contact Sanda Anderson, our Special Events Coordinator at [sanderson@bbbs-snoco.org](mailto:sanderson@bbbs-snoco.org).

## Meet Big Sister Debbie and Little Sister Odaisha

For some kids, summer isn't long enough, but for Little Sister Odaisha, summer can take forever! Why? Because she is matched with Big Sister Debbie and the two of them, meet at Odaisha's school during the school year.



Once a week, Big Sister Debbie will meet up with Odaisha to have lunch with her, talk about the week, help with homework, or just hang out. As a school-based match, they know when and where they will be meeting, making it very easy to get together. This is their second year together and they are very excited to share time together.



Little Sister Odaisha at lunch. Photo taken by Big Sister Debbie.

## Beyond School Walls In It's 7th Year!

Thanks to the ongoing support of Comcast, Woodside Elementary students in grades 4 and 5 will once again benefit from this blue-ribbon one-to-one mentoring program. Starting in November, Comcast employees give back to the community by hosting students at their Lynnwood call center. The children are matched with an employee volunteer mentor and meet in the workplace twice a month during the lunch hour to eat lunch, spend time playing games, boosting literacy skills, learning about careers, doing group activities, and just hanging out and talking. Beyond School Walls runs until "Graduation time", which typically happens in early June.

### Upcoming Events

**Pre-match Training - Saturday, October 14th at 9:30am** in our offices. Please RSVP to Kay Norman at [knorman@bbbs-snoco.org](mailto:knorman@bbbs-snoco.org).

**Suicide Prevention Training - Saturday, October 28th starting at 10:00am - 11:30am** in our office. Adults only. Please RSVP to Kay at [knorman@bbbs-snoco.org](mailto:knorman@bbbs-snoco.org).

**Chipotle Fundraiser - Saturday, December 9th - 2:00pm - 8:00pm.** 4120 196th Street SW, Lynnwood. Bring flyer found on our website, order dinner, and raise money for us.



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## School-Based Programs Hit the Ground Running

Big Brothers Big Sisters signature program is our community-based one-to-one mentoring, where Bigs and Littles meet in the community 3-4 times each month to participate in social activities. However, did you know that many of our volunteers participate in our school-based mentoring programs?

This fall, we are excited to see 4 Sparks Clubs starting up with 2 new groups added at North Middle School in Everett. Sparks is our middle school program where students meet weekly with adult mentors to discover their strengths and passions while focusing on community service and life beyond high school.

Also starting up this Fall are 2 Kids Book Clubs. Our Book Clubs are centered around elementary-age children who struggle with reading. By coming together in a group setting, they work on their literacy skills, including reading comprehension, discussion skills, and writing responses with adult mentors. After several months, the students feel more confident in their reading skills and have formed new friendships with each other and their adult mentors.

We could not provide our school-based programs without our adult mentors. Please join us as we say "thank you" to our volunteers who will make this year a great year for so many Snohomish County children.

## Calling All BIGS

**BIGS**  
**FORUM**

The Bigs Forum is set up to connect with other Bigs and agency staff, to share stories and ideas, to learn from each other, and to plan activities that support you. If you haven't already, visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/bbbsnoco> and join our new Bigs Forum.

Help us help you find the support and resources you need to make your match experience the best it can be!

## September Agency Updates

2 new Community Based matches.

## October Anniversaries

Little Sister Kinzie and Big Sister Kalie - 6 years

Little Brother Dominic and Big Brother Calvin - 4 years

Little Brother Jazz and Big Brother Jae- 1 year